partly cloudy

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Flying High



Wes Underwood/The University Daily

Fly Guy: Matthew Minkley, a senior general studies major from Claude, performs a pre-flight check in the cockpit.

Air Force ROTC program helps students gain flight experience

by Matt Green

Staff Writer

flights as part of the new Introductory Flight Training Program for the first time last week in Texas Tech history.

Cadets De Jon Redd, a senior marketing major from Baton Rouge, La., and Matthew Minkley, a senior general studies major from Claude, are the first undergraduate cadets from Tech's **AFROTC Detachment 820** to make solo flights.

Capt. Don Baker, assistant professor of aerospace technology, said the Introductory wo Air Force ROTC Flight Training Program was cadets made solo introduced last year to offer an additional level of training.

"The program gives ROTC cadets some flying experience before they receive military training," Baker said.

The program uses small private aircraft to train pilots before they operate military planes. Previously, cadets had to undergo all flight training in high-powered jet aircraft.

"It was like learning to drive in a NASCAR with a standard transmission," Baker said.

Both Redd and Minkley have excelled in the program, and feel comfortable with this type of training.

"This is much better than what they've been doing in the past," Minkley said.

While this type of training can be postponed until after graduation, the cadets felt it was in their best interests to complete it now.

"We should enter Air Force undergraduate pilot training much faster and with less lagtime," Redd said.

Lubbock-based Stratos Aviation uses its own private planes and instructors as the

VERNERAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

field base operators.

Chief Flight Instructor Clint Griffin said Stratos is pleased with ROTC's new program.

"I'm glad we get to do this for them," Griffin said.

Before flying alone, cadets must complete the preliminary flight training section of the program.

Baker said he is proud of the cadets for achieving this milestone so early in their military careers.

"Your first solo flight in the Air Force is a very important moment," Baker said.

Woman beaten outside nightclub

by Matt Green

Staff Writer

A female Texas Tech student was attacked by an unknown male shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday outside of the Liquid 2000 nightclub at 1812 Ave. G.

Police reports indicate the victim had just dropped several friends off at the club, and was getting into her car when she was approached by an unknown male suspect.

The suspect grabbed the driver's side door and asked for a ride home.

When the victim refused to give the man a ride home, he began punching her in the face and head.

When the victim began fighting back, the suspect then attempted to gain entry to the back seat of the car, making noise attracting attention.

The suspect fled when several onlookers noticed the struggle. and walked up to ask if there was a problem.

The victim drove to a friend's house and contacted police.

The suspect is described by police as a 20- to 30-year-old Hispanic male weighing 130 pounds with a dark ponytail.

Bill Morgan, public information officer for the Lubbock Police Department, said the case is being treated as an isolated

"I do not believe this case is related to any other incidents," Morgan said.

He said the case was assigned to an investigator Monday afternoon, but police do not have much to work with.

"There is a very low amount of solvability," Morgan said.

Police investigate alleged threat

by Matt Green

Staff Writer

The Texas Tech Police Department investigated an alleged terroristic threat by a student on July 2.

The student, whose name has not been released, told a West Hall employee he would start shooting people from the new bell tower at the United Spirit Arena if he was unable to register for a math class.

The student also said university police officers only carry one round of ammunition, and he would bring doughnuts for the LPD officers and FBI agents.

Dan Hale, public information officer for the TTPD, said officers are obligated to investigate any threat of this nature.

The West Hall representative thought this could possibly be a serious threat," Hale said.

The suspect was identified by the information he gave to the West Hall employee, and was called in for police questioning.

"He said the statement was a joke and made in a humorous manner," Hale said.

The TTPD has not taken any action against the student at

"We will most likely report this to the District Attorney's office, but the student could also be referred to the Dean of Students office.

Bush collects on Spurs bet with NY governor

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush got a tasty payoff Monday.

Ben's Best delicatessen of Rego Park, N.Y., delivered sandwiches for 30 courtesy of New York Gov. George Pataki, who had bet Bush that the Knicks would beat the Spurs in the NBA finals.

The delivery featured matzoh

balls, celery soda and a variety of kosher sandwiches, including pastrami and corned beef.

Photographers, but no reporters, were allowed into the reception.

