

LEGAL OLYMPIANS

KATHY D. PULLINS

As the world watched the events unfold at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, alumni, students, and friends of the J. Reuben Clark Law School were taking particular note of three of their own: Karl Tilleman and Dave Turcotte, members of the Canadian basketball team, and Henry Marsh, a steeple-chaser on the U.S. track and field team. Shortly after their return from Seoul, these legal Olympians were interviewed at the law school, each discussing the personal link between an Olympic dream and a professional goal.

HENRY MARSH *Tell me about the beginnings of your Olympic dream.*

Everything began for me with the 1976 Olympic games. I came off a mission from Brazil, the Rio de Janeiro Mission, in August 1975, and I was a walk-on on the BYU cross-country and track team. I hadn't lettered my freshman year in either sport. In one year, I went from an out-of-shape missionary who was a walk-on and a 9:25 steeple-chaser to a participant in the Olympic finals who was less than a second off the American record at 8:23.

Was it about that time you started making definite plans to go to law school?

I'd always planned on being an attorney—even when I was in grade school. My father was a Harvard law graduate, and I guess he instilled that in me.

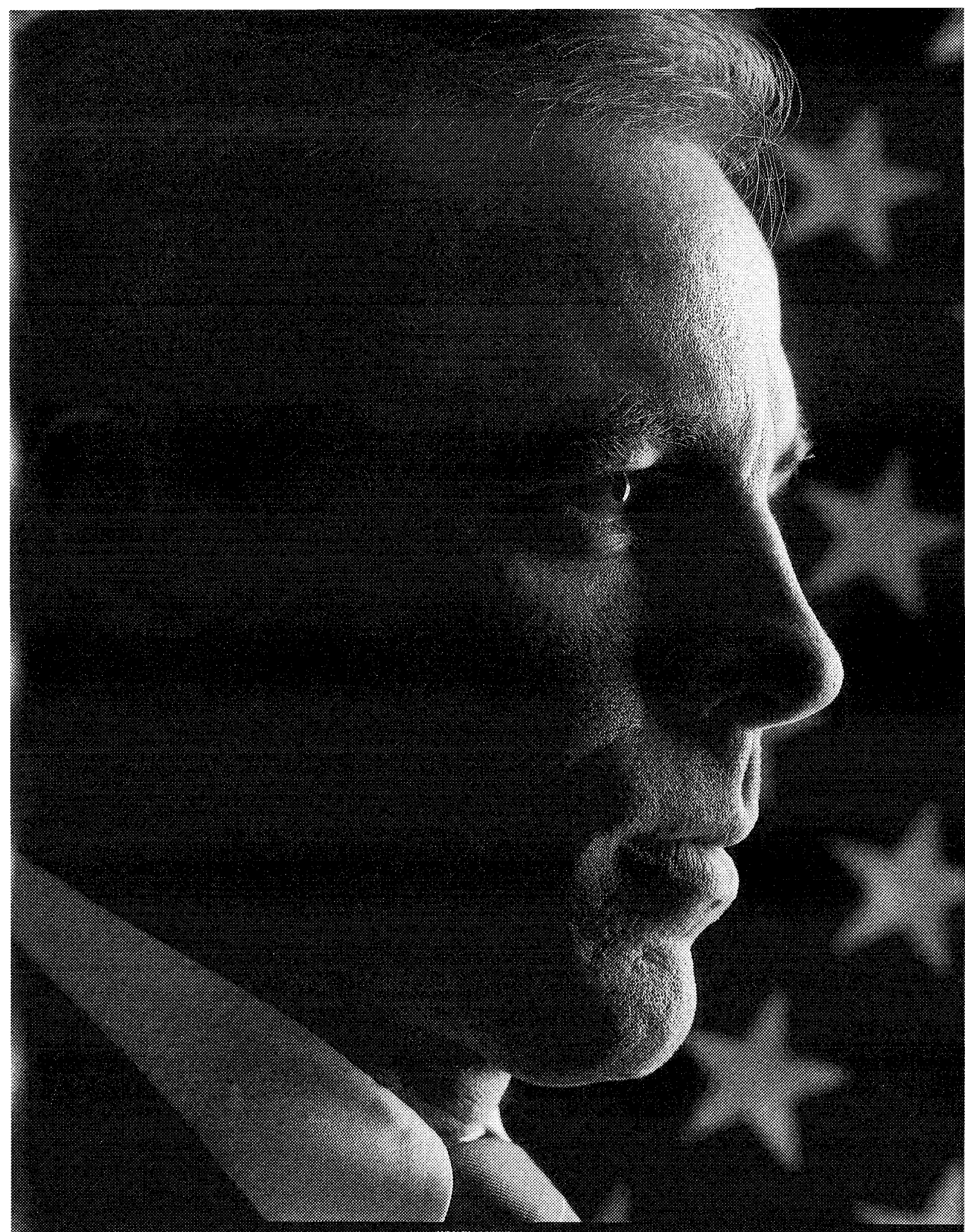
My plans to go to law school always came first. When I graduated from BYU with an undergraduate degree in economics, I was more dedicated to law school than I was to the track. I was ready and prepared to give up running. But about

that time Nike Shoe Company formed a club called Athletics West and said, in essence, that they would subsidize my law school if I continued training. Their one stipulation was that I had to live in Eugene, Oregon, the club headquarters. We all trained together and lived in the same city and, fortunately, there was a law school there, so I enrolled at the University of Oregon Law School.

