

Spelling: Is it a new sport or a pastime?

CONSTANCE PARTEN



Sportswriter

Spelling is not a sport. Well, maybe it is. After all, fishing is a sport.

And watching an 11-year-old girl spell mellifluous is much more entertaining than watching a 40-year-old, beer-bellied guy talk about teasing innocent fish with a piece of smelly, dead stuff on a string.

For some viewers, spelling could be a refreshing diversion from a lot of the sports programming available today.

The issue of spelling as a sport arose recently when ESPN televised the National Spelling Championship.

There could only be three possible reasons for ESPN's exciting coverage of this event:

- Desperation for any event to take up air space during this summer's lull in sports activities (maybe the Batt will sponsor a spelling bee),

- ESPN is expanding its format to include more than just traditional sports interests.

- Or spelling really is a sport.

Webster's Dictionary defines a sport as "an active pastime; diversion; recreation." For many spelling buffs it could be just this. Imagine the thrill of being in the final round. You and one other competitor are left.

Your opponent has just misspelled Battalion. You approach the microphone confidently and your word resounds through the auditorium: supercalafragilisticexpialidocious.

You're pumped! You've been over and over this word, but you feign confusion; a little stammer just to throw your opponent off.

"C-c-could you give me the root, please?"

"Supercalafragy."

"Could you give me the definition?"

"To kill Mary Poppins expeditiously."

Then, slowly, you begin to spell the word, knowing your victory is clinched.

Beats the heck outta "Shoooooeeee! That there's the biggest darn bluetailed, bug-eyed catfish I ever seen," doesn't it?

That raises another point. How did these fishing guys get on television anyway? Nevermind. That's another column entirely. The point is, ESPN can air whatever they want because a sport is anything an individual wants it to be.

Dog shows, chess tournaments, hair weavings and, yes, spelling bees can all be seen on the new improved Entertainment Sports Programming Network.

Maybe they should change the name to Entertaining Social Pastime Network.

Fishing will be included.



Eastern Conference Finals Knicks finally in Finals



A&M golfer eliminated from NCAAs

By Constance Parten
THE BATTALION

Ewing drives New York to 94-90 victory over Indiana and date with Houston in NBA Finals

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Ewing, intent on getting the New York Knicks into the NBA Finals for the first time in his career, played a career game to get them there Sunday night.

Ewing's rebound dunk put New York ahead with 26 seconds left, and they advanced to the championship round

For box score, see Page 4

against Houston with a 94-90 victory over Indiana. Ewing finished with 24 points, 22 rebounds and 11 offensive rebounds.

The Knicks' 4-3 victory in the Eastern Conference Finals was built on effort, especially by Ewing, who appeared to win the game by sheer force of will. New York had 28 offensive rebounds - two short of the NBA playoff record - and they out-rebounded the Pacers 51-29.

John Starks scored 17 points and Derek Harper scored 16 for the Knicks. Reggie Miller, the hero of Indiana's Game 5 victory with 25 fourth-quarter points, finished with 25 points while Byron Scott had 17.

The championship round begins Wednesday night at Houston.

The Knicks, holding Indiana to 28 percent shooting in the third quarter, rallied after trailing by 12 late in the period.

Derrick McKey's 3-pointer that was released with one second left on the shot clock gave Indiana a 74-69 lead with 10:38 remaining.

A layup by Anthony Mason, a 3-pointer by Harper and a layup by Harper after a court-length pass by Ewing gave New York a slim 76-74 edge.

New York made it 85-80 with consecutive layups by Starks and Mason, but the Pacers kept up the pressure with 3-pointers by Miller and McKey, closing Indiana to an 87-86 deficit.

Consecutive jumpers by Ewing and Miller made it 89-88 before a miss by Rik Smits and a 24-second violation by New York gave the Pacers the ball with 47 seconds left.

