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Ags travel to Arkansas for SWC swim meet

By **TED BORISKIE**
 A&M will be shooting for third in the Southwest Conference Swimming Championships starting today in Fayetteville, Ark.

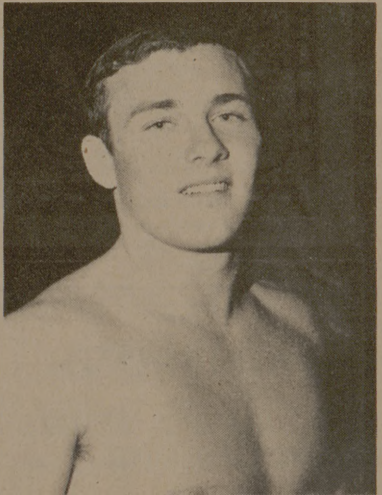
Defending champion SMU is the odds-on favorite to win the title for the 18th straight year while Texas is a solid second place pick. The Aggies are slightly favored over Arkansas and Houston to show.

Coach Dennis Fosdick, SWC Coach of the Year in 1972, has set a goal of 300 points, about 75 points above last year's total, for the squad to reach.

"We're looking for third but we've got a good fight on our hands," he said. "If we can hit 300, we'll get third."

Fosdick is not overly concerned that other teams have been racking up better times than the Aggies.

"Other teams tend to underestimate us," he said, "but we've always recorded our best time at this time of the year. We've always taken big drops at the conference meet."



Nash Dowdle

The Aggies undergo strenuous and grueling training for over five months and then taper off for a couple of weeks before the SWC meet to be fresh for the championships.

"The guys are feeling real good," said Fosdick. "The taper seems to be working well but you never can really tell about tapering. That's the scary part about all this."

"We may not have as much talent as last year but we've got a much better attitude and we've worked a whole lot harder."

Diving was a weak spot for A&M last year but Fosdick expects that to be improved with the addition of Duncan Cooper to go along with returnee Tom Faulkenberry.

A&M's premier backstroke, Steve Prentice, does not underestimate the importance of this meet.

"It doesn't matter who you beat or who beats you during all the dual meets," he said. "The only thing that counts is how you do in conference."

Also on the 19-man traveling squad will be Dan Sonnenberg, Doug Meaden, Scott Jones, Larry Schueckler, Doug Adamson, Jim Yates, Steve Moore, Nash Dowdle, David Donnell, Mike Vanderhurst, Don Wedermann, Steve Kuhn, Bob Franknecht, Don Reeser, Bill Cunningham and Tim Hale.

An event-by-event analysis of Aggie hopes in the meet is as follows:

500-yard freestyle—Meadon has the squad's best time with a 4:55 followed by Yates' 4:56. Also swimming for the Aggies will be Adamson (5:10), Kuhn (5:06) and Hale (5:13). SMU's Paul Hove has the leading conference time with 4:40.7.

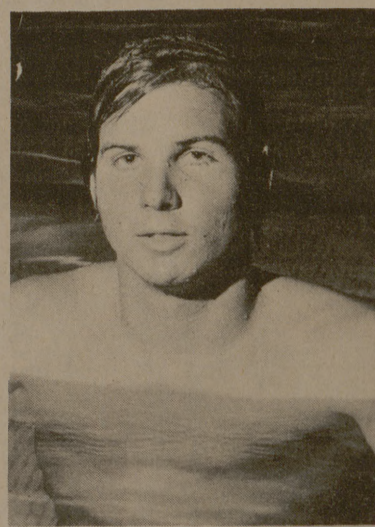
200-yard individual medley — Prentice has the fourth best time in the conference with a 2:00.4. Schueckler (2:03.5), Moore (2:01.6), Dowdle (2:05), Franknecht (2:18) and Reeser (2:07) will also go the distance. SMU's Tye Hochstrasser has 1:56.9 to pace the SWC.

50-yard freestyle—Jones (22.4) is the top Aggie in this highly competitive sprint. Sonnenberg (23.4) Wederman (23.0), Reeser (23.0) and Cunningham (22.6) will also carry A&M hopes into the event. Arkansas' Doug Willness has the top SWC time with 21.2.

400-yard medley relay — A&M has the best time in the conference with a 3:39.6 behind Texas' 3:33.1 and SMU's 3:37.8.

400-yard individual medley — Schueckler (4:24) is the lone Aggie entry in this event with defending champion Ed Sinnott of SMU favored to repeat.