Nike subsidized my schooling while I continued to train. While I was in my second year, I made the 1980 Olympic team. Although the U.S. boycotted the games, I won the Olympic trials and set a new American record during my second year in law school.

When did your association with BYU Law School begin?

After my second year, Nike dropped the requirement for living in Eugene, so I became a visiting student at the Law School. The credits I earned were applied toward my degree at University of Oregon. Although I officially got my law degree from the University of Oregon, I was a BYU law student my third year. That year I was ranked number one in the world



HENRY MARSH



Henry Marsh



Did you find that combining the daily physical training and the rigors of study in law school were almost impossible at times? Or were the two endeavors more compatible than an outsider might think?

Law school's really pretty easy. It's running that's hard.

Wait a minute!

That will go over big with a lot of law students. What I'm really trying to say is that it's a question of balancing. I knew when I started law school and I was still training for the Olympic games that I would have to constantly remember my goals. I wanted to pass my courses, and I wanted to make the Olympic team. And so I didn't have the time other students did, but still I didn't have the time for training that I normally would have had either—because law school does take a lot of time. So I cut back in some peripheral areas of running that are a big time drain and have marginal athletic benefits. I cut back in both areas yet completed law school in three years and excelled in running.

Did you take the bar soon after your graduation?

Yes, in July 1981. That was an interesting time in my life. I remember it distinctly. I passed my courses and then went off to Europe to compete. I had all the bar review materials with me, and between my races I'd be studying for the bar exam. I came back, took and passed the bar exam, and then went back over to Europe for the World Cup in Rome—all this in the summer of 1981.

And then?

I started working for Parsons, Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City.

How did your family life fit into all this?

I got married right after I completed my undergraduate degree, and we had our first child between my first and second year of law school. So I had time pressures that I had to be continually balancing.

I understand that 1988's competition was your grand finale. Could you share with us your reflections about the 1988 Olympics and those that preceded it?

I think I have a unique perspective of the Olympics since I've been on the

inside observing several of them. In 1980 we boycotted; I think 1984 was really the pinnacle for me both physiologically and emotionally. The emotion in Los Angeles was unbelievable for an American athlete. Korea was almost a letdown emotionally by comparison. The Korean people are very polite and reserved, and they obviously didn't cheer wildly for the Americans. I know it required a lot more internal motivation for our athletes to excel there.

Personally, I had a lot of motivation since I knew that this would be the last competition of my career. I wanted to go out on a positive note. I think I did that. I ran the fastest semifinal and final back-to-back races that I'd ever run in my life, 8:18 and 8:14 (the last time being one of the fastest times I've run in my life). A week before the games, I ran the second sub four-minute mile of my life. My finish was the fastest sixth-place time in history. So, I feel that I went out strong. I didn't win a medal but I fought hard until the end of my career, and I finished my last year as the number-one American steeplechaser.

Obviously the Olympics have been a big part of my life. I'm one of only three American male runners who have made four Olympic teams, so I'm really proud of my longevity record. During that time, every year for the past 13 years, I've been

in the top 10 in the world. That's unparalleled in track history. And that's been while I've been going through law school and working at a law firm.

I would suspect that you've had some people help you achieve these incredible goals.

I'm fortunate that Nike came in and subsidized me, that I had a lot of cooperation from those around me, and that I had Rex Lee to run with when I was in my third year at BYU.

After law school, my luck held out when I got an opportunity with the law firm Parsons, Behle & Latimer. I worked there for about three-and-a-half years, and they gave me time off to train. I had an arrangement where they would just pay me by the number of hours that I worked and let me train as I saw fit. So I've had cooperative employers and school administrators throughout my career that have really helped me maintain this longevity in competing.

And your family has been there cheering you on?

Definitely—although my training and competing has been very difficult on the family. I had to have their cooperation because of the unique pressures. Yet I think that in some ways it's helped my family a great deal. With a very flexible work and training schedule, particularly since 1984, I think I've spent more time with the family than the typical law graduate could who starts working long hours at a law firm. I would work only 20 or 30 hours a week, train, and then spend the evenings at home.

Tell me of your current professional involvements.

I work for the Franklin Institute. I came on as director of the corporate-wellness division. I teach time-management seminars to major corporations throughout the country.

Your career today would be classified as an alternative to the traditional practice of law. How does your legal training fit in?

I find that my legal background has meant a lot to me in many ways, even though I may never formally work in a law firm again. In my current profession, if I have to draw up a contract I know how to do it. And so I think I'll always use my legal background.



