

Denne H. Freeman  
The Associated Press

## Irwin rallies from two-stroke deficit in playoff, wins US Open in sudden death

MEDINAH, Ill. (AP) — Hale Irwin birdied the 91st hole Monday and beat Mike Donald in the first sudden-death playoff to decide the U.S. Open Golf Championship.

Irwin, who made up two shots on Donald over the last three holes of the scheduled 18-hole playoff, tied Donald on the 18th with a par-4 and forced the continuation of the playoff under a sudden-death format.

Irwin's 8-foot birdie putt sent him leaping into the air, a three-time winner in this event and, at 45, the oldest man to win the American national championship.

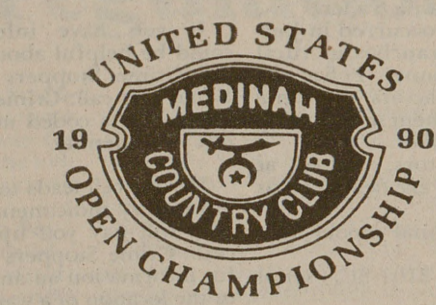
"Mike gave me a chance. God bless him. I almost wish he had won," Irwin said. "I had to keep pecking away. Not a great day, but I had to stay right there."

Ray Floyd was the oldest previous winner when he won at 44 in 1986.

Irwin's drawn-out triumph, the longest playoff since 1946, went with previous Open triumphs in 1974 and 1979 and made him the fifth three-time winner of this tournament.

Willie Anderson, Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus each won four U.S. Open crowns.

Irwin, now occupied with a golf course architecture business and a part-time player



on the PGA Tour, had to come from behind to do it.

Some ragged action in the middle of the round — and some poor results from wood shots played from deep rough — enabled Donald to move to a two-stroke lead after 12 holes.

It stayed that way until Irwin threw his approach in about six feet from the cup and made birdie on the 16th hole — statistically the toughest on the Medinah Country Club No. 3 course.

They halved the 17th with pars and went

to the 18th with the gritty Donald hanging on to that slender lead.

But Donald, winner of only one title in an 11-season tour career, hooked his short-driver into the left rough.

He ran his approach into the left-front bunker, then blasted out about 15 feet short of the cup.

Irwin two-putted for par from about 25 feet and Donald then stepped up to the most important putt of his life.

Irwin got a second chance.

The two men, who completed the regulation 72 holes tied for the top at 280, remained tied after playing another 18 holes, each in 74, two over par but a respectable score in winds that gusted to 35 mph.

They continued the playoff on the first hole, the sixth time they played it in competition this week and the second time on Monday.

Donald got his second shot about 30 feet from the flag.

Irwin, now the winner of 18 titles in a 22-year career, stuck his in about 8 feet from the wind-whipped flag.

After Donald missed, Irwin rolled his home and scored his first victory in five seasons.

## Aggie golf team signs key players

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M men's golf coach Bob Ellis announced the signing of Shane Bertsch and Marco Gortana to national letters-of-intent to play golf for the Aggies, Friday.

Bertsch, a 6-2, 185-pound transfer from New Mexico Junior College, will have two years of eligibility at A&M. In 1989, he won three JUCO tournaments and this year, won the 1990 Western Junior College Athletic Conference championship while earning all-region honors.

"Shane is a seasoned player with a great deal of winning experience," Ellis said. "He should be ready to come in and help our team right away."

Gortana, from Johannesburg, South Africa, is a 6-2, 190-pound incoming freshman regarded as one of the top prep and amateur players in South Africa.

The Italian native won the Southern Transvaal Open, the Transvaal Open and finished second at three other Transvaal tournaments last spring.

"We have, in Marco, a very good international player with exceptional tournament experience," Ellis said.

## Seeking the path to the Soviet Union

# Aggie powerlifter to compete in U.S.S.R.

By Douglas Pils  
Of The Battalion Staff

Dedication, sacrifice, a strong desire and a good work ethic are key characteristics needed to be successful in most of life's endeavors.

Character traits such as these are beginning to pay off for Robert Kamman, a Texas A&M construction science major from Kingwood.