"We had five minutes available on the governor's schedule today," said Bush spokesman Scott McClellan. "The deli owner delivered the sandwiches personally, so we thought it would be all in good spirit to have a photo opportunity and share in the pride that all Texans feel toward our San Antonio

The Spurs won their first NBA title in the franchise's 26-year history last month, beating the Knicks four games to one in the finals. If the San Antonio team had lost, Bush had

pledged to send Pataki a pair of Texas-style western boots - complete with spurs.

This isn't the first victory for the GOP presidential front runner in his sports team rivalry with Pataki.

The two Republican governors also had wagered on whether the Dallas Stars or Buffalo Sabres would win the NHL championship.

The Stars triumphed and Pataki sent Bush buffalo wings last week and will dispatch an order of sandwiches Wednesday, according to the governor's office.

Bush would have owed Pataki, who has been mentioned as possible running mate for the Republican governor, barbecue ribs and brisket if the Sabres had won.



Police Blotter

compiled from reports of the Texas **Tech Police Department**

3:42 p.m. Officers documented the leaking of a pressurized container in the receiving area of the Health Sciences Center dock. A guard who was exposed to the gas complained of illness. The leak was later determined to be a natural release of pressure.

July 2

4:40 p.m. Officers investigated a terroristic threat made by a student at West Hall. The student had jokingly said if he was unable to graduate he would start shooting people from the new bell tower in the United Spirit Arena and bring donuts for Lubbock Police Department and FBI officers. The student has been referred to the Dean of Students Office.

July I

7:15 a.m. Officers investigated a trash bin fire on the Health Sciences Center loading dock.

4:54 p.m. Officers investigated a theft on the fourth floor of Chitwood Residence Hall and assisted another agency in investigating credit card abuse that resulted from the theft.

10:45 p.m. Officers investigated criminal mischief in Room 106 of the Human Sciences building.

June 30

9:21 a.m. Officers arrested a nonstudent for outstanding Potter County Sheriff's Department warrants following an investigation of solicitation in the B-I parking lot of the Health Sciences Center.

10:59 a.m. Officers documented a disturbance between a professor and a non-student in Room 710 of the Business Administration build-

June 29

4:27 p.m. Officers investigated a possible assault at Chitwood/ Weymouth Residence Complex. 10:49 p.m. Officers investigated

criminal mischief on the first floor of the Health Sciences Center. June 29

12:12 p.m. Officers investigated a fire alarm at the Ronald McDonald House.



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Cavazos returns for campus visit

Former president addresses Tech staff students, faculty

by Andy Jones

Staff Writer

Former Texas Tech President Lauro Cavazos was in town Thursday to touch base with the university and speak to the Texas Tech School of Medicine's Premedical Academy.

Cavazos served as president of Tech and the Health Sciences Center from 1980 to 1988 before leaving to serve as U.S. Secretary of Education during the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Cavazos said in a press conference Thursday that the main reason for his trip to Lubbock was to spend time with students and faculty.

In addition to speaking at the Premedical Academy, Cavazos also met with Chancellor John Montford and others to speak about education.

Currently a professor and director of graduate programs in public

Back In Town:

Former Texas
Tech President
Lauro Cavazos
speaks to university personnel
Thursday. Later
that day, Cavazos
addressed members of the
School of Medicine's Premedical
Academy.

Wes Underwood/ The University Daily



health at Tufts University in Boston, Mass., Cavazos still is very outspoken and passionate about education at all levels.

"We cannot leave one child behind," Cavazos said. "The state must develop programs to keep young in school and make sure they don't drop out."

Cavazos added that it is important to do what it takes to keep children in school because of what he calls a loss of human potential. "How do you know you didn't lose the person who could cure leukemia?" Cavazos said.

He also spoke about minority enrollments, the public education system and the state of the university.

Cavazos said Tech is a place where he has deep roots because, not only did he graduate from Tech, he also had the privilege of leadership of the university.

He said he feels that a major part of Tech's agenda is to make the state

of Texas understand the excellence that is Texas Tech University.

"I never had to apologize for the education I received at Texas Tech University," Cavazos said. "Don't apologize for anything going on at Texas Tech."

Barbara Ewalt, director of admissions at the School of Medicine, said students of the Premedical Academy were very impressed with Cavazos' speech Thursday.

The Premedical Academy had Cavazos speak to the 10 students that are enrolled in the six-week summer program for future medical students.

"The academy is a preparatory course to bridge the way for students with lots of potential that are financially and educationally disadvantaged," Ewalt said.