One main benefit of legal training has to be credibility. Someone who's a member of the bar has instant credibility that opens doors for them. For instance, I started out on the legislative committee of the Olympic committee because of my legal background. Currently, for the U.S. Olympic Committee, I'm president of the Athletes Advisory Council, and I'm on the executive board and the administrative committee. I've done a lot of work with the Utah amateur effort in the summer and winter games, and I serve on the governor's task force working to bring the winter Olympic games to Utah. I feel that most of these opportunities have been direct results of my legal background.

Any concluding thoughts?

In thinking about the correlation between the legal profession and running and athletics, I would have to conclude that there are some interesting parallels. The type of person who wants to become an attorney is usually one who is methodical and analytical. Those same traits are applicable to athletic training and competing.

KARL TILLEMANN

When did your connection with your Olympic sport begin?

► Even in grade school, I loved playing basketball. I was born in Ogden, Utah, where I caught the Mormon fever for basketball. When we moved to Wisconsin, it was a big sport there, too. But when I was 12 our family moved to Canada. At first I was distraught because I didn't think that they played much basketball there. Fortunately, I was wrong.

So when did you start thinking about trying out for the Olympic team?

When I was in high school, I saw the Canadians play the Americans in the Montreal Olympics in 1976, and I started to dream about playing with the Canadian Olympic team.

How did you make that dream a reality?

I didn't waste much time. I simply phoned the coach of the team, Jack Donahue, and asked if I could try out. My first year I got cut from the "A" team,

Henry Marsh



but I did make what they call the "B" team. They kept 18 players and 12 of those were on the "A" team and the other six of us went to tournaments with the bottom half of the "A" team.

It was in 1982 that I made the "A" team as the 12th man. In 1983 I moved up and played a more important role on the team, and in 1984 I wound up being sixth man. I came right off the bench early in the games.

Can you play on the team if you are not a Canadian citizen?

I have dual citizenship. The U.S. law now states that an adult can't apply for Canadian citizenship and retain U.S. citizenship. The original law assumed that all countries had their age of adulthood set at 21, but in Canada it's 18, so the law didn't cover it. I went to the U.S. Consulate General in Canada, and she said that there wouldn't be a problem, so I went ahead with the application. They subsequently changed the law. I was fortunate that it all worked out because I really wanted to try out for the Canadian team.

How did your team do in the 1984 Olympics?

We finished fourth and just missed winning the bronze medal by three points in a loss to Yugoslavia.

Were you in college during this time? And did you play basketball there?

Yes, I was attending the University of Calgary, where I received my undergraduate degree. I was a guard on the university team, and we were always competitive in the Canadian University League.

What did you do between the 1984 and the 1988 Olympics?

Because of my Olympic dream I had put off my mission until the 1984 Olympics. Denver drafted me and I went down and tried out, making it to the final cuts before they released me. They encouraged me to go to Europe and to come back and try out again. I told them that I'd think about it, but I went back home and decided to go on my mission. It seemed like the perfect time.

Where did you serve your mission?

In the California Arcadia Mission. I didn't play basketball at all while I was on my mission, but I did run and I also shot a few early morning baskets.

How did you get involved with the Olympic team again?

About the time my mission was ending, I received a phone call from Coach Donahue inviting me to come back.

How difficult was it getting back in the swing?

