

## Dreams of gold

### Former student Curt Young to compete in Summer Olympics

REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

In a few months, athletes from all over the world will converge on Sydney, Australia, to take part in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games. Among the crowd of hopeful competitors will be former Texas A&M student and Aggie track star Curt Young.

Young, Class of '96, will head Down Under in early September to compete in the 400-meter hurdles for Panama, where he lived until age 5.

A&M track coach Ted Nelson is happy for his former runner. "This couldn't happen to a more deserving person than Curt Young," Nelson said. "He's always been a hard worker."

Young is no stranger to the Olympics. In 1996, he traveled to Atlanta, where he ran in the 400-meter hurdles.

Young had trouble in '96 when he hit the fifth hurdle and fell in the preliminary round.

He did get back up and complete the race, but he did not advance into competition for any medals.

"I hope to do better this year," Young said.

Running track at A&M helped Young make it to this level in his track career. He said A&M track coaches Nelson and Abe Brown were influential in his development.

"They helped me with guidance and some of their philosophy that I still use today," Young said.

Sonia Williams, Young's mother, said guidance and philosophy are not the only things Young has received and is still receiving from A&M.

"He's had a lot of support," Williams said, "a lot of emotional support. I think the emotional support is the most important thing because wherever you go, you have the Aggie family supporting you," Williams said.

Nelson feels Young will make A&M proud at the Olympics.

"Curt will always represent Texas A&M, not only the track program at Texas A&M, but Texas A&M as a University. He's a great young man," Nelson said.

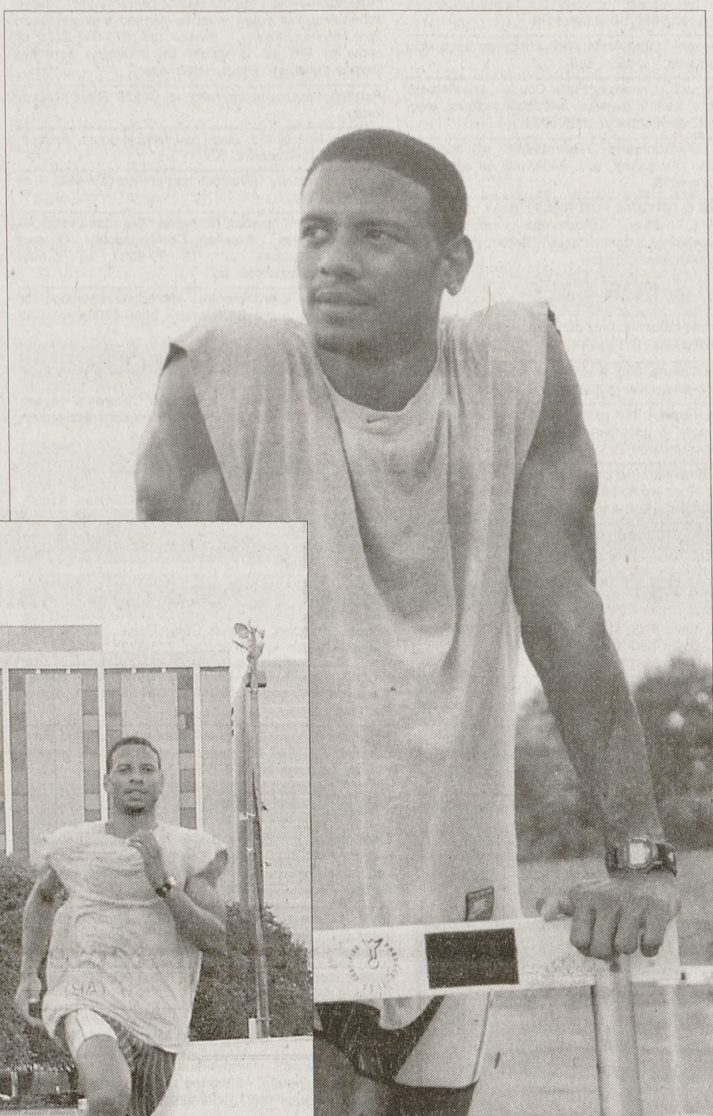
Young has been interested in running track for quite some time.

He came from a strong Converse-Judson High School track program, where he was district champion his senior year in both the 110-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles.

While at A&M, Young competed in the 110-meter hurdles, the 400-meter hurdles and the 1600-meter relay.

"In high school, he was an all-right intermediate hurdler," Nelson said. "He was more of a high hurdler than an intermediate hurdler. But he developed the love of the intermediate hurdles and that is what he is now, an intermediate hurdler."

When he left A&M, Young took with him the third and sixth fastest times in the 400-meter hurdles among Aggies.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Curt Young, Class of '96, prepares for a workout at the Rice University track in Houston. Young will be competing in the Olympic Games this September in Sydney.

He also left with two All-American honors from the 1996 season — one in the 400-meter hurdles and one for the 1600-meter relay.

Nelson said Young's accomplishments alone are impressive, but making it to the Olympics is an achievement to be especially proud of. "The Olympic Games are an experience that every athlete aspires to do, and when one gets a chance to do that, it's really a plus for them," Nelson said. The track portion of the Olympics is set to begin Sept. 22.

### Slocum and Valletta respond to Bowen's Bonfire decision

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For nearly a century, the Texas A&M football team and Aggie Bonfire have stood together on the eve of the annual game between A&M and the University of Texas.