This is the first year for the Premedical Academy, Ewalt said, and it is open to financially and educationally disadvantaged students who are Texas residents.

Ewalt said Cavazos' speech was definitely a highlight for the Premedical Academy and the students interacted very well with the former Tech president.

Program offered to help heal childhood wounds

Tech Outreach and Extended studies offers help to abuse survivors. A one-day workshop will be offered July 23 to any individual interested in learning about handling various childhood wounds and their effects on adult survivors.

Discovering childhood wounds, how individuals are dealing with them and their effects they have on adults is the focus of the workshop, said Michele Moskos, marketing director at Tech Outreach and Extended Studies

Individuals also will learn about healing techniques used for adult survivors.

Several different aspects of childhood abuse will be covered in the workshop, including sexual, verbal, emotional and physical.

Psychologist Mary Ann Manley will

be conducting the workshop. Manley has a private practice emphasizing on working with adult survivors.

Anyone is welcome to attend. The workshop, however, is geared toward mental health care professionals.

There is an \$84 registration fee. To register or for more information call (806) 742-2352 ext. 270 or 346.

Seven dead in Atlanta shooting

ATLANTA (AP) — Seven people were found shot to death Monday in an Atlanta home, with the only survivor an 11-year-old boy who hid in a closet for hours after he was wounded.

The motive for the fatal shootings of five adults and two children was unclear, but police were investigating whether one person killed the others and himself.

"The possibility does exist that one of the persons inside, who is also deceased, is responsible for all the shootings and that injury to himself was self-inflicted," Deputy Police Chief C.B. Jackson said.

Officers were called to the scene in the afternoon after the boy, who was shot in the elbow, sought help from neighbors.

Neighbor Betty Fuller said the boy's mother lived in the house with her sister and five children. She said the mother had a boyfriend, and that her boy is a smart, happy go-lucky child.

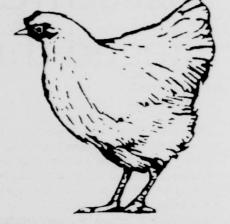
"He was just as sweet as he could be, and God had to be with him for him to hide," she said.

Police stayed outside the house for more than an hour after they arrived because a dog was barking inside, raising safety concerns.

Once inside, officers found bodies throughout the house, which is in a predominantly black neighborhood of single-family homes and well-kept yards.

Officers found at least one gun in the house.

"I'm devastated," said Gikeivia Johnson, a cousin of the family.



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NAACP acting against shortage of minorities on TV, surplus of guns

NEW YORK (AP) — The NAACP announced offensives against TV networks and gun makers Monday, using public relations and the threat of lawsuits to push for more black faces on the tube and fewer guns on the street.

The nation's largest civil rights group decided at its annual meeting to monitor and seek action on the "virtual whitewash" in fall TV programming, a lineup featuring few minority characters.

The group also said it will file a federal suit later this week in New York seeking tough limits on the gun industry.

Both announcements came as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held its 90th annual convention.

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said the group's new NAACP Television & Film Industry Diversity Initiative will monitor how well the entertainment industry reflects America's multicultural base.

In addition to calling for congressional and Federal Communication Commission hearings on licensing

and ownership of networks, the campaign could lead to lawsuits and boycotts of advertisers, Mfume said.

None of the 27 new comedies and dramas premiering on the top four networks this fall has minorities in a leading role, and few have them in supporting roles either.

CBS President Leslie Moonves called the NAACP's concerns "relevant and extremely important." Moonves said in a statement that 11 of the network's 19 entertainment series broadcast this fall would have minority characters "in a primary role."

Network spokesman Chris Ender said one new show this fall, "Now and Again," a drama, would feature a black actor, Dennis Haysbert.

NBC said in a statement that including minorities on the air "has been a top priority for some time and it continues to remain an important priority," but that there was still work to be done.

And Fox said it agreed with the NAACP that increasing racial and ethnic diversity on TV was an important goal.

F-16 Air Force fighter crashes; pilot OK

HOBBS, N.M. (AP) — An Air Force F-16C airplane practicing intercepting other aircraft crashed Monday after it experienced engine trouble over the southeastern New Mexico

The pilot, Capt. Jason Marshall of the 523rd Fighter Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, safely ejected 13 miles north of Hobbs, state police and Air Force officials said.