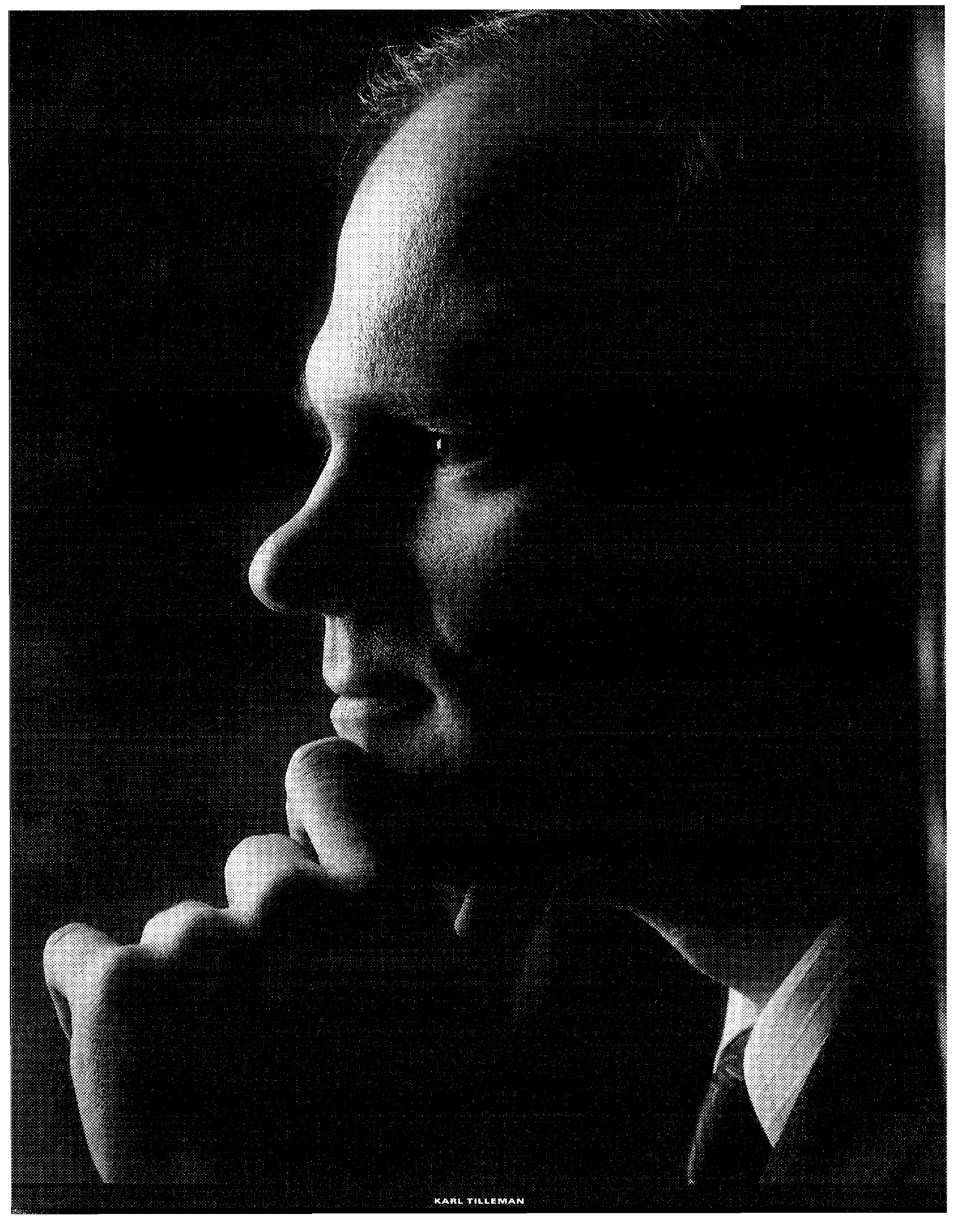
Somewhat difficult. I came right back and went on a couple of trips with the team over to China and Korea. I wasn't in condition to play, but at least I was respectable.

When did your wife, Holly, enter the picture?

We met before my mission and corresponded while I was away. After I returned we planned to get married within a year. That's about the time I decided to apply for law school. My future father-in-law had told me that if I wanted to marry his daughter, I needed to have a future. I don't think that he considered a future in basketball to be enough.

And so you applied to law schools.

Yes—that was 1986. Also my plans to get married in a year turned into a six-month plan. Holly was attending BYU, so



KARL TILLEMANN



Karl Tilleman

I moved down here and worked full-time at the MTC during the spring and winter of 1987. That summer I traveled with the Canadian national program to the World Student Games in Yugoslavia and to the Pan American Games.

Were you wondering how to fit law school into this busy schedule?

I was so busy that I didn't have much time to think about law school. I got back and started school about a week late. I walked into this building and everyone was on page 150 in criminal law—and I hadn't even started reading in any of my classes. I didn't have any of the orientation and didn't even know what a library quiz was. Not having any idea what was going on, I was just blown right out of the water.

But you seem to have managed.

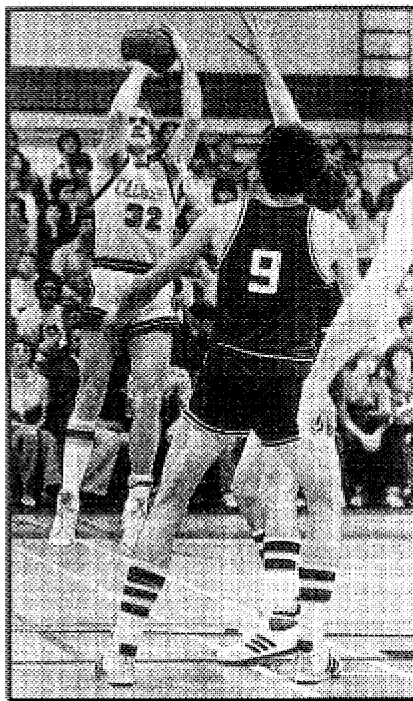
I just jumped into my classes. I didn't play any basketball for my first month at law school. I didn't even look at a gym. I was just going full speed in my classes. My brother had graduated from this law school, and so he helped me out with the pressures. He talked me through it all and was a calming influence.

When you were able to begin training again, what was your schedule?

Before I left Canada, my coach gave me a training program. As I mentioned, I didn't follow it for the first six weeks that I was back at school. In November I started worrying that I needed to be ready to play over the Christmas break when the team traveled to Holland. At that point, I began going down to the Richards Building and training.

It was a tough time for me, and I found the physical workouts a good release for the depression and anxiety I struggled with at times. Ironically, I probably could have benefited from that kind of outlet earlier in the semester. On top of everything else, our first child was due sometime in November. My wife went to Canada early in the month, and then I flew up to join her over the Thanksgiving holidays. We just prayed that the baby would cooperate and be born during that four-day period. He did and was born on November 21.

And then you returned to face your first round of finals. How were they?