Kamman was recently named to the American Powerlifting Team that will compete in the 1990 International Powerlifting Competitions. The event will be held in both Leningrad and Moscow in the Soviet Union, July 20-27.

Two teams of 24 of the nation's top powerlifters will enter the competition against top Soviet powerlifters. Kamman is one of 12 to be named to the first team which will compete for points.

Kamman said that members of the second team are basically competing to obtain experience.

Powerlifting is a combination of three different lifts — squats, the bench press and deadlifting.

A tremendous amount of mental preparation and concentration are required.

"Preparing mentally for a lift is very important. Many people don't realize that it's not just a sport of brute strength," Kamman said. "You have to be extremely focused and know your limitations because with the weights involved, a slip in concentration can cause serious injury."

He sometimes uses music to prepare mentally before a lift.

"By the time I pull off the headphones I hardly notice they're gone because I'm so keyed in to what I'm about to do," he said.

Kamman said he became seriously involved in powerlifting about three years ago through the Weightlifting Club at Texas A&M.

Lately however, he has been competing on his own with the help of Charles Gonzales and Steve Lumpee, owners of Gold's Gym in College Station.

"Steve has really been like a coach and a great help in my progress," Kamman said. "He's gotten me on the right diet and I help him sell vitamin supplements for his other business."

The 5-10, 242-pound junior leads a busy life selling the vitamin supplements and working as a bouncer at the Baja Yacht Club.

Kamman works out five days a week for two and a half hours. He just completed his work at the Fireman Training School and will soon start work as a fireman.

Kamman said he hopes the combination of being a fireman and having a degree in construction science will lead to a career as a consultant for architects to construct fire-safe buildings that will also save firefighters lives.

In addition to his many daily tasks, he is either a part-time or full-time student while maintaining a home life with Lori, his wife of three years.

Amazingly, Kamman finds time to consume six meals a day. The normal daily calorie intake for an average person is about 2000. Kamman said he takes in about 5000 including two pounds of meat and a gallon of milk.

Nutritional analysis, the diet plan Kamman follows, was originally designed for body-