"He was unable to land at an emergency field and ejected after ensuring the aircraft would not land near any habitable structure," said Capt. Michael Canup, a Cannon spokesman.

"Upon landing, he picked up his parachute gear and walked approximately one-half mile to the nearest farmhouse," said Canup, who did not immediately know the pilot's home

Weather was not a factor in the crash, which occurred about 8:30 a.m. on Lea County Road 88, some 100 miles south of Cannon, officials

The F-16 was part of a four-aircraft formation practicing air-to-air offensive and defensive maneuvers, Canup said. None of the airplanes carried live ammunition, he said.

A board of Air Force officers was being appointed to determine the cause of the crash.

The Air Force has had 16 accidents or crashes involving F-16s since Oct. 1 that resulted in at least \$1 million in damage to each airplane, said Maj. Chet Curtis, an Air Force spokesman at the Pentagon.

The Air Force had 14 similar incidents involving F-16s during the previous fiscal year.

"Obviously, safety is a top priority and of course we're concerned," Curtis said. "We're continuing to look at this — the engine problems or just safety in general. We're always trying to upgrade our safety program."

The Air Force had 1,448 F-16s as of March or April, said Gary Emery, a spokesman at Kelly Air Force Base at San Antonio, Texas.

"This has been the most reliable single-engine Air Force plane in Air Force history," Curtis said. "There are more of them in the Air Force inventory, and they're flown a lot more."

The F-16C "Fighting Falcon" is a single-seat, single engine \$20 million airplane used in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack. The Air Force received its first F-16 in 1979.

An F-16 from Cannon crashed Dec. 4, 1998, on ranch land south of Fort Sumner. A broken compressor blade caused the engine to fail.

Cracks in an augmentor duct, or afterburner and tail cone, were blamed for crashes involving two F-16s from Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix in February and March. The pilots ejected safely.

Inspectors find less damage in Kosovo than feared

WASHINGTON (AP) - The first World Bank team to assess reconstruction needs in Kosovo found significantly less damage to homes, power plants and roads than earlier thought.

And even in heavily damaged areas, bank official Rory O'Sullivan said Monday, many villages have quickly returned to near normal operations.

"Electricity is operating in most places. ... Telephone systems are working, many water supply systems are working. Road access is pretty widespread throughout Kosovo," O'Sullivan said. "You see farmers at work. You see tractors on the streets.'

He said major damage, from looting and vandalism by Serb forces before they withdrew and from the 78-day NATO bombing campaign, was confined to the province's western part. The eastern sections escaped relatively unscathed, O'Sullivan said.

O'Sullivan and other World Bank officials spoke to reporters on the eve of the first meeting of a coordinating group composed of finance ministers from the world's seven largest economies and representatives from the 15-nation European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The Clinton administration, represented at Tuesday's discussions in Brussels, Belgium, by new Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, has said Europe should bear the bulk of reconstruction costs. The United States shouldered a bigger share to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevec to withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

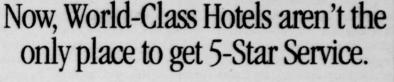
Federal Trade regulators: New Internet privacy laws not needed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Trade Commission will tell Congress that new Internet privacy laws are not needed to protect consumers because companies on the Web gradually create voluntary rules for handling sensitive personal information.

In a 14-page report going to a House Commerce subcommittee Tuesday, the FTC acknowledged the online industry's efforts are not widespread, and some Web sites "still do not understand the importance of consumer privacy."

But with a 3-1 endorsement, commissioners decided that new federal privacy laws are "not appropriate at this time" for the Internet, the worldwide computer network used by roughly 100 million Americans. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the

'Regulation that may make sense today may be obsolete by the time the ink is dry on the legislation," FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky told The AP.





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Let us know. Write a letter to the editor. Drop it by 211 journalism or e-mail it to The University Daily @ttu.edu. Include social security number and phone number.