I just took them one at a time. I felt fortunate that I was a part of good study groups; I felt prepared. I tried to apply the same basic philosophy that I do in athletics: you have one opportunity; sometimes you fail and sometimes you win, but you should always give it your best shot.

Was the trip to Holland a nice break for you?

It was. It was a tournament with Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, and two or three Dutch teams. I've always enjoyed traveling and playing in these exhibition games, but I also decided to spend as much time there on school work as I could. After my slow start the first semester, I was determined to do everything I could to be on top of things when school started again in January. So, I took a casebook and a hornbook for property and torts with me and read about 150 pages in each. That extra study was very helpful. I got a handle on some concepts and that allowed me to concentrate on some others I was having trouble with. I was determined that I was going to be able to smile during that next semester.

I understand that you went full-time your first year, but with the Olympics going well into the fall 1988 semester you needed to make some arrangements with the school.

When we received our training schedule for the Summer Olympics, I realized that our trial camp was smack dab in the middle of my winter-semester exams. I phoned my coach and asked if there was any way we could work around my exam schedule. He told me that he didn't see one because he couldn't let me be a member of the team without trying out.

Next I went and discussed my predicament with Deans Hansen, Fleming, and Zobell. They were very helpful. I had to get permission from each of my professors to take the exams at times other than those scheduled. The deans and the professors arranged to give me the same amount of time the other students had had before their exams.

What was your mixed Olympics and law school exams schedule?

I took my civil procedure and contracts exams, got on a plane and flew to Canada for the tryouts. After a week and a half, they gave us a week off before training started. That was the week that I came down and took my property and torts exams. A tough couple of weeks. Exams and the team required so much intensity, and they were both very important to me.

I had thought that maybe I could study during the trials, but I wasn't able to. It was a 10-hour-a-day ordeal, and I was physically and mentally exhausted.

Obviously the tryouts went well for you.

Yes, I made the team, and then we had a big round-robin qualification tournament at the end of May in South America. Only three teams from North and South America can qualify to go to the Olympics.

Did Canada have any difficulty qualifying this year?

I don't remember it as easy. The crucial game was against Uruguay in Uruguay. They had beaten us previously, so we had our work cut out for us—though I felt that we were a more talented team. In their gym the spectators get out of control. They throw coins at you and jump the referees if they don't



like a call. I kept telling the police in Spanish to help us out. When the final game was over and we had won, we had to grab our warm-up jackets, put them over our heads and race to the tunnel!

Did you get a chance to play quite a bit during those qualifying rounds?

Yes, I did, though I don't think I played my best during that tournament.

Was your entire summer devoted to training for the Olympics or did you mix in some law?

My training schedule was consuming, but we did come down to Provo for a month in June, and I did some research for Professor Backman. I wound up playing in the Utah Summer Games during that time. I think I needed that slowed-down pace to recharge a bit. After that month, until the Olympics, my training was like a full-time job. We trained in Calgary for a couple of weeks and then made another trip over to China and Korea to get used to the conditions. After that we trained in eastern Canada and then went down to New York City in August and played against some professional summer-league teams. We wound up in Vancouver for about a week and a half and then left for Seoul on September 10.

What were your initial impressions of the Olympics?

I would say that participating in the Olympics is the most exciting thing that can happen to an amateur athlete. All the great athletes in the world are there, and it seems like the whole focus of the world is there. It was very exciting.

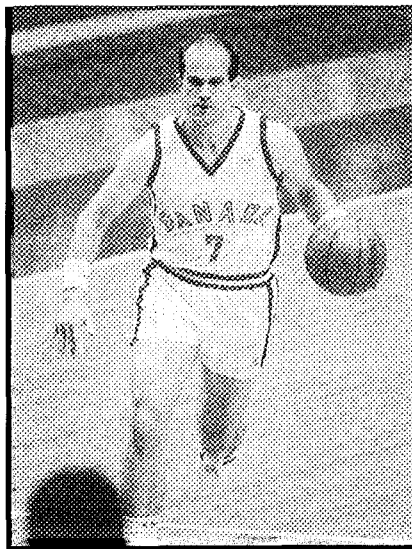
Did you receive a warm reception from the people?

Yes, the Korean people were really great to us. One of the most enjoyable times was when several LDS athletes spoke at a regional fireside for the Korean Young Adults.

The chapel was packed full of missionaries and young adults. The stake president was translating our talks for us, and it was intriguing to watch the delayed reaction as our message came across.

Any memories in particular that stand out for you?

Karl Tilleman



The city, my team . . . everything was a good experience for me. I was relaxed and performed well and that meant a great deal to me. After being in the Olympics once before, I wanted to play well and win. But I knew that despite the final score, life would go on.

What are your plans now, Karl? Is there another Olympics in your future?

I don't think so. I think it's time to stop traveling so much and concentrate on my family and the law. When you're an Olympic athlete in law school with a family, it has to be a family team effort. I really appreciate Holly, and she deserves to have me stick around and earn our living.

How do you think your athletic training will enhance your ability to study and practice law?

I've learned about setting goals, committing myself to those goals, and then seeing them through to completion. My training has taught me about discipline, resilience, and perseverance. I hope now I can apply what I've learned to the law.

