

SPORTS

State-bound Hippos prep for big show

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Leader Sports Editor

Whitney Masey stands nearly a foot taller than Andrea Dominguez, but the size of their hearts measure about the same. Throw in a tireless work ethic and an impenetrable will and you've found the recipe for success that has thrust the duo into Class 3A's track and field spotlight.



Hutto track standouts Whitney Masey (left) and Andrea Dominguez have their sights set on state titles. The two will compete in this week's Class 3A state track and field meet, Masey in the discus and Dominguez in both the 100- and 200-meter dash events.

Photo by BRUCE HAPPEL/Leader Staff

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The two will represent Hutto at this week's state meet at the University of Texas' Myers Stadium, Masey heaving the discus and Dominguez blazing her way through the 100- and 200-meter dash races.

For Dominguez, a senior, the state meet is a familiar venue, having earned a berth in both her sophomore and junior years. Last year, with Hutto holding 2A status, Dominguez captured the state title in the 100 while taking silver in the 200. In 2001, she finished third in the 100 and fourth in the 200.

This time around, the 5-foot-nothing speedster hopes to climb to the top of the 3A awards platform.

"I know what I'm up against," Dominguez stressed, adding, "I believe I can win it. I know I can win the race. But I also know it's up to God, and whatever happens, happens."

Her father shares similar sentiments and, along with the rest of the Dominguez family, has done his part to mentally ready his daughter for competition.

"Psychologically, she's been convinced by all of us that she can win the race," said Martin Dominguez. "Most importantly, she has to believe that she can win

the race."

In burning a path to the state meet, Dominguez ran a 12.21-second 100-meter dash and a 24.99 200-meter race to capture District 24-3A titles in each event. At the Region III meet, Dominguez ran 12.43 in the 100 and 24.82 in the 200 en route, finishing second in both events to Navasota's

Antonette Lee.

Dominguez enters Saturday's races knowing full well that track is an unpredictable sport — times and seedings hold no bearing on the race's outcome.

"More than any other sport, track is about what kind of day you have," she said. "Anybody can win on any day."

Dominguez cashed in with a big day at the region meet, though not without a fair share of pre-race jitters.

"Standing in the blocks, I was shaking," she recalled. "I was terrified. I wanted that race so bad. I didn't care how I did. I could come in first or second, but I just wanted to go to state. I came across that

finish line and I was all smiles. I had butterflies."

While Dominguez is a savvy state meet veteran, Masey is a newcomer. She enters the state meet on the heels of a region-winning hurl of 118 feet, four inches. Masey won this year's district title

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Express fine-tunes its roster

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Leader Sports Editor

The Round Rock Express' major roster shake-up continued Thursday, the struggling club adding a familiar face in outfielder Jon Topolski.

Topolski, who spent the entire 2002 season with the Express,

was hitting .364 with one home run in 11 at-bats for the Triple-A New Orleans Zephyrs this season.



Topolski

Topolski hit .237 with nine home runs and 34 RBIs for Round Rock last season.

Also joining the club is third baseman Ramon German, German, a South Atlantic League All Star in 2001 and 2002 for Single-A Lexington, participated in an extended spring training with the Astros before joining the Express.

German hit .241 with 11 homers and 49 RBIs in 86 games for Lexington in the 2002 season. He also stole 15 bases.

Relief pitcher Juan Campos was demoted to High-A Salem. Campos appeared in nine games for the Express this season, posting an ERA of 8.53 in 12 2/3 innings.

At 6-20, the Express is off to the worst start in its four-year history.

Round Rock's northern road trip off to a shaky start in Tulsa



Rudy Lugo lost for the fifth time in as many starts Thursday, coming up on the short end of a 5-0 loss to host Tulsa. Lugo surrendered seven hits and four runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Woeful season continues with 5-0 loss to Drillers

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Leader Sports Editor

WICHITA, Kan.—The Round Rock Express dubiously accomplished Thursday what it took the club until May 18 of last season to do — lose its 20th game.

Riding a dominant pitching performance by starter Kip Bouknight, Wichita (12-14) cruised to a 5-0 triumph over the visiting Express (6-20). Bouknight permitted Round Rock just five hits on the night.

The contest shaped up to be a pitching duel until the seventh inning. After holding the Drillers to just a run through six, Express starter Ruddy Lugo hit a wall, allowing a bases-loaded double to Corey Sullivan and a Seth Taylor single that helped ice the game.

Lugo falls to 0-5 on the season, despite a solid outing. He struck out six and walked two while giving up seven hits through 6 1/3 innings. The right-

hander has a season ERA of 4.06.

