

Ag Splashers Defend SWC Title in Houston

By JIMMY CARRELL

The Aggie swimmers, a convincing 1956 Southwest Conference swimming champion, find themselves relegated to the role of underdog as the 1957 conference meet opens at 7:30 tonight in Rice Institute pool in Houston.

The SMU Mustangs, chief challenger to the crown worn by the Aggies, find themselves in the favorite's position after a convincing 50-36 victory over A&M two weeks ago in Dallas.

Tetsuo Okamoto, holder of two conference records set last year, opens defense of his 1500-meter freestyle record, the only event of the first night. Okamoto is a heavy favorite, placing third in this event in the 1952 Olympics.

According to A&M coach Art Adamson, "SMU has a little better balance than we do and the necessary depth to win."

Adamson's biggest concern is his shortage of sprinters and loss of three excellent performers from a year ago when his swimmers ran away from the field and set a meet scoring record of 142 points. Texas was second last year with 91½ and SMU third at 90½.

"Our boys are as ready as I can get them," continues Adamson. "They're in a good frame of mind and ready to go. We're not nearly as strong as last year, but after getting whipped up in Dallas the boys are really wanting to win and will be in there fighting."

Lack of good sprinters costs im-

portant points and the graduation of Dick Weick, a two-event winner last year, and Gayle Klipple, to go along with the scholastic ineligibility of Jose Merino, places the Aggies at further disadvantage.

"We'll feel the loss of Weick and Klipple most now," points out Adamson, "since two new events have been added to the conference meet, the 100-yard butterfly and breaststroke."

Weick won the 200-yard breaststroke and butterfly events with Klipple second in the butterfly.

Dick Hunkler's performance has been the problem that has plagued the Aggie swimmers this year. Hunkler was another two-event champion last year, winning the 50 and 100-yard freestyle in times of 23.5 and 53.3.

He has been inconsistent, losing several times in meets this spring, but Coach Adamson says, "Dick has been doing just as well this year as last. We are just short of outstanding sprint men and have been using him in the relays."

"When a boy swims in a relay," continues Adamson, "and then gets out of the pool only to return a few minutes later for a sprint, he can't be expected to perform as well as when he swims that event alone."

Okamoto, the 5-11, 170-pounder from Sao Paulo, Brazil, is expected to enter, and win, three events — the 1500-meter freestyle in which he holds the record at 19:21.6, the 440-yard freestyle and the record of 4:51.5, and the 220-yard freestyle in which he placed second last year.

Norman Ufer, winner of the 200-yard backstroke in 2:23.0 last year, returns as a strong contender for victory in the same event. Ufer placed second in the 100-yard backstroke.

The following swimmers will compose the traveling squad: Roland Baird, Lindsey Blayney, Ray Cook, Jimmy Dye, Bill Gard, Henry Goff, Hunkler, Michael Kuich, Jerry Mount, Wally Penberthy, Jimmy Rhodes, Ross Truesdale, Rippy Woodard.

Bob Barlow, Roger Burton, Don Demming, Leroy Fletcher, Walter Godfrey, Frank Holmes, Joe Middleton, Bruce Martin, Okamoto, Steen and Norman Ufer.



COACH ART ADAMSON—takes his Aggie swimmers to Houston today in defense of their 1956 Southwest Conference crown.

A&M Baseballers Split Pair With Bulldogs, 4-6, 4-3

Finally squeezing in a little baseball between downpours, Coach Beau Bell's diamond men split a doubleheader with the Texas Lutheran Bulldogs Wednesday, losing the opener in 10 innings, 6-4, and winning a darkness-shortened twilight affair, 4-3.

A&M, now 1-2 on the season, journeys to Seguin to battle the Lutherans in a single game Saturday.

The Aggies jumped on pitcher Charles McMahon for a run each in the first two innings and a pair of tallies in the third, then

stood off a late rally by the Bulldogs to win the abbreviated, 4½-inning, contest.

In the opener, TLC bunched four of their runs in the first three frames off starter Bo Paradowski

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