The Knicks then left Dale Davis wide



AP file photo

New York Knicks Anthony Mason and Anthony Bonner look for the ball with the New Jersey Nets' Derrick Coleman. The Knicks took the Nets in the first round, 3-0.

open under the basket, and Haywoode Workman found him for an easy layup and a 90-89 edge.

Ewing, who also had seven assists, then put the Knicks ahead for good with his rebound dunk. Miller's next shot missed the rim, and Davis failed to control the rebound.

Miller's hard foul on Starks was called a flagrant foul, giving him two free throws and possession to New York. Starks made one of the free throws, but the Pacers had to foul him again, and he made both to seal the victory.

A&M golfer Anthony Rodriguez was eliminated after the second round of the NCAA Men's Golf Championship in McKinney last week. He missed qualifying for the finals by four shots, shooting a combined score of 142, just one over par.

Rodriguez qualified as an individual for the tournament after tying for eighth place at the Central Regional Tournament in Oklahoma City in May.

He shot an even par 72 on the first round, and opened the second round of play very strongly with a birdie on the first hole.

Rodriguez finished the front nine even par. Several bogeys and a pesky water hazard on the back nine put him at two over par by the 17th hole, denying Rodriguez a chance at the finals.

"Anthony had some serious mental mistakes," head coach Bob Ellis said, "but he kept his head and made some excellent shots."

University of Texas senior Justin Leonard won the tournament, shooting fifteen under par for a combined score of 271 in four rounds.

The former Texas state high school champion from Lake Highlands is the first Longhorn to win the NCAA golf title since 1973.

The victory gives him his 10th collegiate title; a dossier that includes one U.S. Amateur, two Western Amateur, and four Southwest conference titles.

As a team, Texas took second place in the tournament behind Stanford. The Longhorns missed their shot at first because of a weak showing on the final back nine.

"That kind of leaves a bad taste in my mouth," Leonard told Dallas Morning News reporters Saturday.

The Longhorns started the final day of the tournament at 11 under par in sixth place. Texas shot 10 under par on the front nine to pull within one shot of tournament leader Stanford.

But on the back nine, Texas had a rash of double and triple bogeys. Stanford finished 23 under par and Texas followed at 19 under par to take second place.

FRENCH OPEN

Sanchez-Vicario, Bruguera make their day in the clay

PARIS (AP) — Mary Pierce made everything going for her: momentum, homecourt advantage and a new happy-go-lucky attitude.

But on the day Spain celebrated a historic double at Roland Garros, Pierce was soundly beaten 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on the clay in the final of the French Open.

"I was tense," said Pierce, playing in her first Grand Slam final. "I wanted to win too much. I was taking everything too seriously. Up until now, I

have just been enjoying myself, but today I was too nervous."

While the 19-year-old Pierce failed in her bid to become the first French woman to win the championship in 27 years, Sanchez and Sergi Bruguera became the first Spaniards to sweep the titles at a Grand Slam event.

As King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain looked on, Bruguera defended his men's title by downing countryman Alberto Berasategui 6-3,



7-5, 2-6, 6-1 in an uninspiring match between one-dimensional clay-court players.

Pierce couldn't cope with Sanchez Vicario, the 1989 French Open champion who is probably the quickest and best defensive player in the grass.

The women's match provided a perfect contrast of styles: the tall, blond, angular Pierce, hitting for winners at every opportunity and the short, dark, Sanchez Vicario, running everything

down, floating back lobs, mixing up the pace. The attacker vs. the counter puncher.

Pierce hurt herself by committing 51 unforced errors, compared to 30 for Sanchez Vicario.

"She gets a lot of balls back," Pierce said. "She also fights a lot. She never gives you any free points. She doesn't attack very much, but when she has her chances, she will attack."

"I think she handled all the circumstances and situations better than I did."

AEROFIT

Fitness at its best.

