# Rangers plan memorial for announcer

ARLINGTON (AP) — At the ballpark and in church, memorial services for former Texas Rangers announcer Mark Holtz will give friends, relatives and fans opportunities to remember the team's longtime voice.

The Rangers plan a public service at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Diamond Club of The Ballpark at Arlington for Holtz, who died Sunday at a Dallas hospital of complications from a bone marrow transplant for treatment of leukemia.

Another memorial service was scheduled at 4 p.m. Wednesday for relatives and friends at Trinity United Methodist Church in Arlington.

Holtz, 51, teamed with Eric Nadel as the team's radio announcing team in 1981-94. Holtz moved to the television both in 1995.

Nadel remains the team's lead play-by-play announcer.

Holtz

Holtz broadcast his final game for the Rangers May 22 and underwent the transplant June 18.

The team will wear a black patch on its uniform in Holtz's memory for the rest of the season.

Family members have requested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to either the National Marrow Donor Program at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas or Texas Rangers Charities' Mark Holtz Fund in Arlington.

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## *Sports Briefs*

### Aggies undefeated in weekend play

The fifth-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team concluded its first road swing of the year this weekend defeating both Big 12 rival Kansas and Missouri.

On Friday, A&M faced off against the University of Kansas Jayhawks and recorded its first shutout of the season, at Super Target Field in Lawrence, Ka.

With freshman midfielder Nicky Thrasher leading the way with one goal and two assists, the Aggies blanked the Jayhawks 5-0.

In a press release, Coach G. Guerrieri attributed the teams performance to the freshmen on the squad.

"I was a little disappointed with the play of some of our more experinced players, but I was pleased our freshmen played well," Guerrieri said.

### Cross Country wins first at Rice Relays

The Texas A&M men's cross country team started the 1997 season by taking top honors at the Rice Relays on Saturday.

Four Aggie tandems placed in the meet's top eight and out-distanced second-place Stephen F. Austin by nearly four minutes.

The men's top finishers were freshman walk-on Chuck Cusimato and junior Scott Lengefeld who ran the course in 40:24. Other Aggie racers were freshmen Stephen Frath and Aaron Cottrell (40:37) and Gerard Perminter and Todd Fox (40:44).

"It was a great way to open a season," Coach Greg Hinze said in a press release. "We came out focused and did a good job competing. All four of our tandems finished in under 42 minutes, so that's a good way to get started. The men worked hard throughout the summer and it showed today."

### Fittipaldi escapes death in crash

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Racing champion Emerson Fittipaldi fractured his spinal column in an ultralight plane crash and escaped death only because the aircraft fell in a swamp, a doctor said.

The 50-year-old Brazilian and his 6-year-old son Luca were taken to the Sao Paulo Hospital in Araraquara, a citrus-growing region about 220 miles northwest of Sao Paulo, shortly after midnight Sunday.

X-rays revealed a fracture in the second vertebra, and Fittipaldi reported difficulty in moving his left leg, Dr. Luiz Roberto Neves, the hospital's clinical director, said in a radio interview.

"By some miracle, Luca didn't have even a cut," Neves said.

Neves said Fittipaldi told doctors the motor stalled and the ultralight crashed into a swamp from a height of about 100 yards.

'It wasn't a forced landing. It was a crash," Neves said. "The swamp saved (them). If (they) had fallen on solid ground, (they) surely would have been killed."

The two were transferred to Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Hospital in a jet equipped with a portable intensive care unit. After further tests, the family will decide whether to move Fittipaldi to Miami, where he has a house.

"Everything now seems to be OK," Wilson Fittipaldi, Emerson's brother, said in a TV interview.

Emerson Fittipaldi and his son took off Sunday morning from the Fittipaldi citrus farm in Araraquara, where he grows 750,000 orange trees. When they failed to return by nightfall, the family called police and a massive search began.

The two were found late Sunday night and taken to the hospital in Araraquara, where doctors immobilized Fittipaldi's neck.

Fittipaldi won the Formula One drivers championship in 1972 and 1974. He later moved to Indy cars, and won the Indy 500 in 1989 and 1993 for Roger Penske's team. Last year, he fractured a vertebra in a crash in Michigan, and still has difficulty moving his right hand and right arm.

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