

**Tiger Woods deserves credit for skills not color**

What PGA rookie phenom Tiger Woods accomplished last weekend in the Masters tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club was simply breathtaking. Wood's performance was one of those special moments in sports which

captivates the hearts of golf fans and non-golf fans alike.

People across the country who had never watched or cared to watch a golf tournament tuned in to watch a historical moment.

The fourth leg of the Masters grabbed a 40-percent share Sunday, the highest ever for any televised golf event.

With the mystique and aura that surrounds Augusta, home of the most prestigious tournament on the PGA tour, the media coverage has never before been focused solely on one individual. The media spin always has been centered on the difficulties of fast greens and narrow fairways, those in the hunt and on the leader board. Commentators circled like hawks, preying on those who fell victim to the challenges of the course and the pressures in a major tournament.

With all the record-breaking numbers Woods posted, too of-

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ten the first commentary on his feat is that Woods is the first black man ever to win a major. What does such a statement say about the media and society as a whole?

Woods should be recognized and praised for his accomplishments as a golfer and as a person, not as a black man.

The truth be known, Woods is not black. His father is an African-American who married a native of Thailand. Doesn't that make him an Asian-African-American?

Sadly enough, there are still today, in 1997, several courses in the United States where Woods would not be allowed to play because of the color of his skin. So the fact Woods won a major tournament in a sport which has not always accepted and in some instances still does not accept, African-Americans is noteworthy. But shouldn't the media focus more on the accomplishments of the person and not the color of his skin?

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Sportswriter



**Jamie Burch**  
Senior speech communications major

**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**



**Larry Wade overcomes back injury to dominate his event**

By **JEREMY FURTICK**  
THE BATTALION

"Respect" is an interesting word when used in the context of collegiate sports. Respect from teammates, coaches or opponents usually is earned by outstanding performance in competition, a category most representative of athletics. But there are other aspects of gaining respect that encompass more than just excelling in the athletic arena.

Larry Wade, a junior hurdler on the Texas A&M Men's Track and Field Team, dominates his competition on the track, but also has the respect and admiration of his coaches and teammates for the person he is, not just the athlete.

Assistant Coach Abe Brown,

Wade's hurdling coach, picked one word to describe his 1995 All-American.

"Loyal," he said. "Larry is loyal to himself, his coaches and most importantly his team."

Loyalty, as Brown describes it, was probably the most instrumental attribute in helping Wade reach the level of performance he did in 1995, cope with a 1996 season-ending injury and finally return to competition three weeks ago.

Expectations for Wade were not extremely high when he entered A&M in 1993, but he did not take long to eclipse expectations of the hurdler's ability, Head Coach Ted Nelson said.

Wade had a good freshman year, but came of age his sophomore year. He began by winning the 110-meter

hurdles at the Southwest Conference Outdoor Championships be-

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Ted Nelson  
A&M head coach

fore going on to the NCAA Outdoor Championships where he exploded for a 13.41 mark, good enough to set

the all-time A&M and SWC records and rank him as the fifth all-time fastest collegiate performer in the 110-meter hurdles.

"Larry's better now than I thought he would ever be when he came to Texas A&M," Nelson said. "In his case now, he can be as good as he possibly wants to be."

After finishing 1995 with his incredible performance, Wade was primed for an even better junior year.

But at the end of the 1996 indoor season, Wade was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his back, causing him to miss the 1996 NCAA Indoor Championships and the 1996 outdoor and 1997 indoor seasons.

Wade's loyalty experienced its greatest test during this period.

"[Sitting out the season] was terrible; I hated it," Wade said. "I

wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy. The worst thing to have to do is to see your teammates need you during a meet because they know you could score some points to help the team win. And seeing people win races that I had beat the time in."

