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Ag Swimmers Gun For Third In Southwest Conference Meet

By KEVIN COFFEY
Assistant Sports Editor

A&M swimmers will be gunning for a repeat of last year's third place performance in this weekend Southwest Conference swimming championships in Fort Worth.

The meet, which will be held in TCU's new pool, will run today, Friday and Saturday.

SMU, winner of the title every year since 1956, is again the favorite with Texas picked for second.

As for the Aggies, it will be a tight race for the third spot but coach Dennis Fosdick thinks A&M has the edge. "Texas Tech, Houston and Arkansas will really battle us for that third spot," said Fosdick, "but I think we have the inside track. We have been swimming well in practice all week."

A&M has a much better team than last year's but the conference has improved also, according to Fosdick. "Times that won two years ago will be very lucky to get into the consolation round."

A&M's strength lies with Steve Prentice in the 100 and 200 yard backstrokes and the individual medley relay. Prentice has a good chance for high point honors in the three-day event.

Other Aggie bright points include Eric Wolff in the 100 and 200 yard freestyle, Doug Meaden in the 100, 200 and 1650 yard freestyle, Carl Yates in the 100 and 200 yard freestyle, Lester Hamann in the 100 and 200 yard butterfly, medley relay team and the 800 yard free relay team.

Last year four A&M swimmers had times good enough to enter the NCAA finals. This year Fosdick said that number may double.

Diving is the weak spot of the Aggies, said Fosdick. Last year's divers managed only four points in the conference meet. "We just don't have a top, experienced diver," Fosdick explained, "but I think they will do better than last year."

"There is a lot of strategy in figuring out who to swim in what events," said Fosdick. "We out-guessed everybody last year and finished better than anybody expected but they will be looking for us now."

The conference meet consists of 18 events, opposed to the 13 in dual meets. A swimmer may be entered in all events but may only swim in three.

Trials are run for each event with the top six swimmers advancing to the finals and the next six entering the consolation finals.

In order to get ready for the meet, A&M swimmers will shave all the hair from their arms, chest and legs. "It helps get you psyched and gives a better feel of the water," said Fosdick.

"I don't know if we have rested enough," said Fosdick, the 1972 Coach of the Year. "We've been having two workouts a day for seven months now and I hope it pays off."

Other Aggie swimmers making the trip include Mike Hicks, Dav-

id Donnell, Don Wedermann, Ken Bus, Mike Vanderhurst, Doug Adamson, Lee Davis, Mike McLellan, Tom Faulkenberry, Greg Rippey, Duncan Cooper, Les Hamann, Casey Cutler, Larry Schueckler, Dan and Steve Sonnerberg, Steve Moore, Nash Dowdle, Tom Heholt, Charles Puckett and Scott Jones.



Coach Dennis Fosdick

A&M's Steve Prentice Ready For Conference Swim Meet

By MICHAEL BRUTON

Steve Prentice said he is confident about the upcoming Southwest Conference swim meet.

Prentice, a junior, has qualified for the NCAA swim meet in the 100 yard backstroke every season that he has been at A&M. He was an All-American at South times of 5.3 seconds in the 100 yard backstroke, 1:58.7 in the 200 yard backstroke and 2:01.3 in the individual medley.

Prentice also performed on the 400 yard medley relay team which set a school mark of 3:38.3. Other members on that team were Doug Carson, Lester Hamann and Eric Wolff. All but Carson, who graduated, will be performing on the relay in the conference meet. Steve Moore replaces Carson on that team.

Prentice is very modest about his achievements. "I've done pretty good, but a lot of the team's overall output belongs to my teammates."

He said that SMU and Texas will be top contenders for the conference title. "SMU has tremendous depth and Texas has some quality swimmers but we've been looking good in our workouts lately," said Prentice.

So far this season, he has the best time in the 100 yard backstroke of the times reported in

the conference. He also ranks third in the 200 yard backstroke and 200 individual medley. "I Houston High School in the same event. He holds three individual school records at A&M, with think I can win the 100 yard backstroke, but I am not as certain about the other events," Prentice said.

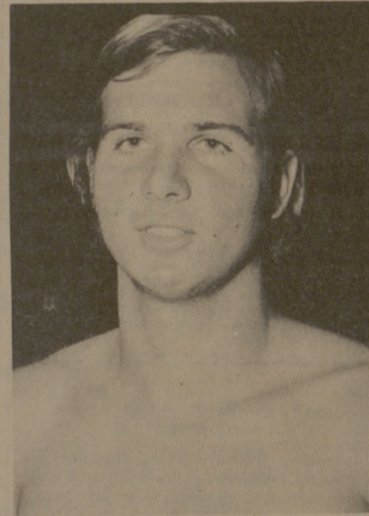
He had many good things to say about his coach, Dennis Fosdick, and teammates concerning the upcoming meet. "Coach Fosdick has always been good about bringing in great swimmers," he said. This is no exception as a lot of freshmen are expected to do well in the meet.

High school All-America Jim Yates will be entered in a couple of freestyle events. Nash Dowdle and Steve Moore will be in the 200 yard individual medley along with Prentice. Larry Schueckler and Mike Vanderhurst are strong entries in the 200 butterfly. Casey Cutler looks good in the distance freestyles and in the sprints will be Ken Bus, Don Wedermann and Tom Heholt.

Prentice said that the Aggie swim team is really up for the meet. "The whole team is ready to get the job done at the conference meet," he said. "Last year we wore buttons that read: 'Let's

get it together,' and this year we're wearing sun visors that read 'Texas A&M Aquatics.' Little things like that really gets us ready."

He said that things could get pretty close in some of his events.



Steve Prentice

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