COURTS

- 3 Racquetball Courts
- 2 Tennis Courts
- Basketball
- Volleyball

AEROBICS

- Certified Instructors
- Five Studios Over 6000 sq. ft.
- Over 100 Classes Weekly
- Water Aerobics
- STEP Classes

FITNESS CENTER

- New Weight Room
- Olympic Free Weights
- Eagle/Cyber Circuit
- Certified Trainers
- 1/10 mile Indoor Track
- VersaClimber
- StairMasters
- Gravitron 2000

AQUATICS

- 8 Lane, 25 Yard Pool
- Indoor, Heated

We've got MORE!

At Aerofit, we simply have more. Here are some examples: 44,000 lbs. of free weights, complete Eagle/Cyber circuit of machine weights, over 100 aerobic classes weekly (with certified instructors of course), 25 pieces of cardiovascular equipment, over 100 friendly staff and certified personal trainers, 44,000 sq. ft. of state of the art facilities and 2 locations. Aerofit is the only fitness facility that offers you an unconditional 15 day money back guarantee. Aerofit, more than a gym.

BRYAN | COLLEGE STATION
1900 W. VILLA VARIA 2220 S. TEXAS AVE.
823-0971 693-0073

CALL FOR MORE INFO. (AEROBICS ONLY)

• OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK •

• MONDAY-THURSDAY, 5:30AM - 12AM •

"AGGIE SPECIAL"

\$10 OFF any membership!

* Good thru June 15, 1994. Not valid with any other offer.

KAPLAN

Summer classes for the August 20 MCAT

Diagnostic	Biology I	Organic Chemistry I	Verbal Reasoning I	Writing Sample I	Physics I	General Chemistry	AAMC Practice Test I	Biology II	Organic Chemistry II	Verbal Reasoning II	Writing Sample II	Physics II	General Chemistry II	Final Test	Final Test Review	Virtual Reality MCAT
Mon 5/30	Mon 6/6	Mon 6/6	Mon 6/13	Mon 6/13	Mon 6/20	Mon 6/20	Sat 7/2	Mon 7/4	Mon 7/4	Mon 7/11	Mon 7/11	Mon 7/18	Mon 7/18	Mon 7/25	Mon 8/1	SAT 8/13
CME304: EVERY MONDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																
Sat 6/4	Sat 6/11	Sat 6/11	Sat 6/18	Sat 6/18	Sat 6/25	Sat 6/25	Sat 7/2	Sat 7/9	Sat 7/9	Sat 7/16	Sat 7/16	Sat 7/23	Sat 7/23	Sat 7/30	Sat 8/6	SAT 8/13
CMF044: EVERY SATURDAY FROM 10AM-2PM																
Tue 6/7	Tue 6/14	Tue 6/14	Tue 6/21	Tue 6/21	Tue 6/28	Tue 6/28	Sat 7/2	Tue 7/12	Tue 7/12	Tue 7/19	Tue 7/19	Tue 7/26	Tue 7/26	Tue 8/2	Tue 8/9	SAT 8/13
CMF074: EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																
Wed 6/8	Wed 6/15	Wed 6/15	Wed 6/22	Wed 6/22	Wed 6/29	Wed 6/29	Sat 7/2	Wed 7/13	Wed 7/13	Wed 7/20	Wed 7/20	Wed 7/27	Wed 7/27	Wed 8/3	Wed 8/10	SAT 8/13
CMF084: EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM 6PM-10PM																

To reserve a seat call 696-3196 or drop by the Center at 707 Tx. Ave., Suite 106-E

Don't miss your CHANCE!

When you register for Fall Classes, don't forget to choose Fee Option 16 to order your copy of the 1994-95 AGGIELAND. And choose Fee Option 17 to pay for your picture in the book. Don't miss the chance to own the nation's largest yearbook and a record of the 1994-95 Texas A&M school year. You'll be glad you did.

FEE OPTIONS 16 & 17

AGGIELAND
1 • 9 • 9 • 5