

SPORTS

THE DAILY TEXAN

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Monday, April 7, 2008

COLUMN



By David R. Henry
Daily Texan
Columnist

Like father, like son: Brown's 3:59.99 mile one of a kind

The Jerry Thompson mile was just one of several races on the final day of the Texas Relays. But this was no ordinary race.

With two important records at stake, the competition had enough drama to make Steven Spielberg jealous.

The stage could not have been set any better. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the temperature was perfect for fan standards and slightly warm for runner standards. Fans packed the Mike A. Myers Stadium from sideline to sideline.

Texas senior Leo Manzano, the little engine that could, was running to break the meet record and stadium record. Darren Brown, another Longhorn senior, was running for something more personal.

Brown was trying to run the mile under four minutes so that he and his father Barry would become the first American father and son to break four minutes in the mile. Brown's father, who was a teammate of the legendary distance runner Frank Shorter, ran the mile in 3 minutes, 58.80 seconds in 1972.

The road hasn't been easy for Brown. And believe it or not, there actually is competition for this sort of achievement.

Pitt's Sam Blair III, a senior, has been jockeying with Brown for years to make history. Blair's father, Sam Blair Jr., ran a sub-four mile, and Blair came close to breaking it with a 4:00.14 mile. It was close, but no cigar. The window of opportunity remained open for Brown.

Brown, whose father passed away while he was growing up, tried to follow in his father's footsteps by going to Providence. After two seasons there, things weren't working out for

Brown, and he wanted a change. His teammate from Klein High School, Erik Stanley, suggested that he come back home to Texas. After visiting Texas, he was hooked (pun intended).
Throughout his entire college career, Brown has worked and worked to break the record. He's come close, but it seemed like the day might not come. In fact, he was lucky to even get his final season of eligibility after transferring from Providence.
"For two years, I've been trying to get this, so there has been a lot of built up pressure and tension," Brown said. "This morning I was just at home looking at pictures of my dad, and I knew that it was going to happen today."

When he crossed the finish line, just seconds after Manzano broke the meet and school record, Brown knew he came close, but it was so close he didn't know if he made it or not.

He did. Brown crossed the finish line in 3 minutes, 59.99 seconds. Never has one hundredth of a second made such a difference in a person's life.

Brown walked off the track, fell to his knees and started crying. After he was finally able to pull himself together and talk to the media, Brown said could finally put into words what his weeping had already illustrated.

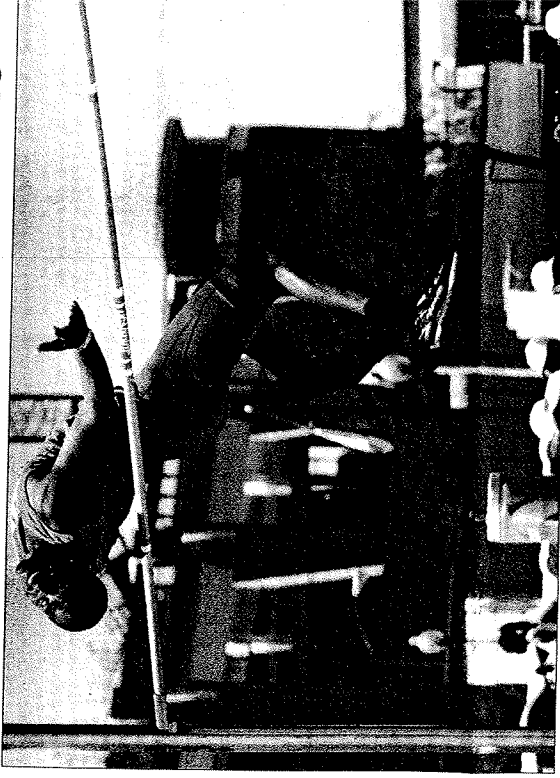
"I can't think of a better way to honor my father," he said. "You couldn't script it any better. Brown did it in front of his family and friends and at the second largest track event in the country — his final home meet. He also did it on the same day that his teammate Leo Manzano brought the crowd to its feet by breaking the meet record."

After the excitement of the day wound down, Manzano and Brown ran off together on a cool down run. After what they had accomplished that day, you could call it an extra-long victory lap off into the burnt-orange sunset.



