

Crouser

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"I threw a 296 warmup at Pac-10s," says Crouser. "and it wasn't that hard of a throw. I know it (300) is there... I'm really close."

Crouser may have to throw 300 feet at the NCAAs, for University of Texas senior Einar Vilhjalmsson threw an all-time collegiate record 303-2 April 6. Vilhjalmsson was only in the 260s in a losing effort to Crouser at the 1982 NCAAs, so he has obviously made some strides.

"I think Crouser will have to throw 285 or 290 to win," says Washington State coach John Chaplin, whose Cougars are favored to win an NCAA team title.

"285? I'd say no," says Crouser. "I think it will have to be something in the 290s, and 300 would win for sure. And it's not just him (Vilhjalmsson)."

Indeed, Crouser must also concern himself with Southern Methodist University junior Roald Bradstock, who beat Vilhjalmsson at the Southwestern Conference championship meet.

However, though he admits it is a goal, Crouser is not overly worried about an NCAA victory. He says that NCAA titles faded in importance after his chance at four straight washed away, and now the Trials loom large in his mind.

"I think whoever makes the U.S. team has a good shot at a medal now," says Crouser, the disappointment evident in his voice.

There will be no competition from East Germany's Detlef



Emerald photo

Brian Crouser's main competition this week will come from Texas' Einar Vilhjalmsson, who set a collegiate record earlier this season with a throw of 303-2.

Michel, or the Soviet Union's Danis Kula. Crouser will miss them, and he says that's a prime reason why athletes value the World Championships more than the Olympics.

"The World Championships are where the best athletes are," he says. "As far as the Olympics, I think athletes are getting taken. Every four years, someone says, 'We're going to boycott.'"

"Boycott," shouts brother Dean, a two-time NCAA discus champ and a major contender for a shot put medal. "Yeah, we're going to boycott," says Brian with a laugh. "Seriously,

though, I think they should have it in Athens or just bag it."

After the Olympics, Crouser has something else on his horizon. Dean has thrown the discus 216-2, oldest brother Mitch 210. Brian has thrown 194 feet.

"I'd like to throw over 200 feet, because that would have to be some kind of world record," he says. "I don't think three brothers have ever thrown over 200 before. After the Olympics, I won't even touch a javelin until January so we can get that record."



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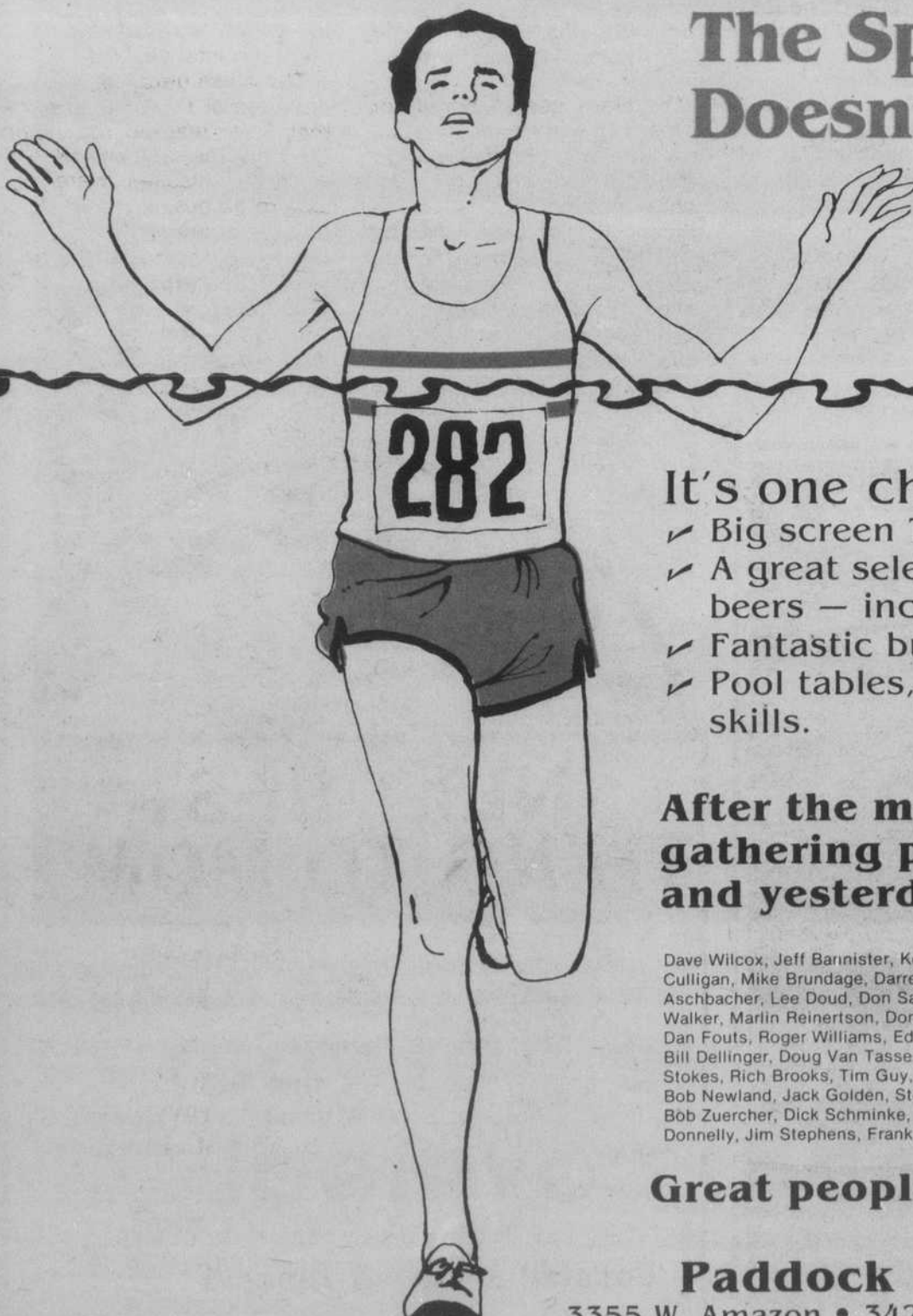
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