200-yard freestyle — Meadon's 1:47.3 is one of the top times in the conference with Yates' 1:48.2 not far behind. Adamson (1:56.8), Donnell (1:54), Kuhn (1:51.1), Cunningham (1:50.1) and Hale (1:52.4) will also swim for the Aggies. Texas' Dick Worrell's 1:42.1 is over a 1.5 seconds faster



Steve Prentice

than the conference record set last year by John Thorburn of SMU, who is also entered.

100-yard butterfly — Dowdle's 53.6 is the best time for the Aggies with Scott Jones (55.5), Vanderhurst (54.8) Wederman (55.3) and Hale (56.8) also swimming in what should be a wide open race.

100-yard backstroke — Prentice is the returning SWC champion and the favorite to repeat. His 53.2 betters the conference mark by a tenth of a second and Sonnenberg (58.5), Jones (58.0), Donnell (58.9) and Reeser (54.8) will help push him along.

100-yard breaststroke — (1:03) and Franknecht (1:07) are the only Aggie entries in what may be one of the squad's weaker events.

800-yard freestyle relay—A&M is a solid third place pick with a 7:16 behind SMU and Texas.

1650-yard freestyle—Kuhn and Adamson are the only entries in probably A&M's weakest event. This race should be completely dominated by SMU and Texas.

100-yard freestyle — Meadon's 48.7 is one of the top times in the conference in "the 440-yard dash of swimming." Sonnenberg (50.3), Jones (49.3), Yates (49.1), Wederman (51.3), Cunningham (48.8) and Hale (50.6) could also figure in the final outcome.

200-yard backstroke — Prentice has the third best time in the conference with 1:58.4. Sonnenberg (2:10), Moore (2:06), Donnell (2:08) and Reeser (2:04) round out the Aggie entries. SMU's Hove leads the SWC with a time of 1:55.7.

200-yard breaststroke — Moore (2:18.3) and Franknecht (2:28) are the only Aggie entries to challenge league-leading Bob Racher of Texas (2:09.7).

200-yard butterfly — Dowdle (2:03) could pick up points for A&M but will be hard pressed to beat out Texas' Ron Tyre (1:53.7) for first. Also trying will be Schueckler (2:05), Vanderhurst (2:08) and Hale (2:15).

400-yard freestyle relay—A&M is again a solid third behind SMU (3:10.8) and Texas (3:11.3).

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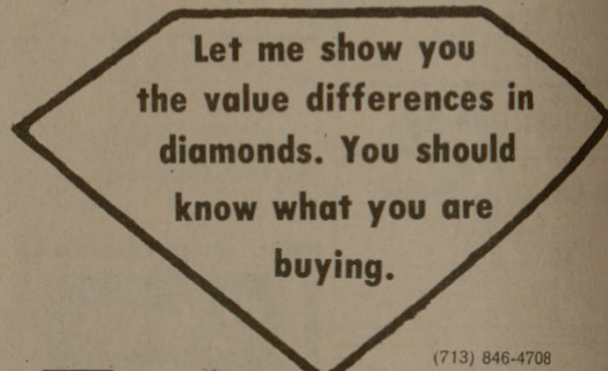
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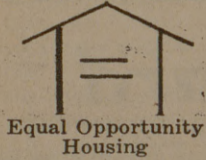
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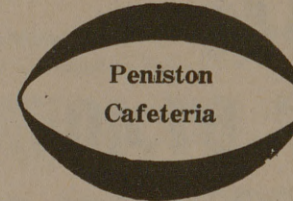
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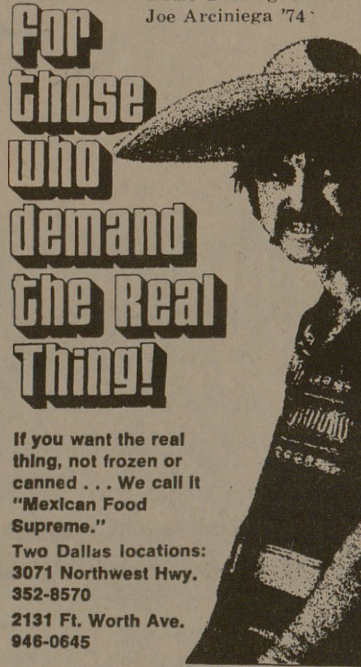
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