

# WOODMEN EDITION

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The Woodmen Edition  
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## Bremer qualifies to compete for Olympic gold

By JAKE BLUMBERG

This summer, a dream 21 years in the making was realized for a man who has spent nearly his entire life physically testing his body in the Colorado Springs altitude.

On June 24, Eli Bremer earned a birth in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, by winning the gold medal in the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Bremer's first place in the modern pentathlon secured him a guaranteed spot in Beijing next August; a spot Bremer has been working towards since he was seven years old.

"I began swimming when I was seven, and that's where I like to say I began my Olympic pursuit," Bremer said.

It is a pursuit the 28-year-old Bremer did not necessarily envision early in his life.

"I wasn't introduced to the modern pentathlon until I was in high school," Bremer said. "I was into swimming and horses at the time, and realized that I wanted to be a pentathlete when I was about 14 or 15."

The modern pentathlon is considered by some to be an all-encompassing test to determine the most well rounded athlete. The five-event competition combines the sports of running, swimming, horseback riding, shooting and fencing to determine



Eli Bremer

an overall pentathlon champion.

Bremer finished the 1.82 mile cross country run in a time of 9:48:50 minutes to complete his championship effort, after entering the last stage of the competition in first place. It was a victory Bremer earned with sweat and hard work while training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

With an average training day that consists of a 10-mile run, a four-mile swim, along with an hour worth of shooting and a half hour of fencing, Bremer certainly earns his position in the Air Force World Class Athlete Program.

Currently, Bremer is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a captain. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2000, Bremer's active duty role allows him to train full time for a chance to win Olympic gold.

"They basically release you from your job to train," Bremer said. "They pay you your normal salary to train and be a good ambassador for the Air Force, which includes a lot of public speaking work, along with USOC tours and the media."

It is an occupation some may consider enviable: flying from country to country competing for the honor of one's nation, with cheering fans urging you toward success. In many senses, Bremer would

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## Discovery Canyon officially welcomes ninth-grade students

By DUANE SLOCUM

With all the excitement a group of young people can generate, the official dedication of the Discovery Canyon wing for ninth-grade students took place in their school's courtyard last week.

The only thing missing was the brass band to be the capstone of a clear warm morning as balloons were floated in the breeze and seven different brightly colored ribbons were ready for cutting.

Discovery Canyon, a modern futurist campus, will house K - 12 students within the next three years. In the 2005, the first phase opened with 300 students for the fifth and sixth grades. Last year, seventh-grade students were added, along with the pre-school and kindergarten through fourth grades, bringing the total students to 870 with 110 staff members. Beginning this month, there were 1,185 students at the school with 160 staff members, which include 116 new ninth-grade students.

According to District 20 officials, the \$12 million building has 470,000 square feet under roof and sits on an



The little ones get opportunity to cut a dedication ribbon. Students from the kindergarten, first and second grades begin the ribbons cutting show, assisted by new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Sharon Lauer.

84-acre site. Each year, for the next three years, another high school grade will be added to the student body. The current frosh class will eventually become the first class to graduate from Discovery Canyon.

Jim Bailey, principal for the high school, conducted the brief ceremony by welcoming students, staff, parents, the D-20 School Board members and representatives from Phipps Construction and Flying Horse Development.

He said, "The dream of Discovery Canyon started 6½ years ago with a vision of a great school. Today marks a milestone and a new beginning." Bailey added, "After today, we will only be

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## Bremer

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agree.

"I love my job. I probably will never love another job as much as I love this," Bremer said.

Yet, his world is not all glory filled, with winner's podiums and hounding media. Most is in fact spent sore and tired, endeavoring to recover from his most recent international trip.

"On one hand, it is great how much I get to travel," Bremer said. "On the other hand, I basically have been jet lagged from March through August."

In the past seven weeks, Bremer has been on three trips traversing more than 10,000 miles—each. Before trips to Italy, Brazil and Germany for competitions this summer, Bremer spent time in Cairo, Mexico, England and the entire month of May in Europe.

"I have spent over two weeks of my life this year inside an airplane," Bremer said.

It is the lifestyle and strain on his body that has Bremer planning to retire after his time in Beijing.

"I have accomplished what I have set out to accomplish [qualifying for the Olympics]," Bremer said. "I want to make a great hit at the Olympics, really make a run at it, and then let some of the young guys move up."

Yet, retirement is no sure thing for Bremer, who is approaching a time period in his life that could be, by his own account, his best four years for competition. Thus, Bremer is not ready to completely commit to his

retirement in 2008, though the world outside of the sports arena is certainly calling.

Bremer's family tree reads as a veritable who's-who in both local and national politics. His father, Duncan Bremer, served as El Paso County commissioner from 1994-2002, and made an unsuccessful run at the United States Congress last year.

Eli's uncle, L. Paul Bremer was an ambassador under President's Reagan and George Bush, and served as the head Iraqi Coalition Provisional authority for President George W. Bush from May 2003 to June 2004. It is a lineage that may help steer Bremer to Washington, D.C., himself after Beijing.

"I am looking into applying for an internship with a program called the White House Fellows," Bremer said. "Only about 11 to 19 people are accepted each year, but if you do make it, you get to work directly with a Cabinet member for a year, learning Washington from the inside out."

It is an opportunity one feels Bremer is most certainly up to; for anyone who can spend two weeks on an airplane and still run 10 miles a day can probably run circles around those in Washington. For Bremer, it is just the next challenge to train for.

"It will be very different not working out every day, but it would be rewarding," Bremer said. "This is just not the type of occupation you can do your entire life."

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