See video of Brown's emotional reaction after finishing the meet's mile.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



Above, Raymond Harris competes in the high jump event Saturday during the Texas Relays. He finished in fifth place after failing this height. Below, Sand flies as Joseph Davis lands after completing the triple jump.

Manzano sets new record

Brown's milestone run puts him in father's company

By Austin Talbert
Daily Texan Staff

All week they talked about it. They knew it was going to happen.

On Saturday, Leo Manzano was going to break the school record in the mile.

"On Saturday Leo Manzano is going to run the Jerry Thompson mile — not just the mile, but the NCAA champion in the indoor mile, shifted into a high school record," coach Bubba Thornton

ton said on Tuesday. Thornton couldn't wait for Saturday for Manzano to break the record.
"If this weather holds up, you are going to see something special on Saturday from Leo in the mile," Thornton said on Thursday, pointing to the clouds that kept the sun hidden and the air cool.

But the race that the Longhorns hoped would be special turned out to be one of the most historic races in Texas track history.

As Manzano, a three-time NCAA champion in the indoor mile, shifted into a high school record, coach Bubba Thornton

away, the crowd roared and gave him a standing ovation as he crossed the finish line in 3:56.98 — breaking the record set by Richard Romo in 1966.

"It is really awesome to be out here, to share this moment with the home crowd," Manzano said. "It is an honor to bring distance running to this crowd."

The race also saw Darren Brown finish under 4 minutes, making him one-half of the only American father-son combo to

RELAYS continues on page 38.



BASEBALL

Russell finding strike as extra BP pays off

SOFTBALL

Series split, like team personality

ROWING

SMU sinks on Lady Bird Lake

Texas improves from last week, now 6-0 after four-race sweep

By Josh Foster
Daily Texan Staff

It's now six and counting for the first varsity eight boat.

The Longhorns brought out the broom for the second consecutive weekend as they swept SMU in all four races on Lady Bird Lake, extending their flawless spring record to 6-0.

The first varsity eight boat clocked in at 6 minutes, 48.6 seconds, good for a 17-second victory. The second varsity eight boat bested SMU's respective boat by 13 seconds, finishing in 7:05.3. The varsity four boat won by eight seconds with a time of 7:56.8. The first novice eight boat finished in 7:08.5, providing a 56-second win.

All four Texas boats recorded faster times than they did in the previous weekend against Kansas.

"We got our sync back today," assistant head coach Melissa Perrone said. "We executed and cleaned up a little better and

sharper than last week."

The "sync" Perrone referred to was in question last weekend after a sluggish performance in which the team had seemingly hit a mid-season wall.

"We've had tough training the past two weeks," Perrone said. "That's why they were out of sync. They didn't forget how to row; it's just part of the training."

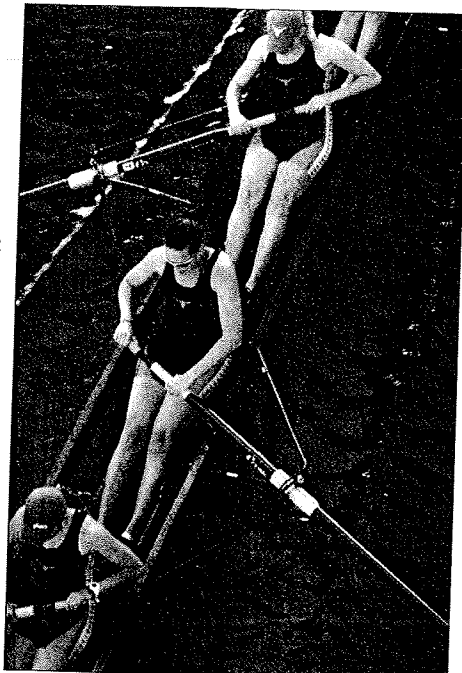
Sophomore Nancy Arrington echoed Perrone's mid-season wall explanation.

"It isn't too surprising, because we get to the point in the middle of the season where it's kind of grueling," Arrington said. "You just have to force your way through it."

The Longhorns will shift focus to No. 1-ranked California for this week. The Golden Bears visit Lady Bird Lake next Saturday in a match-up that the 'Horns will use as a measuring stick to see how they compare with the nation's best.

"That's what we want to be up against," Perrone said. "Cal is ranked number one, and that's where we want to end this year."

