

SWC Coach of the Year

Swimming has improved under Fosdick

Since Dennis Fosdick became A&M's swimming coach two years ago, the water sport program has proved by leaps and bounds. The native Californian has a up of outstanding recruits and Coach of the Year in the SWC and to prove it. The Aggies topped off their ten-month season by finishing

a surprising third place in the conference meet, with everyone rising to the occasion for their best times of the year. Another highlight of the school year was a Christmas vacation trip to Brazil for Fosdick and a group of his swimmers for meets, demonstrations and some water polo matches.

But the youthful coach is not satisfied with these accomplishments and has big plans for his program. Losing no one to graduation, he returns only three seniors this year, plus a group of recruits with some five All-Americans among their numbers. "Water polo brought a lot of these kids here," Fosdick said.

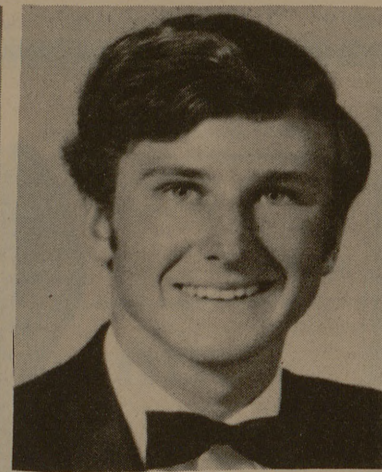
"That and A&M's educational reputation. We're getting a lot of help from Aggie graduates, too." A&M plays water polo as a club sport, but this is a big thing in many of the top high school and junior college swim

programs in the nation. The new swimmers are Steve Moore, Santa Clara, Calif., Mike Vanderhurst, Lynbrook, Calif., Tom Heholt, Grosse Point Woods, Michigan, Nash Dowdle, Midland, Casey Cuttler, New Trier East, Calif., Jim Yates, Santa Clara, Calif., Paul McKinzie, Sunnyville, Calif., and Gordon Brown, Los Altos, Calif.

They will join standout lettermen Steve Prentice, Doug Meaden, Eric Wolff and Lester Hamman, all of whom competed in the national swim meet at West Point last year. Fosdick says that this year's goal is to send six individual entrants and two relay team to nationals.



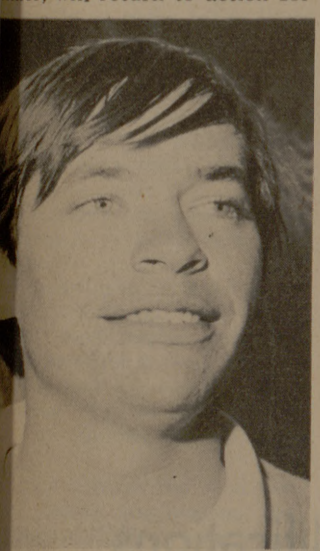
Dennis Fosdick



Steve Moore

Golf squad is rebuilding

The A&M golf team faces somewhat of a rebuilding situation this year after losing two lettermen graduation, but with golf having the winning reputation here, things should look good when competition begins.



Clay Dozier

Steve Veriato, although listed a senior last year and training for the pro golf tour this summer, will return to action for the Aggies this coming season. Veriato was unbeaten in 1970 SWC matches, and he reigned as the 1971 conference individual champion.

Tom Gilbert and Tom Shelton have played out their eligibility, but Coach Henry Ransom always seems to come up with replacements for the talented people who depart each season.

In 1960, Ransom took over the coaching duties at A&M, and immediately guided Aggie golfers to four consecutive Southwest Conference championships. Three years later another was added, and the team took the title again in 1969.

Last season, Texas returned to SWC golf competition, and the likes of Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite did everyone in as the Longhorns took the league crown. A&M placed fourth, and four members of that five-man squad return for action this year.

In addition to Veriato, Tom Johnson, Randy Tickner and Clay Dozier finished 11th, 21st and 24th respectively at the SWC meet. Among the others expected to challenge for places on the team this time around are Wayne

Batten, Paul Dieckert, Bill Schmidt, Ed Pennington, Al Pryor and Charles White.

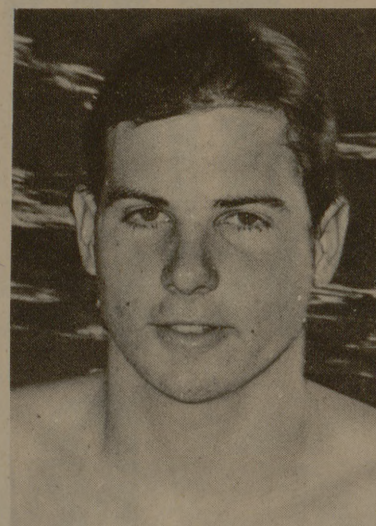
Places on the team are determined by ten rough 18-hole matches. This tough competition brings out the best in the golfers and gets them in condition for intercollegiate play.

Recruit signs with Cards

David Bialis, a 6-0, 185-pound defensive back and baseball catcher, has signed a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals and will not attend A&M.

Bialis was being counted on by Aggie baseball coach Tom Chandler to provide power at the backstop position. Bialis led his Houston Bellaire team to the state finals and was regarded as the top high school hitter in the state.

