



FRED MEYERS, second from right, stands with three of his A&M teammates at P. L. Downs Natatorium. Meyers, a junior college All-American swimmer and water polo player at college of San Mateo near San Francisco, Calif., was the first swimmer signed by coach Dennis Fosdick. Pictured with Meyers from left are: Steve Sonnenberg, Bob Willoughby, Meyers and Dan Sonnenberg. (Photo by Jesse Herrera)

Aggies sign All-American swimmer

Last fall when Aggie swimming coach Pat Patterson returned to his alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin, to become head coach, he was replaced by a native Californian whose first few months have brought new hopes to A&M in swimming.

Dennis Fosdick has taken over and built the current Aggie team, although not one with excessive talent, into one that has pulled some surprises with a great deal of hard work.

After coming to A&M, Fosdick discovered his weak spots and then went out to recruit to fill them.

He returned to his home state, where he visited over 300 high schools and junior colleges searching for help, even some that could come into help in the spring semester.

California probably is the foremost place to find an outstanding swimmer when you consider the facts. Over 500 California high schools compete in swimming. Then there are numerous junior colleges. Fosdick visited 23 of them.

At the College of San Mateo,

south of San Francisco, he found his first recruit.

Fred Meyers is a transfer from the College of San Mateo where he was a junior college All-American in swimming last year and just recently was named All-American in water polo.

The geology major will be eligible as soon as his transcript arrives from San Mateo, where they just completed finals last week.

Fosdick hopes his All-American breaststroker will be officially eligible by at least Feb. 6, when the Ags host the University of Arkansas in their only home meet of the year.

"He'll give us some depth in our breaststroke and back up for our relays," Fosdick said. Meyers will join Doug Carson, Steve Sonnenberg and John McCleary as breaststrokers on the swim team.

Fosdick found Meyers midst a world of swimming talent in California through Meyers' coach Rick Donner. Donner and Fosdick were once teammates on the

San Jose State swimming team.

The recruiting will continue, and right now Fosdick's green pastures are in California.

"We've found a lot of interested people."

That statement isn't hard to understand when you realize how really big swimming is in California.

In northern California alone there are about 10,000 swimmers registered through the Pacific Association of the Amateur Athletic Association, which has four districts in California, with about

40,000 swimmers in the whole.

And he added that there are many high school and college swimmers who don't swim under the AAU.

Southern Methodist University has put a monopoly on SW swimming and has a yearly habit of winning the crown without a trouble.

The recruiting of Fred Meyers is the first step for Dennis Fosdick and with a continuation of this hard work to come, the Aggies may be pushing the Mustangs in a very short time.

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Frazier terms Clay a phony

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Frazier's major concern with his heavy-weight championship defense against Muhammad Ali is whether "I handle myself like a champion should."

Frazier revealed this view Wednesday when asked if he was tired or would tire of questions of a social and political nature in connection with the March 8 fight. Such questions stem from nature of Ali, who has been a center of controversies outside the realm of sports.

"I was born and raised under this thing being a member of a minority group. I know what's going on. Now I want to get away from it," Frazier said at a press luncheon.

The champion said he believes that Ali whom Frazier calls Cassius Clay, was fooling black people with his statements and actions.

"He's a phony guy," said Frazier.

Frazier once again displayed a warmth and wit that many times has been overshadowed by the flamboyancy of Ali and Frazier's own reluctance to appear before a microphone except with his singing group.

"John Condon is another close friend of mine," Frazier said while pointing to the Madison Square Garden boxing publicist who has made the training camp arrangements. "He's got me in the mountains now and it's 14 degrees below."

Frazier is training in the Catskills in upstate New York. "Who's the greatest fighter you've ever seen?" someone asked.

"The greatest fighter today is myself," was the reply.

TRY

BATTALION CLASSIFIED

6 high school gridgers to sign with A&M

The first day for signing college football prospects in the Southwest Conference is still nearly two weeks away, Feb. 9, but Texas A&M has received verbal commitments from six gridgers that they would sign with the Aggies.

They are Logan Cox, 6-3 200, FB, Monahans; Jackie Landess, 6-0, 195, TB, Dallas Kimball; Jim Herndon, 6-1, 210, LB, Dallas Kimball; Rusty Cook, 6-1, 225, OT, Gregory-Portland; Russell Dick, 6-1, 245, DT, Lamarque; Marvin Tate II, 6-1, 185, DB, Bryan Stephen F. Austin; and Scooter Finley, 5-11, 185, LB, Abilene Cooper.

Also agreeing verbally was Bill Yoakum, 5-11, 185, rover, from Northeast Okla., Junior College.

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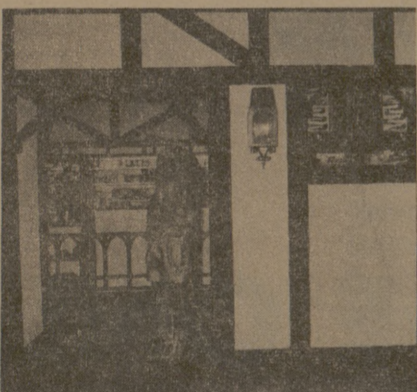
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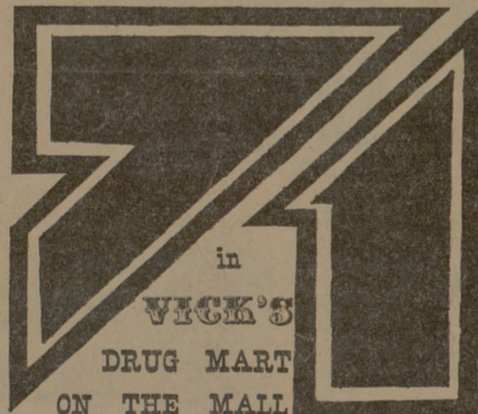
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