

Former Sultan keeps active-

La Mesa Life News
May 3, 1978**You name it, Dietrich does it**

By Bill Zavestoski

It's not easy being a full time college student. It's even more difficult trying to keep up the good grades while competing in a varsity sport. Throw in a job on the side and the going can get really rough.

San Diego State coed Donna Dietrich knows what it's like. She not only attends classes on Montezuma Mesa, but finds the time to excel at two sports for the Aztecs while holding down two jobs as well. How's that for learning, churning, and earning?

What makes it even more complicated is the fact that her two sports, track and field and badminton, run concurrently during the spring semester. This makes for some rather unusual road trips.

Take the first weekend in March, for example. Donna competed in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) National Badminton Championships on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in Columbus, Mississippi.

**Donna Dietrich**

She then hopped a plane for the West Coast, hoping to arrive in Long Beach in time for a track meet there at 10 a.m. Sunday.

AFTER FLYING most of the night and doing her warm-up exercises at L.A. International Airport, she arrived in Long Beach 10 minutes after the San Diego State women's track team had left. "That was the day they had tornado warnings up there and the meet had to be cancelled," said Dietrich. "I was lucky I ran into somebody I knew in Long Beach and caught a ride back to San Diego."

Donna doesn't seem to be spreading herself too thin in either sport. She and teammate Theresa McCarty finished fourth in doubles competition in Mississippi, leading San Diego State to a sixth place finish among 18 schools. Dietrich was second in singles and first in doubles play at the California State Collegiate Championships in 1976, her last full season of badminton competition before returning to the sport this year.

IN HER other sport, Donna is among the nation's top collegiate women javelin throwers. In fact, the May issue of Track & Field News lists her season's best of 169-10½ as the sixth best toss in America this year, behind only two other women who share the top five throws. She has exceeded the qualifying mark for this month's AIAW National Championships by almost 30 feet and is an excellent discus thrower as well.

When she's not in classes on Monday,

Wednesday, and Friday, or at track or badminton practice (track in the afternoon, badminton in the evening), she assists with the badminton coaching duties at Grossmont College, and acts as a sales representative (along with other Aztec women athletes) for an auto paint sealant manufacturer.

After graduation from Santana High where she was most valuable tennis, softball, and basketball player, Donna added MVP awards in volleyball and badminton while finishing third in the javelin in the AIAW Nationals while at Grossmont College. She then took four years off from the books to run a renting stable at the Sherilton Valley Ranch in Descanso before enrolling at State.

What have all these experiences taught her?

"I've learned I can compete in two sports at once, but it's difficult while working two jobs," said Donna. "I haven't been able to do justice to my sports. I'll never again take on as much as I have this semester."

Girls track title