TRAFFIC & PARKING

VEHICLE REGISTRATION VIA INTERNET

Since the new student class registration on the Internet has become available, this office has received a few calls regarding registering for fall parking permits through the same program. According to the callers, there is a box to check if you are interested in obtaining a parking permit. Whereas that is a future consideration, at this time Texas Tech parking permits are not available via the Tech web site. If you think that you did check this box, please call our office at 742-3811, and we will be glad to advise you on how you obtain a permit for

FALL PARKING PERMITS -Students

Speaking of parking permits for the fall, we would like to remind students that it is certainly not too early to register for your parking permit if you have not already done so. If you register prior to July 31, we will mail your permit to you on Aug. 1. If you are going to live in one of the residence halls, it is important that you register as soon as possible before your lot is sold out. (If it is sold out, we will issue you a commuter permit and you will have to go on a waiting list.) The cost of a commuter permit is \$49 and a residence hall permit is \$71; you may pay with cash, check, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover), or charge your permit to your tuition bill. Since you are required to display a permit by the first day of class, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to buy your permit early and avoid the long lines.

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS — Regular Faculty/Staff

Some employees are under the misconception that if they are just now requesting a reserved parking space and did not sign up for payroll deduction by the spring deadline, they may not request payroll deduction until next year. The truth is that the payroll deduction option is available at any time; however, if you do not sign up for payroll deduction during the regular renewal process, you will be required to pay three months up front. If you have specific questions, please call our office at 742-38111, and ask for Lisa.

We urge you to share your concerns, questions, suggestions and other input with us. Information gained through this input may be used to correct inefficiencies and promote positive customer relations. We look forward to your input. Please contact us: Traffic and Parking Services, Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 43161, Lubbock, Texas 79409, or through Campus Mail at Mailstop 3161.

Traffic and Parking column is a service to Texas Tech students by Gail Wolfe, director of Traffic and Parking Services.

EDITORIAL

Court martial affirms military's right to punish non-abiders

fore a military court handed down its ver- it. dict.

The court would find him guilty, said Austin, a resident of Fritch.

It did exactly that in a ruling that was a justifiable slam-dunk for the Marine Corps. The court sentenced Austin to 30 days in the brig and issued him a bad-conduct dis-

Austin is one of five Marines to be convicted of disobeying a lawful order to take an anthrax vaccine. Austin, 22, contended

Austin reportedly had research that backed up his contention. Indeed, the military's own research has uncovered evidence of possible hazards. But it remains quite unclear about what those hazards include, or even if the anthrax vaccine poses a serious health threat.

What is indisputable, however, is the oath that Jason Austin and the other Marines took when they volunteered to serve their country. That oath binds them to the

Marine Lance Cpl. Jason B. Austin had that the vaccine posed possible health risks strict obedience of lawful orders. The Uniform Code predicted his own fate just a few days be- — including sterility — to those who took of Military Justice, of which there is no — nor should there be—civilian counterpart, compels all person nel to obey a direct lawful order without question.

All the Marines convicted say they plan to appeal their convictions and sentences. Perhaps an appeal will examine in greater detail the lawfulness of the Marine Corps, examining the validity of Lance Cpl. Austin's contention that the vaccine causes dangerous side effects.

But the verdict handed down by the court martial reaffirms the military's right to punish those who refuse to abide by its strict code of conduct.

— Amarillo Globe-News

Schumacher vows to return to Formula One

NORTHAMPTON, England (AP) chance of the championship this Michael Schumacher is already planning his comeback.

His leg broken in two places and his bid for this season's Formula One championship erased after a high-speed crash in the British Grand Prix, Schumacher said Monday he expects to return to racing

The 30-year-old German was lucky to survive a head-on crash into a wall about 30 seconds into Sunday's GP.

Surgeons Northampton General Hospital had to insert a steel plate into his right leg to repair his broken tibia and fibula.

"I'm lucky to be alive," Schumacher said from his hospital

"I know I'm going to be out of action for two to three months and I realize that I have absolutely no

"But I'm confident I'll be back driving a Ferrari in Formula One before the end of the season. I'm not depressed. I'm feeling positive and I'm looking forward even

Schumacher admitted he feared for his life as his car, traveling at between 120 mph to 180 mph, veered into the tire-wall. He said safety precautions in F1 racing had saved his life.

'I am thankful for the improvements made in the cars over the last few years because that is what has helped me escape with only a broken leg," he said. '

Hundreds of bouquets of flowers were sent to the hospital Monday by well wishers, while Schumacher received visits from other drivers, including Damon

Graf will call it quits in '99

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Steffi Graf probably will retire from the women's tennis tour at the end of the year, ending a magnificent career highlighted by seven Wimbeldon championships and 22 Grand Slam titles.