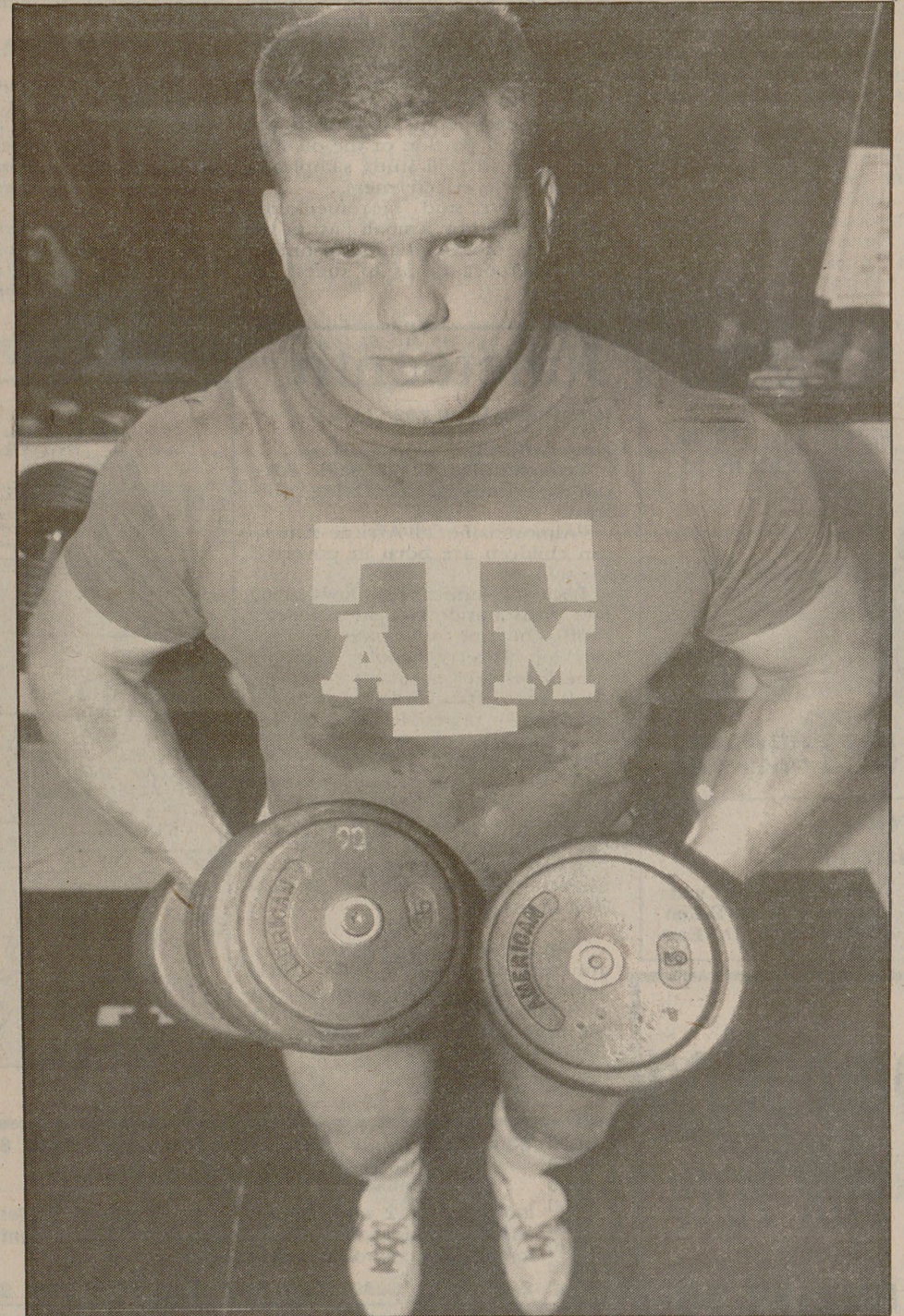


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Robert Kamman, a junior construction science major, has been named as a

member of the American Powerlifting Team that will compete in the U.S.S.R.

builders. But with a few modifications, Kamman said he has added nine pounds of muscle in 18 weeks and has reduced his body-fat ratio by two percent.

"The diet works around foods I like and crave," he said. "It gives me an optimum carbohydrate, protein and fat ratio in my diet."

"What's difficult about it is preparing all of that food. Usually we prepare large portions and heat it up later," Kamman said. "If not, Lori and I would spend most of our

time cooking."

In recent years, the steroid use in all sports has been well chronicled, but Kamman said he sees no use in chemically altering one's body.

"Controlling your diet and steady workouts are what's needed to adjust your weight and build muscle," Kamman said. "Besides, most powerlifters peak at 33 or 34 years of age, so I have a way to go until I mature as a powerlifter."

That work ethic and dedication paid off

for Kamman at the 1989 United States Powerlifting Federation's Region IX Collegiate Powerlifting Championships in Arlington.

A powerlifting team normally consists of 10 members, but in December, Kamman and one other lifter from A&M, Tom Whaley, finished second as a team and between them broke seven national collegiate records.

Kamman broke the collegiate squat record with a 705.2 pound squat. He set the new standard in the deadlift with a 655.7 pound lift while breaking the collegiate total record by lifting 1813 pounds.

For the past three years, Kamman's performance at regionals qualified him for nationals. But injury, or as in the case this spring of Kamman not attending A&M as a full-time student, has kept him from attending.

This makes the competition in the Soviet Union all the more important to Kamman.

"I'm real excited about the prospect of going to the Soviet Union and competing against some world class competition," he said. "I'm in the best shape of my life and I'm anxious to get over there."

A big concern for Kamman about traveling to the Soviet Union is the quality of food that will be available, he said.

"I would hate to have my performance affected by a change in my diet," Kamman said. "Maintaining the proper diet is essential not only for the body but also for the psyche of the mind as well."

Dr. Edmond F. Enos, chairman of the selection committee established by the Association for International Cultural Exchange Programs, said Kamman was selected to attend not only for his powerlifting abilities but also to be a quality representative of the United States and a promoter for the sport.

