

Rather receives long-lost Olympic medal

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Wesleyan table tennis head coach Jasna Rather received a replacement Olympic medal Oct. 24 at a ceremony at Wesleyan's Sid Richardson Center. The replacement medal took the place of a lost bronze medal Rather won in the 1988 Summer Olympics, which were held in Seoul, South Korea.

That summer, Rather was representing her home country of Yugoslavia in the women's doubles table tennis event. She took home the bronze with teammate Gordana Perkucin but would soon find her home in political turmoil.

Rather fled her home country in 1995, leaving behind the Olympic medal in her hometown of Foca, Bosnia, in the home of her grandmother.

Her grandmother passed away shortly before war broke out. Armies were quick to take possession of the home and all of its belongings.

"I have no idea where the medal might be today," Rather said.

She continued to play table tennis in Japan before permanently relocating to the U.S. in 1996. She obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Oakland University in Michigan and earned her master's in education from Texas Wesleyan



Renee Greer | Rambler Staff

President Jeffcoat presents the new medal to Rather.

before becoming head coach in 2006.

The ceremony, which also

featured members of the 2009 National Intercollegiate Champions receiving rings

honoring their championship season last spring, was held during the annual Texas Wesleyan Open.

Members of the student body, faculty and staff as well as local media were in attendance for the emotional ceremony, at which Texas Wesleyan President Harold Jeffcoat spoke and explained how he made numerous phone calls to the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee in search of answers for the lost medal.

"There's no way our table tennis coach won't have her Olympic medal," Jeffcoat said.

Eventually he was able to get in contact with someone who had a cast of the 1988

medal and quickly had a replacement sent.

Rather isn't sure what to do with her new medal but will probably keep it on campus, possibly on display.

"All I know is that I plan not to lose it," she chuckled.

For video from the event, visit www.therambler.org.

"There is no way our table tennis coach won't have her Olympic medal"

Dr. Harold Jeffcoat
University President

Trick and treat by Wesleyan cheerleaders

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Ask any member of the Wesleyan Cheerleading team and you will learn that the term "off season" is not in her vocabulary. As the soccer teams begin conference play and the basketball teams gear up for their season openers, the Wesleyan Cheerleaders don't get a break.

"They work very hard and long hours to accomplish what the crowds will see," said Coach Carolyn Ikens-Owen.

This year's team has two captains in sophomore elementary education major Mariah Hill and sophomore psychology major Melody Doddy. The team has been practicing stunts, flips, yells and cheers since mid-July when the team traveled to San Marcos and participated in the Texas State Universal Cheerleading Association camp.

While at camp the team earned numerous camp awards and ribbons and also had the opportunity to bond as a team.

"Every evaluation we had earned us the highest blue superior ribbon award," Hill said. "Our squad really came together and truly has one voice."

The squad consists of 21 members, 11 of which are new additions to the team.

Since last year, the team has been working on adding another element to their squad: men.

Male cheerleaders, which are nothing unusual at other universities, were something the cheerleading team lacked in recent years.

Last year, the team had three male members in senior Jason Simpson, senior Pierre Ard and sophomore Oscar Lazarki. With the addition of Taylor Pokluda, junior, and Jeremy Beck, freshman, the

team is now up to five male members, who bring an extra dimension to the team.

"They show tremendous talent and skill," Hill said. "We have improved our stunting ability and now are able to do elaborate stunts such as our flip stunt, one-leg stunts and one-man stunts," said Hill.

Ikens-Owen agrees with Hill.

"They add a much-needed strength effect and make the squad much louder when they cheer," she said. "I am very fortunate to have such great guys on the team. They all work very hard and take their positions on the team seriously."

This year, fans can catch the Wesleyan cheerleaders cheering at both the men's and women's home basketball games. They also attend volleyball, soccer and baseball games throughout the year.

Aside from cheering at sporting events, the squad



Laura Rosser | Rambler Staff

Wesleyan cheerleaders show their support by handing out Halloween candy.

also performs at events such as Ram Camp and President's Picnic.

Ikens-Owen expects big things from this year's squad because of their experience.

"The ability level of the team is much higher than last year and recruiting has helped tremendously with getting this higher quality," she said. "Everyone on the team has

experience, whereas in the past it was less."

For more information on the Wesleyan cheerleading squad, visit www.txwes.edu/studentlife/cheerleaders.htm.

\$\$Rams Stimulus \$\$ Package

- **Monday:** Chick Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- **Tuesday:** Two Enchiladas, Refried Beans & Rice
- **Wednesday:** Hamburger, Fries & Small Drink
- **Thursday:** Loaded Baked Potato
- **Friday:** Grilled Chicken Club
- **Saturday:** Grilled Ham & Cheese, Small Salad

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Hours of Operation

Monday- Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday: closed



7-7 Flag Football Standings

Name	Wins	Losses	TP Scored	TP Against	Byes
Pickles	6	0	200	24	0
BOHICA	3	3	56	35	0
TapOut	3	3	97	107	0
1 L's	3	3	88	123	0
Twisters	1	5	7	56	0
Pink Dragons	1	5	28	48	0

Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The **Lady Rams Volleyball** team (12-14, 6-4 RRAC) split a pair of matches on the road Oct. 24. They beat Bacone 3-2 (25-11, 22-25, 21-25, 25-13, 15-11) in conference action before losing 3-0 (25-16, 25-16, 25-11) to John Brown.
- The **Lady Rams Soccer** team (11-5, 4-2 RRAC) posted its seventh shutout for the season when picking up a 3-0 win on the road against University of the Southwest Oct. 24. Goalkeeper Katy Houchin set a school record with her seventh shutout of the season. The previous record (six) was set by Brittany O'Brien in 2008. The Lady Rams are only one shutout short of matching the school record of eight set last year. With 11 wins so far, the Lady Rams are only three wins shy of the program's highest (14) set in 2005.
- The **Rams Soccer** team (10-6, 2-4 RRAC) defeated University of the Southwest 3-0 on the road Oct. 24. The Nabassi scored his eighth goal of the season when he secured the overtime win for the Rams. At 10 wins, the Rams are only three wins away from matching the program-high 13 wins from the 1993 season.

Fantasy Football Pig Skin Pick'Em Leaderboard

Name	Pts.
Jeremy Newton	68
Cara Lumpkin	64
Michael Greer	63
Rachel Loftin	62
Phillip Blockinger	62
Fabiola Duron	62
Oscar Lazarki	61
Terry Waldrop	59
Jason Simpson	59
June Johnson	58
Daniel Bravo	58
Sandy Gonzalez	58
Ryan Amador	57
Trey Bomar	57

The Weekly Sports Quote

"Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seemed to hang in the air for even longer."

David Acfield
Former Cricket Player

Upcoming Sports

	Game	Time/Place
Thursday	Men's Soccer vs. SW Assemblies of God University	5:30 p.m. Martin Field
	Women's Soccer vs. SW Assemblies of God University	7:30 p.m. Martin Field
Friday	Volleyball vs. Texas College	4 p.m. Tyler
	Volleyball vs. Jarvis Christian College	7 p.m. Hawkins
Saturday	Volleyball vs. Wiley College	11 a.m. Marshall
	Men's Soccer vs. Huston-Tillotson U.	5:30 p.m. Martin Field
	Women's Soccer vs. Huston-Tillotson U.	7:30 p.m. Martin Field