Graf, 30, will play in a couple of events next year and go to places where she has never competed, but her days of playing the Grand Slam circuit are probably over, she said.

Graf didn't say specifically why she was leaving the tour, but she noted that over the past three years injuries have had her on the verge of retiring several times. Traveling, the demands on her time and not having as much fun playing in tournaments also were factors, she said.

"I have to say I haven't been very busy thinking about it," Graf said when specially asked about retirement in a conference call prior to the A&P Tennis Classic at Mahwah, N.J. "I let things happen more or less, but most naturally, I will (retire).'

Graf has five more events on her schedule this year, including the U.S.

She refused to pin down which would be her last tournament.

"I am not going to stop playing tennis for myself," she added

Tennis will always be a big part of my life. I enjoy it and hopefully I'll get a chance to play here and there."

Once she retires, Graf said it's unlikely she change her mind.

The retirement isn't a big surprise. After winning the French Open, she said she would not be returning to Paris. Earlier this month, she said she was finished with Wimbledon after losing the championship match to Lindsay Davenport.

Graf said she played the final week at Wimbledon suffering from bronchitis and a fever, which was the major reason she withdrew from a mixed doubles semifinal with John McEnroe.

McEnroe, who was inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame last week, has criticized Graf for failing to inform him until just before they were to play. He was sent a note by Graf while he was working in the broadcast

Graf, who seemed to be unaware McEnroe was annoyed with her, adding that dropping out late was a difficult decision.

"I didn't want to talk about how I was feeling," Graf said. "It's not my style.'

Retirement actually seemed an easier choice for her.

... You want to leave a sport when you are at the top," Graf said.

"That's an ideal situation which is never really easy because obviously if you are doing well it's very hard to part from what you love so much.

"I have been having to think the past few years with all the injuries I've been having," she said.

"There are a lot of times I have come very close to making this decision and I feel fortunate I have been able to do it on my own terms and not being pushed by anything. It's my own decision.'

Graf has run a sports management company for a couple of years and she intends to devote more time to that. She currently has three German junior players under contract.

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Texas' Armstrong jumps out to Tour de France lead

METZ, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong can't explain it. He's not holding back. He just doesn't have an answer to the question everyone's

How can someone recover so swiftly from an aggressive case of testicular cancer that spread, first, to his lungs, making him cough up "buckets" of blood, and, then, to his brain?

But here he is. The 27-year-old from Austin, is riding better than ever. And at the moment, he's winning the Tour de France, the most prestigious cycling race in the world.

"There are no secrets," Armstrong said Monday, sitting on the edge of a bed in a team official's hotel room. The day before, he crushed the field in a grueling time trial to recapture the yellow jersey and become a decisive favorite.

"I was sick as a kid could be. It was one of the worst cases my doctors had ever seen — and they were the

Now, Armstrong said, he feels bet-

ter than ever.

Asked if he really means it, he leans forward for emphasis. "I can prove it," he says, "With my results. With my training." He can measure it on machines

For one thing, Armstrong is smaller and lighter than before, perhaps one benefit of his ordeal. But there's something that's changed him mentally, too - some call it a calmness, a more thoughtful attitude.

Armstrong will only say this: "The mind is an amazing thing.

He won the 1993 World Championship, competed for the U.S. Olympic team in 1992 and 1996 and had signed a two-year contract with the French team Cofidis, when he started feeling sick in October 1996.

He felt some soreness and started coughing up blood. "This wasn't drops - this was buckets," he said. And then came the headaches, the blurry vision, the flu-like symptoms, the dizziness.

He thought he was going to die. "I

was scared when they first told me. Of course, they told me it was 95 percent curable, but that's when they catch it early. I knew I had a more advanced case.'

Armstrong had surgery to remove his right testicle and brain lesions, then underwent three months of chemotherapy. He was out for the 1997 season and began his comeback last May.

It wasn't easy. People had forgotten him - fans and, more painfully, the European teams.

"I understood the thing with the fans," Armstrong said. "Frankly, I don't really like the spotlight, the constant autographs. I prefer a quieter life. So that was OK. But the thing with the teams - that was a surprise. A total shock. And I haven't forgotten.

"I have a list of teams that didn't give me chance, and I have not forgotten," he said.

Especially his own team, Cofidis. "At the time of my announcement, while the world was listening, they

pledged their support, the PR way.

