

Not all sail smoothly at Olympics

By SARAH RAPER

After eating breakfast, lunch and dinner, not to mention a midnight snack, with ABC commentator Jim McKay for 16 days straight, some people are suffering withdrawal symptoms now that the Olympics are over.

For those who are pining for more I offer some of the things Jim never told you.

It's not that Jim didn't do a super job. After all, he brought us "up close and personal" to the athletes in Super Slo Mo and showed us Los Angeles sights and pastimes. In fact, by the time Jim told us that he would see us in Seoul, site of the 1988 Summer Games, he had American Olympic stars gymnast Mary Lou Retton, wrestler Jeffrey Blatnick and swimmer Rowdy Gaines in ABC jackets, screen-testing them for the Korean extravaganza.

But what Jim made look so smooth, so flawless as he jumped from one event to the next was only television fantasy. Any Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee staff member would say that it wasn't that simple. There were problems and catches along the way that Jim was never told about or chose to keep to himself.

For example, one would assume that Mary Decker's fall in the finals of the women's 3,000 meter run would have made any journalist clasp his hands with glee and relax, knowing that his story or column for the next day was being written right before his eyes on the field.

Not the fellows at *Sports Illustrated*. Their photographers, and they had quite



Raper: the inside scoop

a team stationed throughout the Coliseum, were re-loading their cameras when the spill occurred. As Decker was carried from the field, the photographers called each other frantically on their walkie-talkies. When it became obvious that no one had taken a good picture of the tumble, the photographers were ordered to comb the stands for spectators with that shot. The photographers went out offering to process spectators' film and to pay \$5,000 to anyone whose pictures were used. I never learned whether a spectator struck it rich with a pocket instamatic or whether *Sports Illustrated* got the goods from ABC, but the next issue of the magazine showed Decker and

her controversial British challenger Zola Budd at the critical point of the race.

It just goes to show that, even with great facilities, coaches and equipment, things can go wrong for the world's experts, athletes and photographers alike.

Ask Antonio McKay, the American bronze medalist in the 400-meter race, about that. He was without shoes before his qualifying heat. His coach forgot them. McKay, unlike Zola Budd, was not used to running barefoot and had no choice but to borrow some shoes. It's lucky that he and teammate Carl Lewis, a four-time gold medalist, wear the same size. After qualifying, McKay declined post-race interviews: Lewis was waiting for his shoes to run his 100-meter race.

Poor Al Joyner, American triple jumper, had all his equipment but had to make his first Olympic jump without ever warming up.

It seems Al Joyner and his sister Jackie, a heptathlon silver medalist, had a mix-up the morning that Al was to qualify for the triple jump. In an interview following the preliminary jump rounds, he said he picked up both Jackie's and his numbers. Athletes were required to wear numbers during competition. He bumped into track star Valerie Brisco-Hooks and asked her to give the number to Jackie.

The next morning as he began warming up, he was told that Jackie couldn't find her number and was worried. By the time Joyner straightened things out, it was time for him to jump. Joyner qualified and went on to win the gold medal but said he let his sister pick up her own number for the rest of the competition.

Olympic chuckles are not limited to anecdotes about athletes. Peter V. Ueberroth, president of the LAOOC, gave a collegiate staff member at the Main Press Center a scare one day.

The staff member was assigned to the back of the large conference room during a press conference and was told to ask other staff members who might wander in to take a seat at the back of the room.

During the press conference, the staff member noticed a fellow worker, dressed in the standard green "pickle" support staff uniform, standing at the back of the room.

The staff member asked this worker to sit down. No response. A few minutes later, the staff member asked again, a little more firmly. "Since you're not working, sir," he said, "I'm going to have to ask you to sit down."

"I am working," the man replied. He then turned his identification badge showing his picture and the name Peter Ueberroth. The LAOOC president had shed his blue manager's uniform for the support services "pickle suit." He smiled and complimented the embarrassed staff member for doing a good job.

For 50,000 volunteer staff members, the little stories about the boss and the athletes and the journalists, the inside stories that Jim didn't share with the millions on television, were the best reward of all for 16 days of Olympic service.

