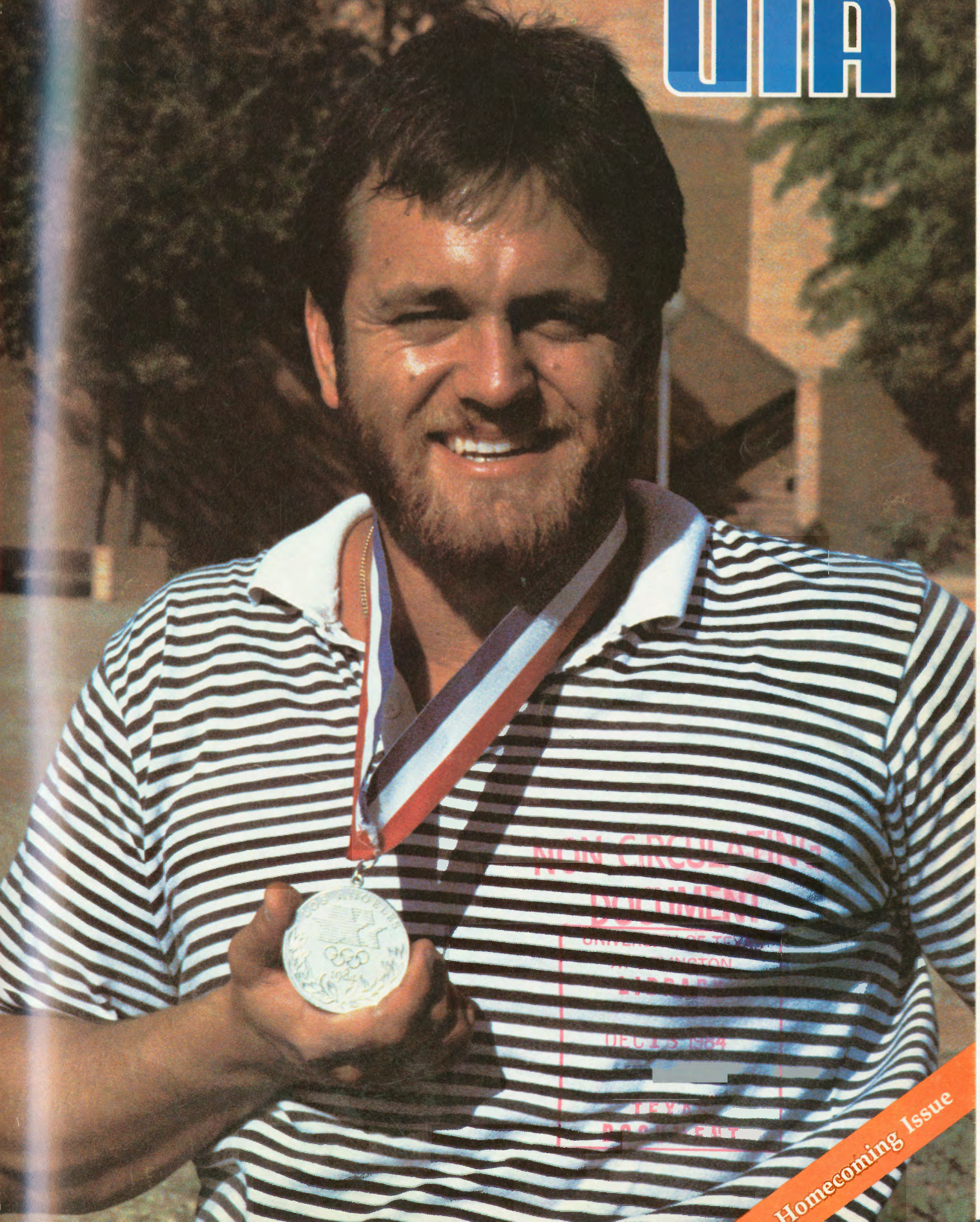


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Homecoming Issue



THE MAGAZINE  
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at  
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The Freewheelers are geared up, charter fraternity members are coming back for honors and the lights will shine at Maverick Stadium during Homecoming '84.

...

**ON THE COVER:** Senior marketing major Randy Snow is the fifth UTA student to compete in an Olympiad and the third to bring home a medal. Snow won the medal in the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles this summer in the 1,500-meter wheelchair race.

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# Olympic winner breaks records, myths

By Donna Darovich

UTA Handicapped Student Services Coordinator Jim Hayes unabashedly calls Randy Snow "the best all-around wheelchair athlete in the world."

And nobody in the world is arguing with him — not since Snow added a silver Olympic medal to his cache of national and international trophies.

The senior marketing major from Terrell missed the Olympic gold by two seconds, coming in just behind Paul Van Winkle of Belgium in the first-ever exhibition for wheelchair athletes — a 1,500-meter race in the Rose Bowl.

"Just for them (the International Olympic Committee) to let us race there was tremendous," said Snow who was one of eight handicapped athletes from four nations who competed in the exhibition event.

"We were pioneers and ambassadors for all disabled persons," Snow said. "We felt great.

"The purpose was to display disabled peoples' skills," he said. "We were there to educate as

many people as we could.

"The competition was real tough, but it was the event that was most important, not who was doing it, but what we were doing."

Snow's time in the event was 4:00.02 minutes.

Earlier this year, he broke the four minute "pushing" mile record with a 3:59.90 in the preliminaries of the National Wheelchair Track and Field Games.

Snow also won three silver medals in the 1,500 and 800 meter races and in the 4X100 pararelay of the Seventh World Wheelchair Games in England.

He also won a bronze in the 400 meter race.

His performance in the National meet (gold medals in the 200, 400, 800 and 5,000 meter events) earned him the place on the U.S. Olympic team.

Snow credits regional programs "like the one at UTA" for the success of handicapped athletes...for giving us strength to put something back into society."

Snow was injured nine years ago while working at a summer job in

Paris, Texas. A bale of hay fell from the front of the tractor he was driving, pinning him in the driver's seat and confining him to a wheelchair.

He was a student at UT Austin when he met Hayes who told him about the wheelchair basketball team he was forming at UTA. Snow's enthusiasm for athletics was rekindled and he transferred to UTA.

"He (Hayes) allows more readily for a healthy mind," Snow says. "If you can get out there and do something about it, you feel proud of yourself.

"Just because our legs don't work doesn't mean the rest of our body doesn't work either."

In addition to his athletic prowess as a member of the nationally-ranked UTA Freewheelers Wheelchair Basketball team, Snow has been the national wheelchair tennis champion.

Since his Olympic win, Snow has been on the public speakers' circuit and testified before Senate hearings in Washington, D.C. on legislation affecting the handicapped.

The Arlington City Council recently named a street in North Arlington for him.

"Watching Randy Snow push a chair is like smooth, quick poetry," says Hayes of his protege.

"Everywhere Randy Snow goes, he's going to be a role model."

□



UTA students and alumnus Jim Hayes, second from right, were big winners in last year's National Wheelchair Athletic Association finals. Snow, far left, was also named male athlete of the year and won five first places, two seconds and one fourth. Hayes won three firsts, a second and a third and Joe Davis was fifth in two contests. Monique Jannette won two firsts and three second places.