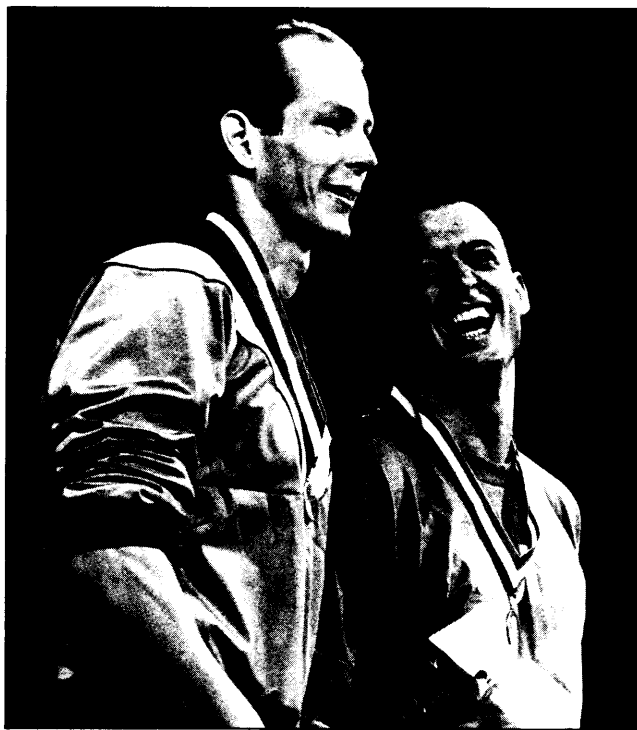


U.S. Olympic Trials



morning swim (22.87-22.67) and came back in the final with another personal record of 22.65 for third.

Biondi expressed respect for Jager's dominance in the event, saying it doesn't look like he can beat the Bruin graduate in Seoul. "He's looking really great," Biondi said. "I've tried to learn from him how to focus for this one, short race. He draws a lot of strength from his mental psyche."

"I thought I'd have to go faster to beat Matt," Jager said. "I have an advantage in that it's the only event I have to concentrate on. Four years ago I made the team, but I was an alternate. I wanted to prove mostly to myself that I could do it in an individual event." —By Sandra Todd

U.S. OUTLOOK IN SEOUL

U.S. Qualifiers: Jager, 22.23 in March (2); Biondi, 22.42 in March (3).

World Competition: Halsall, SUI, 22.67 (4); Prigoda, URS, 22.75 (5); Andrews, CAN, 22.81 (6).

Analysis: With South African Peter Williams (WR) ineligible to compete, the race comes down to Jager and Biondi with the advantage going to Jager.

Women's 800 Free

It was like the 400 freestyle all over again. Janet Evans zipping out in front of everyone and Tami Bruce heading off the rest of the field. The

only other swimmer who had a chance was Andrea Hayes, and she was left behind by Bruce after the 500 mark.

Evans finished in 8:23.59, the fifth-fastest women's 800 freestyle of all time and the second-fastest time this year. Bruce touched in 8:30.00, her best by 88-hundredths, ranking her 14th on the all-time list.

It was Evans' third victory in as many events. Having accomplished exactly what she wanted in the meet, she said she felt ready for Seoul.

"I feel pretty confident," she said, "especially in the (400) IM. I think I may have tapered a little too much for these six days. I think I hit my taper on my IM (the first day of the meet) and was a little off on my other events."

Still, she said, she feels certain she can go faster when she gets to the Olympics. "I'm just really excited. I want to get in shape so I can taper back down again."

In the early part of the 800 race, Evans was ahead of her own world record (8:17.12) pace. By the half-way mark, however, she had dropped slightly more than a half-second behind that pace, and the gap gradually grew from there.

For her part, Bruce took the race in a slow, deliberate stride, keeping

within a few seconds of Evans for half of the race, but dropping from her 1:03 pace at that point, eventually to a 1:06.01 on her final 100.

Making the team in her second event, she said, "was pretty important. That's what I wanted to do when I came here—make it in the 400 and 800." But, she said, the 800 was a little easier. "I was much more relaxed." —By Mark Muckenfuss

U.S. OUTLOOK AT SEOUL

U.S. Qualifiers (Current world ranking): Evans, 8:23.59 (1); Bruce, 8:30.00 (8).

World Competition: Elford, AUS, 8:24.15 (2); Mohring, GDR, 8:24.64 (3).

Analysis: Mohring, who's been 8:19.53, is the only swimmer with a legitimate chance to knock off world record holder Evans (8:17.12). Neither swimmer has Olympic experience to draw on, so anything but gold for Evans would have to be seen as an upset.

Men's 100 Back

Was it the submarining or the bean burritos?

Most people believe that backstroker David Berkoff's extended underwater swimming off the start is what gives him the advantage over his competitors. But after winning the 100 back and breaking the world record he set in prelims (54.95) with a 54.91, Berkoff revealed a little secret. ►