DAVID TURCOTTE

When did you begin playing basketball?

► I started playing in ninth grade, prob-

ably several years later than most players do. Because of the late start, I knew from the beginning that I had to put extra time and effort into my game. I concentrated so much on it that I became consumed with playing. And I really learned to love the game.

It's exciting when something you enjoy gives you opportunities beyond what you would expect. I know that because of basketball I had options in college and certainly with the Olympic team that I couldn't have had otherwise. I feel very fortunate.

When did you start to think about trying out for the Olympic team?

I first saw the Canadian team play when I was in the 10th or 11th grade, and I remember being incredibly motivated to put everything I had into being good enough to play at that level. Though I think the Olympics became a goal of mine then, I had a hard time visualizing myself competing there.

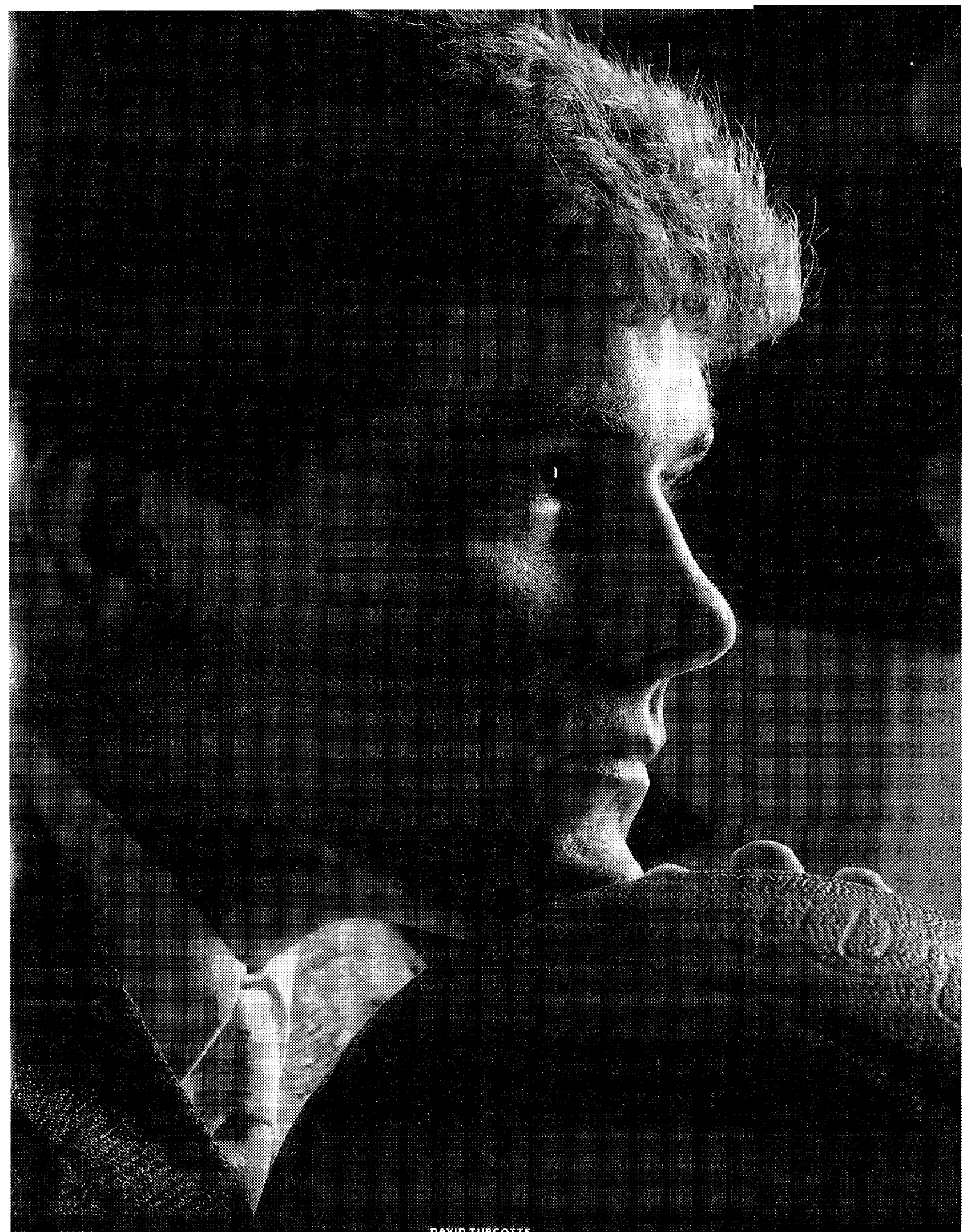
I did feel that if I put all my efforts into it I could make the national team, but I knew the timing had to be just right and I had to be ready to be a part of the Olympics. If I peaked and was the best that I could be in 1986, it wouldn't do me much good if my goal was to play in the 1988 games.