Sarah Raper, a senior journalism and languages major from Fayetteville, is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel. She was a volunteer in the press operations department of the LAOOC this summer.



YOU HEARD ME, JIM... I HAVE AN AMERICAN HERE WHO ADMITS TO USING A STIMULANT BEFORE EACH OF HIS EVENTS...

More people have survived cancer than now live in the City of Los Angeles.

Please support the AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

We are winning.

This space contributed as a public service.

Abuse

From page 1

— among our young, among our not-so-young — is more a symptom of social ill than it is a problem in and of itself. It is a symptom whose most hideous colors we can dilute through the kind of legislation Congress has just enacted, legislation that will undoubtedly reduce the number of highway deaths related to alcohol and other problems associated with youth and alcohol abuse. But the problem cannot be erased in such a fashion, and will continue to haunt us unless we take a good, long look at the way our society has changed and at the effects those changes have had on our nation's children.

The raising of the drinking age in states to a nationally uniform 21 may indeed be an effective temporary measure, and if it saves the lives of only a few would-be drunk drivers and their innocent victims, it will have been worthwhile. It

is not, however, a permanent solution. There is a danger in the euphoria with which so many have greeted the new legislation: their optimism ignores the dislocation beneath the drunkenness, a maladjustment that will create new and newer problems, such as the turning to drugs — illegal for all ages and as easily obtained by the young as the old — by teenagers whose avenues of access to alcohol have been narrowed. In a tense, competitive modern world, children need support systems more effective than the ones currently available. To punish them with restriction of freedom as young adults because we failed to instill in them the sagacity to exhibit responsibly the free will so rightly cherished in our society is to wrongly shift the blame.

Frank Bruni, a junior English major from La Jolla, Calif., is associate editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

Yes, it's your turn to donate blood again!

American Red Cross

SPECIALS HAIRCUTS \$10.50
(reg. \$15.50) with selected stylists

hair forever
106 Henderson St. (2nd Floor)
Directly above Hectors, enter from Henderson St. Chapel Hill, NC 27514 967-CUTS (2887)

\$10.00 off perms—\$10.00 off highlights
Expires Oct. 1, 1984

Please bring coupon

Bounds Dance Studio

We Have Fun At Bounds Dance Studio And Still Learn Good Dance Technique.

Register Now!!!
Classes Begin September 4th

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Tap
- Modern
- Pre-Ballet/Creative Movement
- Ballroom
- Exerobics
- Children and Adults

Over 85 Students Accepted by The North Carolina School of the Arts More Than Any Other Dance Studio In N.C.

Present location: 121 S. Estes Dr. (Next to Post Office)
New Location in Mid-Sept. Rams Plaza — Near A&P Eastgate

Phone: 942-1088
10% Discount With Student I.D.

SPRING SEMESTER AT Granville Towers

- Air Conditioning and All Utilities Included
- Super Location
- 19 Great Meals Per Week
- Weekly Maid Service
- Private Weight Room

Now Accepting Applications For Spring Occupancy And/OR For Openings As They Occur During The 1984 Fall Semester

University Square 929-7143

Ken Lloyd's

FOR STUDENTS ONLY! Dormsize Rug & Remnant Sale

Bring your student ID for an additional **10% off**

\$49 6x9 **\$69** 12x9

Warm up your room with one of these great carpets...in a wide choice of colors! Come early for the best selection!

Ken Lloyd's carpet towne

3612 Chapel Hill Blvd., Durham 493-3437 Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9-9; Wed., Sat. 9-5

Ye Olde Waffle Shop

Announces

Early Bird Hours
Mon.-Sat. 6:00 am — 4:00 pm
Sun. 8:00 am — 4:00 pm

We've been serving our delicious breakfast and great sandwich line for 12 years. Come in and try our:

Eggs Benedict **Big Bird Omelet**
Blueberry Hotcakes **Turkey Club Sandwich**

and **Big Jim's Hashbrowns**
Take Out Orders 929-9192