"But then they came over to see how sick I was. They saw me as sick as a dog, not able to get up from my bed, vomiting. I thought, oh, that's nice, they've come to see me. And then an hour later my agent comes in and tells me, well ..." They paid him 25 percent of his contract, Armstrong

He wasn't even at his lowest point when Cofidis saw him.

"The third and fourth rounds were worse," he said, referring to the chemotherapy.

When Armstrong began the Tour this year, wearing the red-white-andblue of the U.S. Postal Service team, there were doubts about his fitness. But everything changed when he won the race prologue, also a time trial, and donned the yellow jersey.

Suddenly, Armstrong was a favor-

For the first week of flat stages, he stayed toward the front of the pack and out of trouble, letting the sprint-

ers have their moment. He knew his would come during Sunday's time trial, when racing is at its purest: just the rider and the clock.

"It was logical," he said. "Nothing had changed since the prologue."

The race hits the Alps on Tuesday, where Armstrong will have to prove he can climb with the best of them. He'll need to depend more on strategy, and on the help of his teammates.

Needless to say, he is confident.

"Before coming in, we all thought I would climb better than I would time trial," he said.

If that's true, Armstrong could be wearing yellow all the way to the Champs-Elysees. And an American team could claim the most European of races. Greg LeMond did it three times, but not with an American

"This would be like a French team winning the Super Bowl," said Mark Gorski, general manager of U.S. Postal. "It's that big."

NEW YORK (AP) - They hoisted their trophy like an Oscar at the Academy Awards, stopped pedestrian traffic in midtown Manhattan and even burst into song on the sidewalks of New York.

The champion U.S. women's soccer team took to the streets Monday, soaking up more acclaim for their World Cup victory over China.

A lunchtime crowd gawked at the women in matching lavender shirts. Then the realization hit the onlookers: These were those soccer players.

If there were any doubt, the players locked arms and began singing 'We are the Champions!'

They were in New York for a rapidfire tour of network shows from "Good Morning America" and "Today" to CNN and Fox News Channel. A midtown rally and David Letterman's show are on Tuesday's agenda.

Some players will participate in the LPGA JAL Big Apple Classic Pro-Am in suburban New Rochelle on Wednesday and others will attend the WNBA All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden that night.

"We're sharing it with New York City because big things happen here," said Brandi Chastain, standing amid midtown skyscrapers and sharing the sidewalk with the bustling suit-and-tie crowd.

The players were welcomed at Disneyland on Sunday, then flew overnight, landing at Newark Airport at 4:30 a.m. and piling on a bus to Manhattan.

"It's all worth it," said Chastain, who had not slept since early Sunday. 'We're promoting women's soccer."

Perhaps the most touching episode came at the end of their overnight trip from California.

"There were 10 little girls waiting in the airport," Chastain said. "They were wearing World Cup and USA soccer stuff. They were all so excited. They had slept there. They were jumping around and asking for autographs. We all obliged. They deserved them."

Chastain was on the 1991 U.S. World Cup championship team and remembered one solitary media representative greeting the team when it returned to the United States

"There were 2,000 media credentialed this year," she said. "More people are paying attention to women's soccer and we feel very proud of that."

The media push was on full blast. Full-page ads from major companies like Nike, Chevrolet and Budweiser saluted the victory in newspapers. HarperCollins trumpeted a new book by star player Mia Hamm.



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Martinez, Schilling to open All-Star contest

BOSTON (AP) — Not many hitters have given Pedro Martinez trouble this season. So he's not about to worry now that he has to face Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and the rest of the NL's best.

'What should I do, start crying?" he said with a laugh Monday.

No, just keep pitching the way he's been doing all season. He's 15-3, the most wins in the majors, with a 2.10 ERA. He'll be the AL starter in Tuesday night's All-Star game in his home park against Philadelphia's Curt Schilling.

"I pitch the only way I know. I'm not going to switch anything," said Martinez, chosen for his fourth straight All-Star game, the last two with Boston

That can't be good news for the National Leaguers, who had to face Martinez in his two seasons with Los Angeles and four with Montreal before he was traded to Boston before

NL catcher Mike Piazza was with the Dodgers in Martinez's rookie season in 1992

"Catching him, I knew he was going to be an outstanding pitcher," Piazza said. "He can make you look

Plenty of American Leaguers would agree. In 132 2-3 innings, Martinez has allowed just five homers, struck out 184 and walked only

"I don't think I have a hit against him yet," said AL second baseman Robbie Alomar of Cleveland.