The association is a non-profit organization promoting international goodwill and is pushing for powerlifting to become an Olympic sport in the near future.

At the present time, Kamman is busy re-educating himself for the competition physically, mentally and most importantly financially.

He needs \$2800 to cover the trip's expenses to the Soviet Union plus round-trip airfare to New York. Kamman and his wife have been busy trying to track down sponsors.

"We've basically been pushed from department to department trying to get money from the school," he said. "I'm not associated with the Weightlifting Club anymore plus I sat out last spring to work and train, so the school is reluctant to provide any funds."

"I'm to the point where I'll do just about anything to get the money. We're trying to see if I can get some alumni support but I'll borrow the money if I have to... it's that important."

"I'll get there somehow," Kamman said.

Everything is a challenge and powerlifting centers around the challenge of using the mind to overcome your body's limitations and do the best that you can do Kamman said.

"That's the inspiration," he said. "It's the personal challenge set before you and the thrill of the competition."

Kamman's hard work is paying off. He's headed to the Soviet Union to compete with some of the world's best and hopes someday the hard work will land him in the Olympics.

## Sherrill's image of SWC turmoil may come to pass

DALLAS (AP) — Jackie Sherrill once predicted radical upheaval in the Southwest Conference by 1995. It might happen yet.

The pressures of television, money and a Federal Trade Commission investigation of college football have changed attitudes about conference ties.

"The college scene is experiencing change," said Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles. "We see it with Penn State joining the Big Ten and Notre Dame bolting from the CFA (College Football Association) package. It seems to me that it's the responsibility of every school to evaluate what is happening."

The Southeastern Conference has Arkansas at the top of its expansion list. Broyles said if the SEC calls, Arkansas won't hang up. They'll listen to any offers, Broyles said, and evaluate them.

Texas and Texas A&M University also are also plums for the picking. If Sherrill was still the head coach and athletic director at A&M instead of an automobile dealer, the Aggies would probably already be entering negotiations with the SEC.

Sources in the University of Texas athletic department say there is unhappiness with the leadership of the SWC and the Longhorns will be all ears when the telephone rings.

## Government intervention

The FTC investigation is sending shivers through the collegiate athletic department community.

Broyles said the possibility exists that the FTC could rule that the largest group of schools that can have a television package is a conference. That would kill off the CFA package. The stronger and more attractive conferences would get top dollar from the television networks.

"There would be a tremendous shuffling of conferences to convert television sets to dollars," Broyles said.

The SEC, particularly if it adds Miami and Florida State, has a more diverse geographical area to offer with Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. What if it adds teams from Texas and Arkansas? The bidding could reach "megabuck" proportions.

There's even talk Oklahoma and Oklahoma State might be willing to rejoin the SWC. They were charter members when the conference came together back in 1914.

Former Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer said the Sooners orientation was always towards Texas anyway "because that's where we recruited."

## Hard feelings in Texas

The fact that Arkansas is allowing itself to be courted is already causing some hard feelings in the SWC.

Texas Tech head football coach Spike Dykes said bluntly: "We don't want people around who don't want to be here."

SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby wonders why Arkansas would even consider such a move because any TV deal would be imperiled by over-saturation, which he claims is happening now.

Devil's advocate Jacoby also points out that the FTC could also rule a violation of anti-trust provisions if conferences start to break up.

Jacoby still doesn't believe Arkansas will leave, saying "I'm not alarmed. We have a good thing going."

Nobody knows when the FTC, which sometimes moves at a glacial pace, could make a ruling on whether the CFA package violates anti-trust statutes.

Broyles said it could be two years or five years but each school owes it to itself to be prepared.

Arkansas won the football, baseball, track and basketball titles in the SWC in the last school year and Broyles said "Arkansas fans feel better about being in the Southwest Conference than they have in the 15 years I've been athletic director."

But money talks. Particularly television money.

Without it, bigtime sports programs can't exist.

When push comes to shove, it won't matter that Arkansas is a charter member of the SWC and its oldest member. All that will matter is survival.

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