As I think about the timing, I'm even more convinced that the difference between being an Olympic athlete and not being one is very subtle. If a kid has a bad day when the coaches are there to see him play, that could be the end of it. So you have to be ready to perform at a peak repeatedly. I think that the secret to distinguishing yourself from other good players is to put more effort into practice and to strive for excellence consistently every day.

And, as you applied that kind of effort, things began to fall into place.

Yes. As a couple of years went by I could see that I was getting closer to my dream; I got a little bit hungry—I could start to taste the payoff that could come because of my efforts.

During my last year in high school I made it on Canada's national team. From then on, I feel that I was very fortunate. Most players have to wait until the latter part of their college careers to earn an Olympic tryout, but I was only



DAVID TURCOTTE



18 when I got a shot at it. The rest of the players were 24 or 25 years of age and most of them had already been through one Olympics.

What year was that?

That was 1985. As I look back, I remember it being a little awkward. I was definitely the rookie, which meant I got the privilege of carrying as many of the equipment bags through airports as I could manage.

But I was close enough to my goal of playing in the Olympics that the dream wasn't as intimidating to me as it had been when I was younger. There were still three years to go but I could focus on the reality of it.

I would imagine that those three years went by quickly.

They went by so fast that I don't even know if they existed! I played basketball year-round those three years: three months of the year for the national team and the rest of the time for my college team. I never had a summer job; I never had a vacation.

Did you ever get tired of the game during those years?

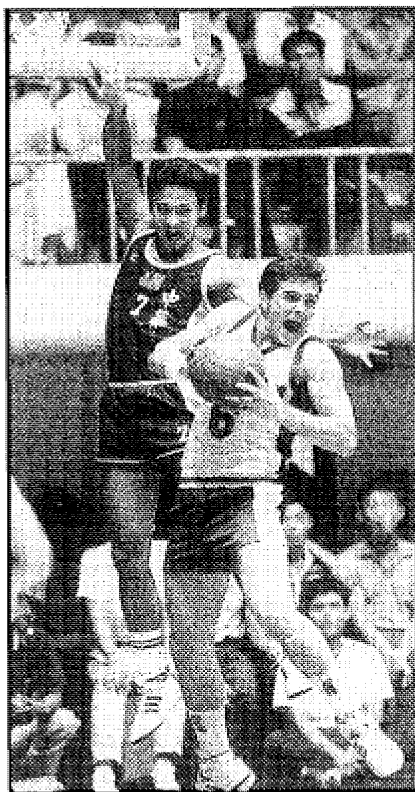
Amazingly, I didn't, probably because I love the game so much. Playing is recreation for me but it's also something that I've had specific goals for. My motivation is different from that of some players; I never played because of social or financial pressures. I play because I love to play.

After the initial adjustment, how did you get along with your teammates?

Very well. The twelve of us were a mixed group. We came from different economic and cultural backgrounds and our association with one another enriched us all. The common denominators of the group were skill, talent, and discipline. It's unique to be counted among the top twelve players in an entire nation.

We had a team that was very cohesive; we liked being together and, as a result, I think we played better. I'm glad we did enjoy each other's company; because for three solid months out of every year, we lived together, ate together, practiced together, and played together.

David Turcotte



And one of your teammates was Karl Tillerman. Did you first meet him after you made the team?

No, we had met a couple of years earlier. It's kind of a funny story. Karl and I are identical when it comes to our intense competitiveness, and we found that out on our first encounter. When I was in the 12th grade, my next to last year of high school, I was invited to come to a national camp to meet the players and to work out with the team a little bit. Karl was there, and the first thing I said to him wasn't "Hello" but, "Do you want to play a little one-on-one?"

And what were the results of that matchup?

Karl beat me decisively in the first game and then, in the second game, I think he relaxed a little and I came out on top. He didn't handle that too well, so we played a third game to break the tie.

Interesting way to get to know someone

No doubt. I think we both really enjoyed the encounter. Karl liked the fact that I was a young kid that was chal-

lenging him and making him play harder, and I loved the fact that he was a national team player who had a phenomenal reputation and was taking the time to make me a better player by challenging me.

Did you keep in touch with Karl after that initial meeting?

Not really. He went on and played in the 1984 Olympics, and I didn't see him for two years while he was on his mission. We had a reunion of sorts when, in 1986, we were paired up as roommates at the initial training camp. We had no trouble remembering each other and hit it off right away. Since we were together 24 hours a day, it could have been a difficult situation if Karl hadn't been such a terrific person. He is probably the best friend I have in the world today.

Where did you attend college? And why did you select that school?

Colorado State University. Since Colorado is so far away from my home, I'm sure that it was the recruiting efforts that got me there. I was recruited by several big, top-20 schools. Colorado State wasn't as prestigious as some of them, but I went to Colorado State with the understanding that I could pick the courses I wanted to take and graduate on time in four years.

These factors were important because of your Olympic timetable?

Absolutely. When I talked with the schools, I always brought it up. I wanted to study business to get a diverse background, and I was told by some of the schools that I could not take classes if they were going to interrupt my athletic schedule. In other words, I couldn't register for any classes between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some required that classes would have to be before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

And Colorado State was willing to work with you?