"He throws so many pitches. His ball moves," said Cleveland's Kenny Lofton, the starting left fielder. "He can throw one ball 70 (mph) and the next one 96. You don't see that every day."

He has a chance to become baseball's first 30-game winner since Denny McLain won 31 in 1968. That's

a longshot since starters usually work on four days rest instead of three as they did 31 years ago.

But it's not impossible.

"The chances are there if you get the outings," said Martinez, who has a decision in all 18 of his starts. Then he added, with a smile, "After getting 25 (wins) I'll probably ask to pitch every day."

There was little doubt he would start Tuesday night because of his outstanding record and the site of the game at Fenway Park, which "makes it really special," Martinez said.

"That was the only choice," AL manager Joe Torre said.

The selection of Schilling as the starter didn't come until Sunday when he got a call from NL manager Bruce Bochy. The other leading candidate was Randy Johnson. He was 9-3 before losing his last four decisions despite striking out 54 and allowing just five earned runs. Arizona hasn't

scored in Johnson's last 34 innings.

"I'm honored to be chosen to get the start," said Schilling (13-4) "but seeing the lineup they're throwing out there, it might not have bothered me throwing second or third."

Schilling, on his third consecutive All-Star team, said, "I'm as nervous for this as I've been for any game I've ever pitched."

Schilling takes a five-game winning streak into the game. In his last start, he allowed eight hits in his seventh complete game, a 4-2 win over Baltimore on Friday.

He is tied with Johnson for the major league lead in complete games and second in the NL to Johnson in strikeouts.

"Is Curt the starter?" AL backup catcher Brad Ausmus of De-

'That's a full concentration at bat right there."

Martinez has been even tougher.

Canseco pondering retirement after surgery

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Jose Canseco can't help but wonder if he's played his last game.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays designated hitter said Monday that he will do everything he can to try to return to the team after back surgery, but conceded that retirement is an option he might have to consider.

My body has failed me again,' Canseco said during a telephone conference call from his hospital bed in Fort Lauderdale, where he had a 90-minute operation Sunday to repair a herniated disc.

"This to me is a nightmare with the year I'm having, the consistency I've had ... The timing couldn't be worse," he added. "I was given all the ability in the world. Not to be able to use it is one of the worst things that can happen to a human being."

Canseco leads the AL with 31 homers and was selected as the league's starting designated hitter for tonight's All-Star game in Boston. He apologized to fans who voted for him and who were also hoping to see him in Monday night's home run derby competition at Fenway Park.

"Obviously I'm depressed," his weakened voice reflecting his disappointment as well as the medication given to him following surgery. "I can't believe this happened.'

Canseco and the Devil Rays are not certain what caused the intense pain that left the 35-year-old no alternative than to undergo surgery.

Although doctors said he could have opted for non-surgical care, Canseco said he was in such discomfort that he was almost certain that he had the same type of injury that had forced him to undergo surgery.

The only difference was the bad disc was on his right side.

"It just happens. There aren't too many indications," said Canseco, who left in the eighth inning of Friday night's game against Florida in Miami because of back stiffness.



BOSTON (AP) - Juan Gonzalez was a prominent topic of conversation Monday after he decided he'd rather stay home than come off the bench for the AL team.

"I think he is totally out of line refusing to be recognized as one of the greatest players,' said Carlton Fisk, an 11-time All-Star and the AL honorary captain.

"I don't know whether that is a kind of attitude or selfishness on his part, but it is.

"I think down the line he may regret the decision."

Gonzalez, the reigning AL MVP, was angered by the high number of votes for the Cleveland Indians.

Despite being third in the league in homers and RBIs, he finished fifth in the voting, behind Ken Griffey Jr. and three Indians

Nevertheless, his colleagues were confounded by the Texas slugger's choice.

"I think the decision he made wasn't a very good decision," said Sammy Sosa, Gonzalez's friend and former teammate.

"But that's his business and there is nothing I can do about

Tony Gwynn, who has been selected to 17 All-Star teams, made the trip even though he is sidelined with a calf injury for the majority of the 1999 campaign.

"Juan decided he didn't want to be here," Gwynn said. "That's his choice.

They are not going to call off the game because Juan Gonzalez isn't here."



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