He had planned to forego spring football training his first year to participate in the entire baseball program.



Steve Prentice



Doug Meaden

Club sports played at A&M

Southwest Conference rules prohibit any athletic department from sponsoring and financing sports not sanctioned by the league, but several other sports are available to A&M students in the form of club sports.

In addition to water polo, which is mentioned in the swimming article, these include rugby, soccer, polo, skeet and trap shooting, wrestling, gymnastics and weight lifting.

Although club members pay dues and earn money to support their activities, A&M has been blessed with an unusual amount of success in club sports. The rugby club won its second consecutive Texas Union championship last spring. The polo team participated in the national championships at Darien, Conn., and the skeet shooting team competed in a national tournament also. The wrestling team won the state championship in 1972.

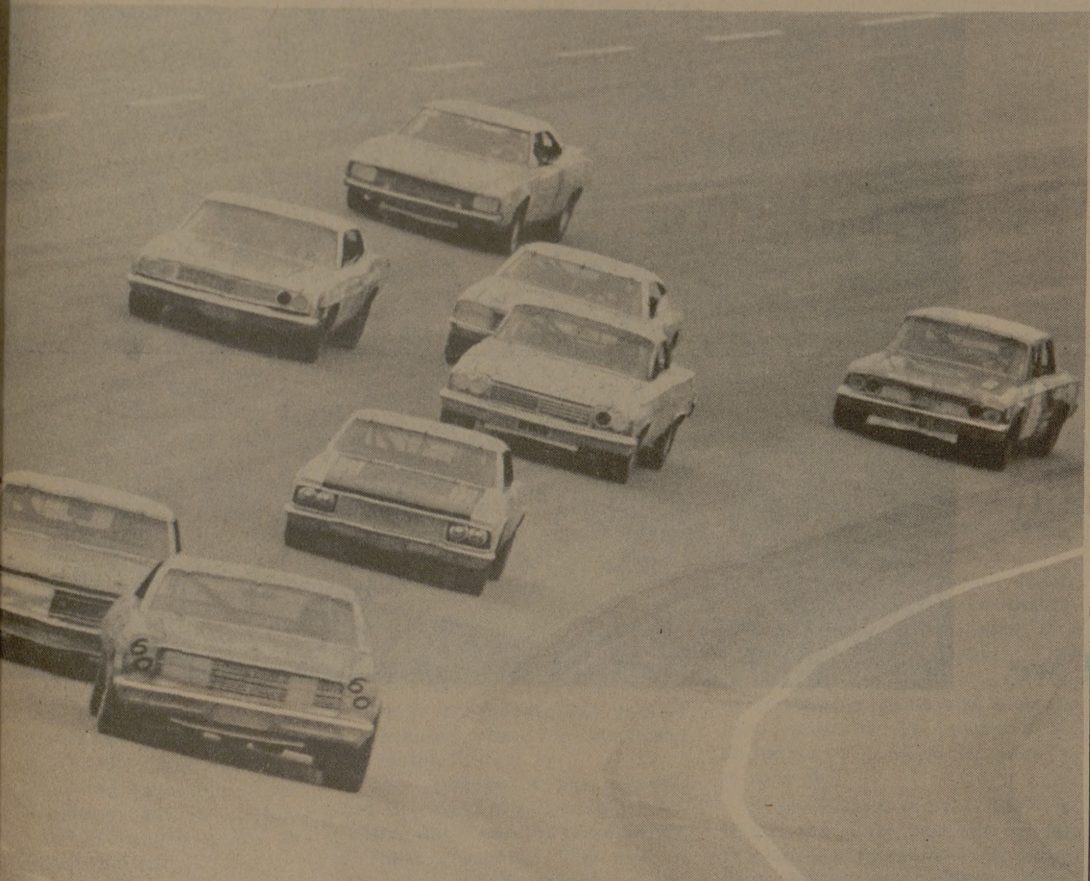
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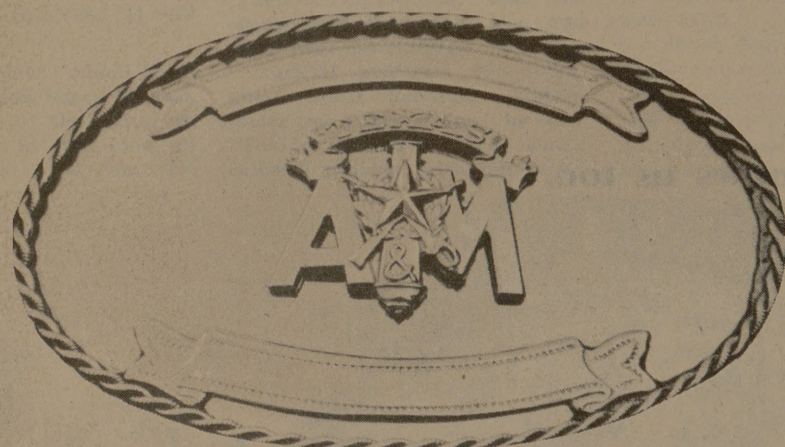
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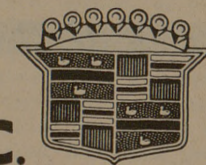
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