

Swim team spends holidays in Brazil

By MICHAEL RICE
Battalion Sports Writer

A two-week Christmas vacation would mean only fun and relaxation to the ordinary tourist in Brazil, but for the 10 A&M swimmers who went there with Coach Dennis Fosdick, it was one of fun and a lot of work.

The team left for Brazil December 22 and flew via Miami to Sao Paulo, the city it was to see the most of during its stay. Sao Paulo, which is seven times as large as Houston, has the same problems as Houston only more in number and more complex because of the extreme poverty which fills every corner of the city.

Prior to leaving the states, members of the group had seen folders of Sao Paulo which gave them great expectations of a beautiful city. Upon arrival they

found only poverty and frustrated people who average yearly earnings to the total of \$50.

Swim practice was first on the agenda for the Aggies with the first meet scheduled the second day of their stay. Their exposure to the Brazilian athletes made them feel like true "gringos" at the outset, but after a while they found that the Brazilians, too, share a common desire to complain about workouts and try to be lazy under a stiff coach.

While in Sao Paulo for workouts and Christmas Day, the Ags got their first opportunity to discover what the Brazilian girls were like and found them to have overall "better personalities than the girls at A&M."

The stay in Santos was a brief one as the weather was still rainy. But the Aggies didn't leave with-

out splashing through another swim meet against various clubs in the area and rainy dips on the beach which borders this small town.

Mogi Das Cruzes was the next stop for the swimmers where they promptly split up to stay in different homes in the town which has a relatively large proportion of Japanese. The Japanese, as they found out, had emigrated to South America many years ago upon realizing Japan was becoming too crowded.

The music of the teenagers of Brazil is very much like that of the American teenager and is very up-to-date with American rock, complete live bands to play at the various clubs where the swimmers stayed and ate.

Rio de Janeiro was the final destination of the team as it ar-

rived in this beautiful city January 7 to lose its second water polo match out of two while in Brazil.

However, the defeat was more than made up for because arrival in Rio meant no more workouts and no more swim meets—just complete rest and relaxation and freedom to roam as they pleased, by group or individually.

The midnight swims on Iponemo Beach coupled with freedom made the whole trip worth every penny and effort expended to get there. The city itself was more civilized than Sao Paulo ever hoped to be with beautiful scenery to match.

What did the people of Brazil think of the Northerners who came to visit them?

They thought that the students coming to visit them would be the best in America, but were soon straightened out on that

point. They expressed a great dislike for the Aggies in the Corps as the Brazilians are greatly opposed to Americans in Vietnam and thought that they would join the military to go fight in South-east Asia. That point was never quite settled.

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United States Olympic effort in excellent financial condition

NEW YORK (AP)—Contributions to the United States Olympic Committee are "rolling in like crazy," according to the USOC's Bob Paul.

"Our funds over the last four years have been rolling in here faster than ever before," Paul declared Tuesday. The USOC set a goal of \$10 million after the 1968 Olympics and "As of two months ago, it looked like we would attain it," Paul said. "Of course, big things can happen between now and September."

Paul said recent statements by Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee charging professionalism among many of the world's top skiers had no effect on the flow of contributions.

"Nobody is concerned about what Brundage says, because we don't have any professionals," Paul declared.

Brundage's statements have had their effect in Canada, however. The Canadian Olympic team is government supported, but the national team, which depends on contributions, is well short of its goal.

"I lay the blame squarely on Avery Brundage's shoulders," said Donald Crawford, fund raising chairman of the Canadian Ski Association. "He has given the image of professionalism to world skiers and it's hurting the entire sport."

Brundage has reportedly prepared a blacklist, said to include about 40 of the world's premier skiers, of skiers whom he considers too commercial. In addition, he has threatened to expel from the Winter Olympics any nation which enters a skier who is on the list.

Crawford said his group is \$80,000 short of its \$200,000 target.

"All the public reads about these days is how much money skiers in Europe are reputed to be making," Paul said. "It's unfair to generalize the situation of a minority onto the whole sport."

"Our Canadian team is 100 per cent amateur and has abided very strictly to the regulations. But that apparently hasn't given us any immunity from the image Brundage and the IOC have created."

American Indians take legal action against professional baseball teams

ATLANTA (AP)—The national coordinator of the new American Indian Movement says the group may file suit against the Atlanta Braves to keep the team from using an Indian as a mascot and symbol.

"I believe within the next four months some action will be taken against Atlanta," said Russell Means, a Sioux.

The symbol of the Braves is a grinning Indian who has a lone feather stuck in his headband.

Means' group has already filed a \$9 million suit against the Cleveland Indians and their mascot symbol, Chief Wahoo.

Means said in an interview that he doesn't like the idea of the Braves using an Indian named Noc-A-Homa as a mascot. The chief actually is 31-year-old Levi Walker Jr., a half Chippewa and half Ottawa.

"I understand that every time a home run is hit he comes out of his teepee and does a dance," said Means, whose information was accurate.

"What if it was the Atlanta Germans and after every home run a German dressed in a military uniform began hitting a

Jew on the head with a baseball bat?" he asked. "Or what if it were the Cleveland Negroes and a black man came trotting out of a shanty in centerfield and did a soft shoe?"

"Well, the Indian is tired of this label that depicts him to the larger segment of American society as something to be laughed at and not taken seriously and therefore not due respect," he added.

Means was surprised to learn that Chief Noc-A-Homa is really an Indian.

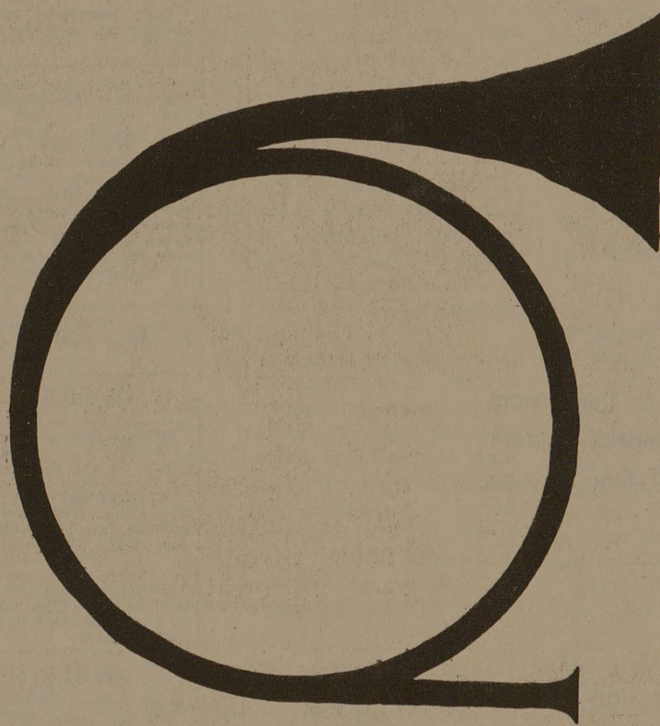
"What kind of Indian is he?" asked Means. Told the chief was a Chippewa, he said:

"It figures. All they used to do was hang around the fort anyway."

The Braves say that Means misunderstands what it is all about.

"It's a point of pride," said a spokesman. "We feel the name exemplifies greatness, strong character, bravery, perseverance and all the characteristics of a winning personality."

"It's a shame for anyone to negate the positive force that Noc-A-Homa has been in Atlanta and the Southeast," he added.



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