Lugo had a strong night at the plate, leading the Express offensively with a 2-for-3 performance.

Right fielder Mike Rosamond, catcher Dax Norris and first baseman Eric Cole were the only other Round Rock batters recording hits.

Recently acquired third baseman Ramon German logged his first start for the Express, going 0-for-3 with a strikeout.

Eric Ireland made his 2003 debut for Round Rock, allowing two hits and striking out one in 2/3 innings.

Express alumni making waves at other levels

Former Express catcher John Buck was 2-for-4 with three RBIs in the Triple-A New Orleans Zephyrs' 7-6 win over the Memphis Redbirds Thursday. Buck is hitting .247 with 17 RBIs for the Zephyrs this season.

Former Express infielder Morgan Ensberg is batting .250 with two home runs and seven RBIs for the Astros.

Pitcher Rodrigo Rosario allowed two runs or fewer in three consecutive starts, span-

Texas League Baseball

Standings

West Division	W	L	GB	Pct.
San Antonio	18	9	—	.667
El Paso	15	12	3.0	.556
Midland	14	12	3.5	.538
Round Rock	6	20	11.5	.231

East Division	W	L	GB	Pct.
Arkansas	16	10	—	.615
Frisco	14	12	2.0	.538
Tulsa	12	14	4.0	.462
Wichita	10	16	6.0	.385

—Seatings through game of May 1

ning April 12 through 22 (18 2/3 IP; 8 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 10 BB, 13 SO) while going 2-1 for New Orleans.

Notes: After 26 games last season, the Express had a 15-11 record. Thursday's contest marked the first of an eight-game road trip.

The club wrapped up a four-game set with the Drillers on Sunday before heading to Wichita for a four-game series beginning Monday and lasting until Thursday.

The Express return home Friday night, kicking off an eight-game homestand that will see the El Paso Diablos and San Antonio Missions visit the Dell Diamond.

Dragon girls fail to advance from gymnastics region

By JEFF CASPERSEN
Leader Sports Editor

KINGWOOD—Round Rock High School's girls young varsity gymnastics squad tasted disappointment at this year's Region II meet, failing to advance as a team or send an athlete to the state meet.

The team's best finisher at district was also the team's best finisher at region — sophomore Malee Dillard, who finished with a combined all-around score (compulsory plus optional) of 73.425, earning her 10th in

the category.

Teammate Brittany Lott finished two slots back of Dillard, logging an all-around total of 71.825. Another Dragon, Deanna Damon, finished 17th with a 68.600.

Heather Hankins and Aly Damon also scored for Round Rock, Hankins tabbing a 23rd place 68.6 and Damon a 35th place 34.950.

Rounding out Round Rock's scores were Krista Delisle (17.3) and Tamara Litwin (15).

Dragons coach Seleta Daniel was disappointed her squad

failed to advance, but took solace in the fact that her girls competed in a region loaded with talent.

"There were some huge gymnastics going on there," she said. "There is a lot of talent in or region. Had we been in other region, we would have qualified. There's heartbreak, because you don't make it. That's the way the ball bounces. It really does make us a better team in the long run."

As a team, Round Rock finished fifth, tallying a total of 215.5 points. Kingwood won the

region title, ending the meet with 230.675 points, followed by Humble with 230.225, ARM Consolidated at 224.825 and Bryan at fourth with 217.225.

Daniel said her squad met some uncharacteristic stumbling blocks at the region meet.

"It was just really bizarre. We made mistakes that we've never ever made. That was pretty rough.

"It was a big gym. We're used to working out in our little gym. I think we just need a little confidence. I think it's coming and I think they know that it's there."

Local middle schoolers swim at state meet

The Texas State Middle School Championship Swim Meet was held recently at Palo Alto University in San Antonio. Coach Mark Parrshall, with the Lone Star Aquatic Club, took 10 swimmers from Chisholm Trail Middle School to compete.

For the girls it was Amy Sue Frame, Norah Hermeida, Kelly Myers, Marcy Parrshall, Rebecca Salam, Anna Smith, Ashley Smith, Darcy Wheeler,

and Brittany Wright. Wesley Wheeler represented the boys.

The eighth grade girls relays were the fastest in the state. Wesley Wheeler placed first in both the 100 individual medley, and the 50 back. Darcy Wheeler placed first in the 50 free, second in the 100 free. Marcy Parrshall placed second in the 50 Back, fourth in the 100 Individual Medley. The Chisholm Trail girls placed third in the state as a team.