Each stood in front of thousands of spectators, expressing the burning desire to defeat the Longhorns and uniting a continually growing Aggie family.

But this year's celebration will be missing one key element.

After a recent decision made by A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, there will be no bonfire for the next two years.

The football team is now adjusting to his decision.

Senior offensive lineman Chris Valletta said he was expecting this decision.

"I wasn't shocked," Valletta said. "I was disappointed a little, but I understand [Bowen's] decision."

Although Valletta was somewhat upset that there will be no bonfire next year, he gives Bowen his complete support.

"I was sad because I'm a student at A&M just like anyone else," Valletta said. "We have to take into account what happened and consider all the precautions."

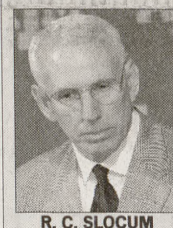
A&M football coach R. C. Slocum was unavailable for

**"I hope that our A&M family will again demonstrate**

**our togetherness by supporting**

**Dr. Bowen's decision so that we can move forward."**

—R.C. Slocum  
Texas A&M football coach



R. C. SLOCUM

comment, but he did release a statement.

"People everywhere gained a great respect for our A&M family as a result of how we hung together in dealing with the bonfire tragedy last November. Now, we have another opportunity to demonstrate how special the loyalty is that Aggies hold for one another and Texas A&M.

"There are many, many opinions about how the future of bonfire should be handled. Dr. Bowen has heard all of them. In addition, he has had access to far more information regarding bonfire than anyone else. He is an Aggie, and I know he has been deliberate and conscientious in arriving at this decision.

"I hope that our A&M family will again demonstrate our togetherness by supporting Dr. Bowen's decision so that we can move forward," Slocum said.

Valletta echoed Slocum's sentiments and hopes others will, too. Even though bonfire will not burn next year, Valletta thinks the spirit of the event can continue.

"The size of bonfire does not really matter," Valletta said.

"It's what bonfire stood for that matters, and that is the coming together of Aggies everywhere."

The Aggies are scheduled to take on the Longhorns at Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin on Nov. 24.



## Tiger Woods closes out U.S. Open romp

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Tiger Woods' last challenge came from history. And like everything else for him at this U.S. Open, it was no contest.

Woods turned Pebble Beach into his personal playground, leaving everyone else so far behind that he might as well have been playing alone.

While the rest of the field was playing for second, Woods took aim at the record books.

When the final putt fell Sunday against the spectacular scenery off Carmel Bay, Woods claimed the U.S. Open, along with the kind of records no one imagined possible.

He became the first player in the 106-year history of the U.S. Open to finish 72 holes at double digits under par — 12 under.

His 15-stroke victory not only shattered the Open mark of 11 set by Willie Smith in 1899, but was the largest ever in a major championship, surpassing the 13-stroke victory by Old Tom Morris in the 1862 British Open.

His 272 tied the lowest score ever in a U.S. Open, first set by his idol, Jack Nicklaus, in 1980 and later matched by Lee Janzen in 1993.

"The day, and all week, I had a sense of calmness that I haven't had in quite a while," Woods said. "It was reminiscent of Augusta in '97. No matter what happened, I was able to keep my composure and focus on the shot I needed to make."

More history awaits next month. Woods goes to the British Open at St. Andrews with a chance to become only the fifth player — and at

age 24, the youngest — to win all four major championships.

"He'll really have to be on his game to have a chance against us, won't he?" said Nick Faldo, rolling his eyes.

Too bad for Ernie Els and Miguel Angel Jimenez that the U.S. Open didn't have a B-flight this year. They had to settle for second place, at 3-over 287, their names in the record books, but only as footnotes.

This U.S. Open was really the Tiger Woods Classic.

"I don't know how much more there is to say," Els said. "We've been talking about him for two years. I guess we'll be talking about him for the next 20. When he's on, we don't have much of a chance. "He's near perfect, the way he played this week."

So dominant was this performance that Woods never made worse than par over his final 26 holes. He closed with a 4-under 67, the best score of the day.

Jimenez had a 71, while Els finished with a 72. Woods began the final round with a 10-stroke

lead, and no one got any closer than eight.

"Before we went out, I knew I had no chance," Els said.

Woods said his first U.S. Open victory was the perfect Father's Day present, even though Earl Woods did not make the trip to Pebble Beach.

"It was awesome, totally awesome," Earl Woods said from his home in Cypress. "It was like watching a Mercedes climb a hill. The power was there, the control was there. It's just on cruise control."

Even though the outcome was never in question, Woods managed to provide plenty of thrills on a lazy, sunny day along the rugged California coastline.

The gallery occupied every inch of grass along every fairway and behind every green, craning their necks to catch a glimpse of history.

Yachts crammed into Stillwater Cove, and spectators tried to catch a piece of history from the beach below the famous "Cliffs of Doom" that overlook the Pacific.

They weren't watching a competition, but an

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—Tiger Woods  
professional golfer

Monday, June 19, 2000

by Adria

With that percentage, would ask Shaq to be the shooter!

J. GOLDFL... IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S AN EXCESS OF BEANS IN THE GROWING REGION... WELL... YOU...

Biot Savar... love Communists... ally! I bleed red... bleed red!!!

pay overtime to 18 officers... work six days each week... Lt. John Branton... Dallas Morning News... Collisions due to red-lights... have been on the rise... Last year, almost 200... died because of things like... Senior Cpl. Michael Smith... getting to be a big problem.

Che... erland '65... Student Affairs

THE BATTALION

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