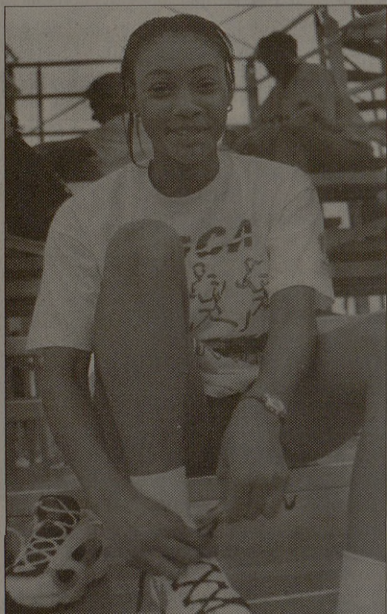
But Wade did not let the injury dampen his spirits. He continued to train and do everything he could to stay in shape without actually hurdling. Brown said it was that work which allowed Wade to return so spectacularly three weeks ago at the Texas Relays.

"He was still strong and flexible, his endurance level was up and he was physically and mentally prepared to do what he did," Brown said.

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**Carter next in line to carry on hurdling legacy**

By **CHRIS FERRELL**  
THE BATTALION



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION  
Freshman hurdler **Chimika Carter** ties her shoe before practice Tuesday.

A dynasty is not established overnight. The torch must be passed from one individual to another, without a drop-off in the level of success.

The Texas A&M Track Team has established a dynasty in women's hurdling.

Last weekend at the Texas A&M Invitational, freshman Chimika Carter showed she is ready to take the torch and carry it into the 21st century.

Carter turned in a wind-aided 13.42 time in the 100-meter hurdles, the 12th fastest time in the nation this year, putting her in line to compete at the NCAA meet in May.

"[I was] not expecting it at all," Carter said. "My goal was to run a 13.6. You never know what the future holds. I hope [I can carry on the legacy]."

Hurdle Coach Abe Brown said Carter has put herself in a position to emerge as the next of A&M's great track athletes.

"That's the way it has to be," Brown said. "That's how tradition works. If we are going to stay strong, someone has to take the torch. We

have had great hurdlers going back to Rosa Baker and of course now with Anjanette (Kirkland) and (Rosa) Jolivet. People like Chimika are stepping up, and we also have Adrien Sawyer, and she's only a junior."

The major change in her running came two weeks ago at the Texas Relays.

"Her confidence started at the Texas Relays," Brown said. "She hit the ninth hurdle in her race and ended up finishing eighth with a 14.3, but that's when I really noticed her confidence."

While Carter's success has come earlier than anticipated, Brown said he never doubted her ability.

"She, in my mind, was the darling of the state track meet," Brown said. "She was second in the long jump and won the triple jump and the high hurdles."

Helping Groesbeck High School to a 3A state championship, Carter earned All-State honors. Her 13.1 100-meter performance as a senior was the second fastest time in the state.

"I started running in junior high when we did everything," Carter said. "I also played volleyball and basketball. I started enjoying it (track) once I started winning as a sophomore."

"I never realized I was good until I started getting letters and phone calls from around the country."

Her list of prospective colleges stopped at A&M. Its strong tradition as a track powerhouse and the opportunity to pursue a top-notch education were simply too much for her to pass up.

Brown said Carter, a four-time Academic All-District performer in high school, put education very high on her list of priorities.

"It (our past success) did make a difference, but I think Chimika was more interested in her studies," Brown said. "Once we convinced her she could get a top education at Texas A&M, I don't think she had any hesitation."

And the Aggies have no hesitations about the future with Carter, who is set to lead them into the next millennium.

**"You never know what the future holds. I hope (I can carry on the legacy.)"**

Chimika Carter  
Freshman hurdler

Social and Economic Development Through  
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**THE SWADHYAYA MOVEMENT**

The Templeton Prize for outstanding efforts to bring man closer to God was recently awarded to Rev. Pandurang Shastri Athavale. Previous award-winners include Mother Theresa and Billy Graham. Athavale received the award for leading a movement called Swadhyaya, meaning "self-study" for the past 40 years. The movement, which encourages people to contribute to their communities as a form of devotion to God has transformed a hundred thousand Indian villages into self-sustaining and self-reliant communities, affecting the lives of nearly 20 million people.

A lecture/discussion and slide presentation led by  
**Dr. Betty M. Unterberger**  
Department of History  
Tuesday, April 22, 1997  
7 pm • Koldus 110

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