They were terrific. They made it possible for me to achieve all my athletic goals and all my academic goals. I ended up with a double major in economics and business management. My coach there, Boyd Grant, was always straight with me. He told me that he expected me to do my share and that they would help me do what I wanted to do.



As you look back on your college career, what are some memories that stand out?

I had a phenomenal college career; I had more fun than I think any person deserves to have! I had great academic success, in part because I enjoyed the courses that I was taking. I had excellent instructors in the classroom and in the gym. My diverse experiences at Colorado State considerably helped me develop personally.

The best thing that happened to me while I was in college was that I met my wife, Joanie. She has a business degree from CSU and is from Denver. We dated while we were both in school and then got married in March.

How has she adjusted to the fast track that you have selected, athletically and academically?

She keeps busy herself, working, and she's thinking about pursuing a master's degree. She's also an artist. The hardest part for us has been the travel that I have to do as part of training with the Olympic team. During the summer, I'm gone for six weeks with no visits on weekends. In spite of some of these demands, though, Joanie is supportive because she can see the benefits for us in the long run.

When did you first decide that you would go to law school?

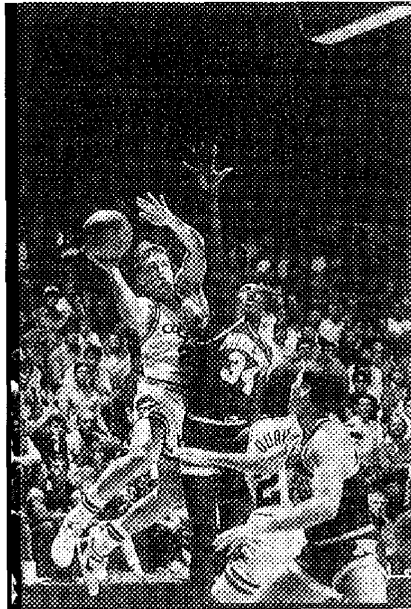
It's funny; somehow, I always felt that I should be a lawyer. Maybe it was because when I was in high school trying to persuade my teachers to adopt my point of view, they would comment, "Boy, Dave, you ought to be a lawyer."

But what attracted me most to this profession was my observation of lawyers. They seemed to be among the ones who were making a difference in the world. I don't think that I could ever be satisfied in a profession if I didn't believe that I was involved in accomplishing things that matter.

When you started applying to law schools, did Karl persuade you to look closely at BYU?

Yes and no. I was glad that Karl would be here for one year because he is a good friend and he's someone that can steer me clear of some problems. However, I was already convinced that I should go to law school in the West

David Turcotte



While attending school at Colorado State, I learned to love this part of the country. I love the mountains; this area is ideal for outdoor training.

So I really made up my own mind to come here. In fact, I wanted to surprise Karl that I had made this choice. When he asked me which law schools I was applying to, I told him that I was looking at University of Utah, Colorado University, University of Denver, Cornell, Yale, BYU, University of Toronto, and York University of Canada. He seemed pleased that BYU was one option, but I could tell he wanted it to be my decision.

What made you select BYU over the other schools in the West?

After checking around, I decided that BYU was the best law school in the West. It has high academic qualifications and great facilities. Probably most important to me was that BYU has a reputation for turning out graduates that are top-rate in terms of their ethics. I'm not LDS, but I subscribe to the professional standards that I knew would be taught here. So, when I thought about all the factors most important to me, I could see that BYU had all of the ingredients—academically, personally, and geographically; so it was the logical choice.

Are you able to combine the rigors of law school with your training schedule?

I think so. Yet sometimes I do get nervous about what I've taken on. I feel like I'm living a dual life. I want to do well in my classes so that I don't limit my opportunities while I'm in school and after I graduate.

One price I've had to pay to keep everything in motion is that I have to function on less sleep. I simply run out of hours in the day because of classes, studying, and three to four hours of training. I can only hope that I'm spending quality time on my studies and that the physical exercise allows me to come back to the casebooks refreshed.

With these challenges in mind, have you started to formulate a game plan for law school?

I'm working on putting one together; and, in the process, I'm finding all kinds of parallels with physical training. I believe that you need to set a series of intermediate, smaller goals to help you arrive at major one. One minor goal I have is to always be prepared for class. If I do this, I find the whole process to be less intimidating. I also try to concentrate on my efforts rather than worrying about what my classmates are doing. I can only control what I'm doing, so I try to keep my focus there. Karl also helps me by encouraging me to avoid the distractions and dead ends that can be very time consuming.

I also try to remember that proper pacing is essential. Law school is a three-year process; I can't burn out in the first semester and expect to succeed. I've got to be committed and disciplined day in and day out. I'm new to this setting so I'll have to let you know how my plan works out.

And after law school?

I'll graduate in April 1992, participate in the Olympics, and then study for the bar exam. I know that this kind of approach won't be easy, but I anticipate combining both law and athletics throughout my life.

What about the 1996 Olympics?

If my hometown, Toronto, gets the bid for '96, I couldn't resist giving it a shot. I might be too old then for that level of competition, but I'd have to try.