



IRON GAME HISTORY



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Relocation Blues

Last fall, shortly after we mailed the last issue of *IGH*, we began a process which is still far from complete—the physical moving of our collection of books, magazines, photos, courses, artifacts, films, audiotapes, posters, videotapes, clippings, and other related materials to another location on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. Before, we were in Gregory Gym; now, we and the collection are housed in Anna Hiss Gym. [please note our new mailing address on the back page. The phone and fax remain the same.] Gregory Gym was built in 1929, with substantial additions from the 1960s, but it was in bad need of the renovation which prompted our relocation.

Our new quarters are less spacious than they were in Gregory, and we are very cramped. On the positive side, our materials are primarily located in one room now, and so the place has more of the feel of a library about it. In any case, we are grateful to have such a large room (over 3000 square feet) in which to store and use the collection and we are beginning to be able to find things again. Those who have never visited the collection no doubt have a hard time imagining how extensive it is and how much space it requires. To provide some context, imagine a 3200 square foot room (40' x 80') with eleven foot ceilings. Next, imagine approximately 70 large, brimful bookshelves arranged in tightly spaced rows or "stacks." Finally, imagine boxes of unpacked material piled on top of almost every shelf up to the ceiling. (We are also fortunate to have another storage space of approximately 1000 square feet down the hall and it is packed floor to ceiling with less frequently used items.)

Before all this material could be moved to Anna Hiss Gym, of course, the bookcases on which it has rested for the past 15 years or so had to be emptied and moved to their new location. Because

we have done our best through the years to accumulate bookcases and display cases which are both large and old (and thus more in keeping with the collection), many of them had to be completely taken apart and reassembled here in Anna Hiss. In addition, each of the many tens of thousands of books and magazines had to be individually packed, moved to Anna Hiss, unpacked, and reshelved.

This sad tale isn't intended to make anyone feel scary for us, because we love the collection and we would have moved it to its new home even if we had had to do it a box at a time. The aim here is merely to provide some context for our apology about the lateness of this issue. Normally, our intention is to publish a new issue every two or three months, depending on the quality of the material we have on hand, but this time the task of moving the collection—along with our usual responsibilities as faculty members here at the university—has made us very late. Because of the delay, we have lengthened the issue by four pages. The additional four pages allowed us to include, in full, two of the longest, most interesting (although completely different) articles we have ever published. We hope you accept our apology, enjoy this issue, and continue to support *IGH*.



On another matter, we have been asked by quite a few readers to provide news of the young man we have been coaching—6'3", 415

pound Mark Henry. It would probably be safe to say that over the past nine or ten months, Mark has received more attention from the media—both print and electronic—than any competitive lifter since Paul Anderson back in the 1950s. The pressure from the media over the last months has been unprecedented for any iron gamer other than such bodybuilding legends as Steve Reeves and Arnold.



It began last spring with a long, flattering piece on the front page of the *New York Times* following Mark's gold medal in the Pan American Games in Argentina. Since that time he either has appeared or will appear on such television shows as *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*, *The George Michael Sports Machine*, *The CBS Summer Sports Show*, Prime Sports' coverage of the 1996 National Weightlifting Championships, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *ESPN's Profiles*, *Primetime Live*, and *The Today Show*. In the medium of print, he was profiled in a long story recently in *USA Today*, featured on the cover of *Vanity Fair* in a photo by the celebrity photographer Annie Liebowitz photographed by *Life* for their photo essay on bodies in the Olympics, given a two page spread in *U.S. News and World Report*, featured twice in *Outside* magazine, covered at length in Newsweek, written about again in *Sports Illustrated*, and profiled at

length in most of the top bodybuilding magazines.

Last week, he laughed and said he'd been interviewed so many times that he was beginning to feel like he was running for something. Indeed, media pressure of this sort is enervating, but Mark feels he owes it to the game to make himself available. In almost every article and television show, he manages to get across his message that drugs are not necessary for world class strength, and he told an interviewer the other day that he felt much more kinship with the men who did their top lifting before 1960. He said that he considered his top competitors in weightlifting today to be cheaters, pure and simple, and that he knew he was in a fight that wasn't fair. He went on to say that even if he doesn't win the gold (or any other) medal in Atlanta, he still believes that his way—the old way—is the best way.