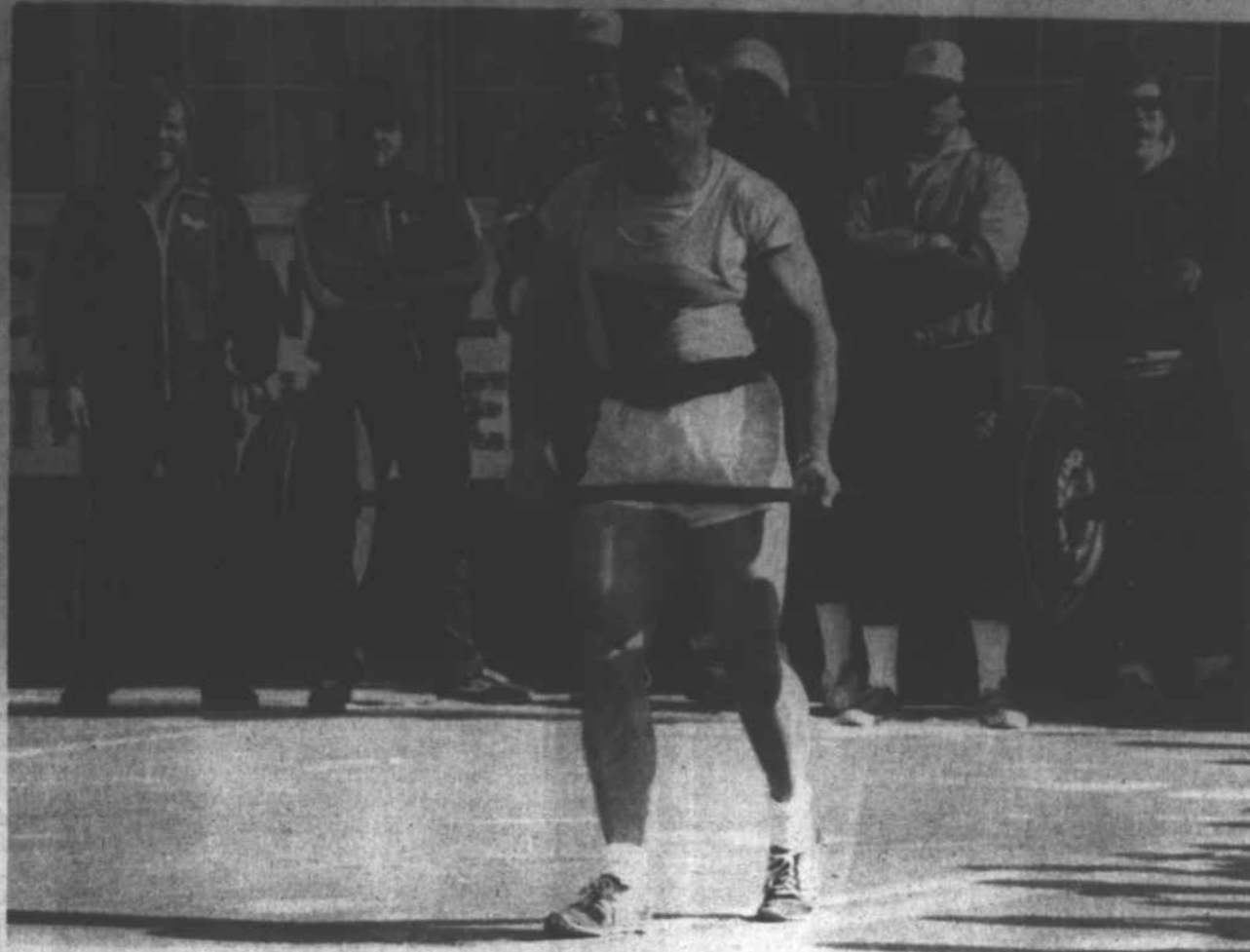


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Nelson Kelly, Powerlifting Team Captain, Psyches Out Competition

'Incredible' House Race Turns Out To Be A 'Drag'

By **NICHOLAS HANCOCK**
CANTON — It was probably the toughest 50 yards any college football player ever faced, and it proved to be one of the heaviest dead weights any weightlifter ever had to move. But, the "That's Incredible" House Race was pulled off without a hitch Saturday afternoon with 95 U.S. Powerlifting Federation members defeating 100 Mars Hill College football players and assorted athletes in a grueling three minute event.

The object of the race was to see which team could lift and carry a 34,000 pound double-wide "manufactured home" 50 yards along U.S. 19-23 and cross the finish line first. The stunt was video-taped by ABC Television's "That's Incredible" to be aired late in February. "I think it's incredible that either team could even move those things, and that we got

through this stunt without having an accident," said Rea Anders, a director for the TV program and coordinator of the stunt. An estimated 2,000 spectators lined the highway in west Canton and endured three hours of preparation and rehearsal in cold weather to witness the spectacle and hopefully get themselves seen on national network television.

The Video Production Company of Charlotte and two cameramen from WLOS-TV in Asheville were hired to video tape the event for ABC Television.

Nelson Kelly, a Candler school teacher and YMCA weightlifting instructor, dreamed up the idea of the race to promote a sanctioned powerlifting competition which was held at the Canton YMCA Saturday. The competition featured an appearance by Paul Wrenn, cur-

rent world powerlifting champion who's billed as "The World's Strongest Man." Wrenn captained the weightlifters in the race.

The rules of the race stated that each team could set its house down as many times as necessary during the race, but the actual event was one of dragging the houses along the 50 yard course.

The powerlifters managed to lift their house only twice and had to be content with dragging it the rest of the way. The Mars Hill team only managed to move theirs a little over half-way to the finish line.

Anders said original plans called for using two stripped-down houses weighing approximately 20,000 pounds, but initial sponsors withdrew their offer to supply their prefabricated homes. Mobile Home Village in Candler came through at the last minute and supplied two doublewide units

which weighted around 29,000 pounds, but the support structures and the iron bars provided for lifting added another 5,000 pounds to the houses.

Each team member had to carry about 340 pounds during the ordeal.

Even though the main event, was not exactly what Anders had envisioned, he said he was pleased with the race. "Nobody's ever done this before. It was incredible that they could move them at all," he said.

Anders and his film crew spent Friday and Saturday in the area taping scenes to be used as a preliminary to the race event which will be seen by some 40 million "That's Incredible" viewers.

Anders said the race was one of the larger projects undertaken by the show and that future Canton House Races may be in the making. "We'd love to have it as an annual event," he said.



REA ANDERS (left), "That's Incredible" director, talks with Canton Mayor C.W. Hardin about scenes in which Hardin will fire the starting gun at beginning of race.



DR. FRED BENTLEY, Mars Hill College president, instructs athletes in rules of the race.



VINCENT ECKERSLEY, a National Enquirer photographer hired to shoot stills for ABC Television, questions if the race is ever going to get underway.



Mars Hill Atheltes Sprint Toward Houses



One-Two-Three-Heave!



CARLA YORK, North Carolina's first woman powerlifter who's ranked fourth in the nation, stood atop house to count cadence for powerlifters.



DIRECTOR Anders constantly reminds spectators to stay clear of camera vans to prevent accidents at the event.



BRAD HEADLEY, MCH freshman, strains as he and 100 teammates lift 34,000 pound house and push it toward finish line.