Arrington realizes that SMU and Kansas are minor leaguers compared to an elite program



Eliot Meyer | Daily Texan Staff

Texas rowers glide over the surface of Lady Bird Lake during Texas' contest against SMU. The Longhorns won all four races against the Mustangs and kept their spring record perfect.

like California and is looking for the Longhorns to shave off even more time in order to compete with the top schools.

"It still isn't as fast as we want

to be in the season," Arrington said. "We have a few kinks to work out, but we are on the [verge] of getting some serious speed."

RELAYS: Brown reaches goal

From page 1B

accomplish the difficult task.

"[Sharing this historical race with Leo] couldn't be better," Brown said. "We have been talking about it all week; I knew it would be a fast race. Because of the pace I just got dragged around and stuck my head in there. It was the perfect race for me to do this, so I just tried stay with the pace, and when Leo kicks — which he does so well — I just tried to hang on."

The rest of the Longhorns' distance team was focused on doing whatever they could to make both these records happen, short of changing the weather.

The strategy was simple — to ensure that Manzano could stay on the needed sub-four minute pace, Manzano's roommate Kyle Miller started the race and set the pace for a lap and let the smaller Manzano draft behind him. Then Miller dropped off the track and joined the thousands of spectators on

their feet, cheering for the smallest guy on the track.

After Miller joined the crowd, former Longhorn Jake Morse — currently running unattached — took over the lead, continuing the frantic pace and leading the way for Manzano.

Morse dropped off the track after the third lap and joined Miller. Their job was done.

"I want to give a lot of the credit to my teammates," Manzano said. "It has been a long-term plan to get the record here. We have been working hard to get to this day, but a lot of credit goes to them. The strategy worked perfectly."

Manzano now owns four Texas outdoor records and was named the 2008 Texas Relays Most Outstanding Performer.

On a day in which Olympic gold medalists Jeremy Wariner and Sanja Richards both brought winning relays down the same stretch, the Jerry Thompson mile seemed to grab the most attention.

SOFTBALL: Defense plays key role in win

From page 1B

runs and on the way to their 10th road loss of the season.

Barnhill relied on her defense for most of the afternoon. They responded, with freshman left fielder Amy Hooks throwing out a runner at home and other Longhorns taking away hits with sliding catches and thrown-out base stealers.

"The defense was amazing,"

Barnhill said. "[Hooks'] throw was a shot; the girl didn't have a chance. That was the point after yesterday. We have to give our defense a chance to play."

After the offense stalled in game one, the Texas bats made an early statement Sunday. After plating two runs in the opening inning on Desiree Williams's two out single, the Longhorns went on to score in every inning but the second.

MEN'S TENNIS

Longhorns push win streak to four with triumph over Nebraska

UT remains perfect in conference play, now 14-1 against NU

By Andrew Martinez
Daily Texan Staff

The sixth-ranked Longhorns earned their fourth consecutive

a 7-0 rout over host Nebraska at the Nebraska Tennis Center in Lincoln.

Saturday's match was originally scheduled to be played outdoors but was moved to Nebraska's indoor facilities after strong winds made outdoor play impossible.

Freshmen Ed Corrie and Kellen Damico kicked things off for the Longhorns (14-1, 7-0) with a

neider, ultimately winning the match by a 9-7 count.

Senior Luis Diaz Barriga and junior Miguel Reyes Varela won at the second position shortly after, defeating Calin Paar and Francois Van Impe 8-4, while sophomores Dimitar Kutrovsky and Josh Zavala wrapped things up for Tex-

doubles play all season and has won the doubles point in all of their last 12 matches. The last time the 'Horns surrendered the doubles point to an opponent was on Feb. 16, when Texas lost to No. 3 Georgia by a 4-3 count at the ITA National Team Indoor Championship in Seattle

Big 12 Men's Tennis Player of the Week, Damico, came back after a one-set deficit to defeat Nebraska's Paar 4-6, 7-6 (6), 1-0 (10-5), at second singles. Damico's come-from-behind win ended a six-match singles winning streak for Paar.

Corrie knocked off NU's Stah-

"Close" was the word of the day for Nebraska (9-11, 0-2). Texas senior Milan Mihailovic, like teammates Diaz Barriga and Damico before him, rallied from behind to come up with a 3-6, 6-2, 1-0 (10-4) win over Nebraska's Melo at the fifth spot. Sophomore Josh Zav-