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A&M racewalker speeds up career

By KYLE BURNETT

Texas A&M racewalker Dana Yarbrough grabbed an eighth place finish at the World University Games in Buffalo, New York, Wednesday

Yarbrough finished the 10k event ahead of six other competitors with a time of 40:34.7.

Yarbrough, who has only been competing in this event for one year, has amazed even herself with the speed at which she advanced in the

"It's been real quick," she said a few hours prior to the race. "I didn't expect to be where I am now and a lot of people didn't expect it either. We are all real surprised."

Yarbrough said she is enjoying the experience of competing in the games in New York.

"It is real exciting," she said. "I've been to only one other international competition. You meet people from all over the world and the funny thing is, most all of them speak English.

"We trade pins and jackets. That's a lot of fun."
Yarbrough became involved with the sport to take a break from marathons.

"I wanted to take it easy for a while because my muscles were sore," she said. "I had read a book on race walking and talked to my sister-inlaw about it. I started doing it and won my first

Yarbrough takes eighth at World University Games

race the next week."

Yarbrough's former trainer Frank Thomas said Yarbrough is a natural.

'She is an outstanding walker," Thomas said. 'It is phenomenal to be that fast.'

After only three smaller races, Yarbrough entered her first 10k and won. That race was the

qualifier for the Olympic Trials. "Things completely fell apart (at the Olympic Trials)," she said. "I took off and tried to keep up with the leaders. It was kind of dumb.

Yarbrough bounced back though, and at the World Cup Trials in Washington D.C., she fin-

The top five finishers qualified to compete in the World Cup in Mexico and Yarbrough made it to competition as the alternate.

In Mexico in April she finished 42nd out of 128. She then followed that up with a sixth place finish in June at the National Track and Fields Championships

"I had fifth but I got passed right at the end," she said. "It was kind of disappointing." Disappointing as it might have been, a sixth

place finish was good enough to qualify her for both the World University Games and the U.S. Olympic Festival to be held in San Antonio on

July 30.

That may seem a lot for a competitor so new to the sport but Yarbrough has higher aspirations.

"I would like to take a shot at the Olympics in

the next three years," she said.

Thomas said not only are Yarbrough's chances of qualifying good, but the chance of winning the

Olympics is within her grasp.
"The key is '96." Thomas said. "With the Olympics here in Atlanta, you are looking at

weather conditions she can train in here while other walkers have to train in cooler climates. Yarbrough is not only optimistic about her fu-ture, she is confident the sport will continue to

grow in popularity.

There is a lot of competition right now and we are all real close on time," she said. "It is getting more interesting in the U.S. because it's more competitive right now.

Yarbrough said she is excited about the possibility of continued improvement.

They tell us it takes three years to do anything or really progress," she said "So in three years it ought to be real interesting to see what my times look like.

Thomas said Yarbrough has the opportunity to be as successful as she wants to be.

'She has gotten so good so fast, but she must maintain her enthusiasm and her mental edge," Thomas said. "She has the ability to be world

Aggie softball duo chosen to **USA** Select team

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Two Texas A&M softball players are heading for Holland this weekend to represent the United States in an international tournament.

Jennifer Mc-Falls and K.K. Kalhoefer have been chosen to the USA Select team. The two compiled the highest individual batting averages in A&M's history last season, leading the team to a 34-14 record.

McFalls, a 1993





McFalls

Kalhoefer

first-team All-American, batted .427 this season, and Kalhoefer, firstteam All-Midwest region, had a .388 average.

"I'm real excited to be representing Texas A&M and the United States," Kalhoefer said in a press release.

Kalhoefer, a senior from Kingwood, has completed her college eligibility This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. I

never thought I would have a chance to do something like this," she said. McFalls and Kalhoefer will play short stop and center

field, respectively, on a team with eight All-American players.

McFalls, a senior from Grand Prairie, said, "I'm looking forward to being on the same team with players I have competed against and learned to respect.

Our team should be really strong," she said. "There isn't any reason why we can't compete with the other na-

The tournament will host teams from China, Italy, the Netherlands and the Dutch Antilles in Haarlem, Holland

A&M softball coach Bob Brock said, "It is real exciting that two players from A&M have been chosen to play on a team from the U.S. and compete internationally. These girls have devoted a lot of time and effort to softball.

It is also exciting that Jennifer and K.K. will be able to showcase their talents after missing the NCAA tournament this past season," he said.

Rugby team to host tournament this weekend

By KYLE BURNETT

The Texas A&M Rugby club will host the 17th annual Summer Seven ngby tournament on the polo fields

About 40 teams from Texas, louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexiwill compete in the tournament called "The Hottest Rugby in Texas." D.J. Jones, vice president of the dub, said the tournament will not be

short of action. "This is some of the best rugby in the county," he said. "We have some the best teams around coming in." The tournament is a regional ualifier, meaning in order for a team to compete for a national thampionship, a victory must first be obtained at this level.

"The competition is intense," ines said. "For some teams, they

have to play here because they didn't win at another qualifier."

Two divisions have been established in order to accommodate more teams. Teams that are from outside A&M's region will compete in the Social Division.

"The quality of play is fantastic," Jones said. "We have an extraordinary field in the Qualifier Division,

and the social is real good as well."

Jones said A&M has a good chance of winning because they will have a team, or side as it is called, competing in both the Qualifier and Social Divisions.

"We are split down the middle," Jones said. "But our advantage is that our sides are equally matched, and we have good players on both

Oscar Perez, the club's program chairman, said the team has an advantage over some of the competi-

tion.

"We have some real speed on our side," he said. "In addition, we have good endurance which is real important in a tournament like this."

The tournament is a condensed version of regulation rugby play which has 15 players per side and 40 minute halves The teams in this tournament

have seven players and the game consist of two seven minute halves. Add in a two minute halftime and time for penalties, and the tournament game are still under 20 min-

"It is very fast action," Jones said. "It is high scoring and very fan ori-Perez said, "the tournament ought

to be real exciting because we have some real good teams competing." Among the collegiate teams final A&M could possibly face are the p.m.

likes of Texas, Rice, Sam Houston State and Southwest Texas State. Jones said A&M would like to

face any of the competitors but there are a few teams they would most like to play.

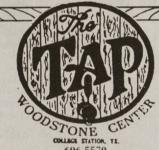
We hate Texas of course," he said. "But we really, really hate Rice, those sons of bitches. A few of the key teams that are

Dallas and Arlington. Jones said A&M has a setback when facing these teams.

not collegiate are the two clubs from

"We are collegiate side so we are really pressured," he said. "(These can draw on better players, like all those players that have gone through college and are now experienced. They have a larger draw.

The tournament will begin at 9:00 a.m and run through 6:00 p.m. The final is expected to be around 5:30



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