

Outdoors: Bungee fun, safe

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more than just a split-second adrenaline burst. Dale describes it as a "rite of passage," through which people can overcome whatever barriers they feel are holding them back.

There was a time when bungee jumping was only for the brave or crazy. It was pioneered by the "Dangerous Sports Club" of Oxford in 1979, and remained a sport on the fringe of society and sanity during the 80s. Even when Dale started Bungee Masters in 1989, there were very few commercial jumping operations.

Now, it's very safe and very accessible. It was accepting into the realm of official extreme sports as an event at ESPN's recent X-Games. In the thousands of jumps that Dale

has overseen, there has never been a serious injury. This strong record is due to excellent equipment and constant checks on it. The bungee cords attached to every jumper can handle up to 10,000 pounds of pressure, though the average person only exerts about 500.

Dale can recall only one recent accident when a woman tripped and knocked her knee on the jump platform. Considering that it could be a life-threatening sport, though, Dale finds occasional bumps and bruises to be a success.

So, if you ever feel that you're not getting your daily dose of adrenaline from that anthropology class, go jump off a bridge. The end of a bungee cord might even be safer than that desk.

Death: Colleagues mourn their loss

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p.m., said Richard Corcoran, hospital vice president.

"Tom was an ESPN pioneer and the entire ESPN family is devastated by this terrible news," said Steve Bornstein, president of the sports cable network, which is headquartered in neighboring Bristol.

Mees was the anchor of ESPN's nightly highlights show 'SportsCenter' from the network's inception on Sept. 7, 1979, until 1993.

Since then, he worked as the play-by-play NHL com-

mentator on sister network ESPN2, generally calling two games a week. Over the past two years, he also broadcast college football and basketball and hosted the NHL draft.

In a tribute to Mees after a 'SportsCenter' segment, anchor Keith Olberman said: "Nothing and no one here will ever be the same without him."

Mees, a 1972 graduate of the University of Delaware, got his start in broadcasting at WILM-AM in Wilmington, Del., where he was sports director for six years.

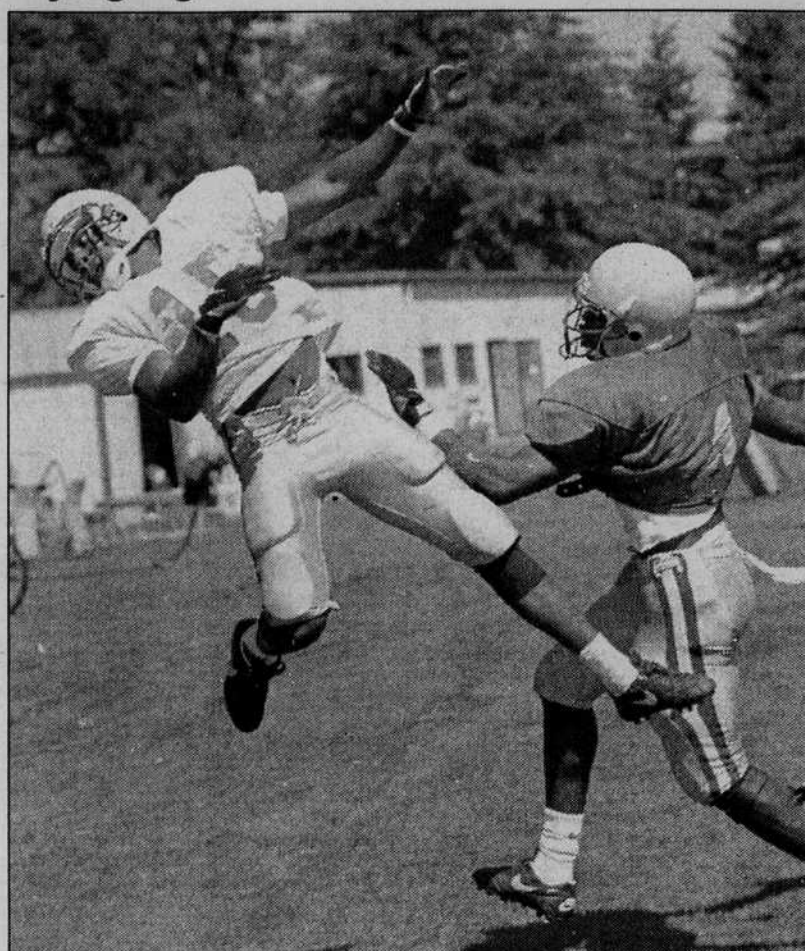
He was sports director at WECA-TV in Tallahassee, Fla., before going to ESPN.

"SportsCenter' would not be what it is today without the 60- to 80-hour work weeks he put in when ESPN was just a rumor," said Bob Ley, an anchor who started with Mees. "The only thing he loved more than his hockey and his Delaware Blue Hens was his family."

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

There was no immediate word on funeral arrangements.

Flying high



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Contact drills began Wednesday for the Ducks. Jibri Hodge looks for a place to land following a "gentle" shove by teammate Eric Edwards during a short-field scrimmage. The Ducks first game is Aug. 31 on the road against Fresno State.

Tailback: Parker gets his shot to prove his worth, but others on his heels

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Bellotti admitted that there could be a rotation of backs instead of one main back like there was with Whittle last year.

"We have talked about doing [running back] by committee," he said. "I really think it will be where we'll expect two or three backs to play in a game."

"Parker and Crump are one and two. Latimer and Brown are waiting in the wings and are really great, young backs with great credentials and statistics."

Waiting in the wings is where they may be, but Latimer and Brown, who both red-

shirted last season, are anxious to impress and earn themselves a quality role.

"When I get my opportunity I'm going to go out and bust my butt and work hard every play," claimed Brown. "My chance is going to come and I think I'm ready for it."

For Latimer, that chance can't come soon enough.

"Right now, I'm just looking to have a good camp and hopefully everything else will work out," said Latimer, who then added, "I feel like I haven't played a football game for five years. So I'm really excited. I dreamed about (playing) all summer."

Parker is quick to remind that even

though there is a waiting list for the position and he is next in line, he must produce to keep the spot.

"I had to wait my turn," he said. "When I first got here there were already two pretty good backs in Ricky and Dino [Philyaw]. Now that they are gone it is my time to step up and perform."

While all of the backs know that they need to be successful to erase the memories of Whittle, none will admit to feeling any pressure.

"The coaches picked us for a reason," stated Brown. "We've got to come in and

fill some shoes, but I don't feel any pressure. I just got to do the best job that I can."

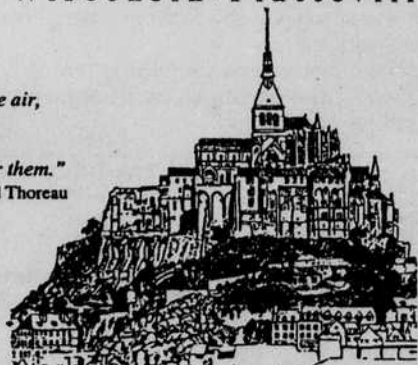
A conversation with Whittle earlier in the week helped to relax Crump.

"He told me that I just got to go out there and take care of business and not try to fill someone else's shoes, and try to be better than him," said Crump. "I work hard regardless. That is one thing that I pride myself on, a good work ethic and giving it my all constantly. I put pressure on myself because I want to do as well as I can."

And hopefully, one of these future starters will begin to wear their own shoes that will someday need to be filled.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville

"If you have built castles in the air,
your work need not be lost.
That is where they should be.
Now put the foundations under them."
—Henry David Thoreau



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