

SW Missouri swims at Downs

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

Southwest Missouri will visit the P. L. Downs Natatorium Friday to tread water against the snake-bitten Texas A&M swim team of Coach Dennis Fosdick.

Fosdick doesn't know too much about the Missouri team and says "we will be going into the meet blind. We can't go into it lightly. They can't be too bad to travel this far." Southwest will face TCU Thursday night before coming to College Station and Fosdick will call Fort Worth to learn something about the team.

Saturday the Aggies fly to Lubbock to swim against Texas Tech. Tech has the best team they've ever had. They've set all kinds of school records. They beat Houston (UH recently defeated the Ags) and gave SMU a good meet," said Fos-

dick. He feels A&M's breaststrokes, backstrokes and individual medley team should do well. His divers are doing a good job, says Fosdick, despite not having a coach. "They'll (Tech) have to swim their best people. They won't be able to play around with us."

Fosdick has had to experiment in what events to enter his swimmers due to the loss of several of his top players because of ineligibility. He says his people are very tired but have been working hard. Yesterday "was the first time in about four years I've cut a practice short." The team was "like a bunch of zombies out there." The attitude of the team has taken a turn for the better, according to Fosdick. "The kids know they can't depend on the big names. We'll just have to be a no-name group."

Before his current troubles took place, Fosdick recalls the scheduled trip to Brazil over the holidays that had to be cancelled due to a meningitis epidemic. "If I'd known what was going to happen later, I'd have taken a vacation."

Fosdick is in the process of doing some preliminary recruiting work.

The signing date for swimmers is in April. He is sending letters and calling prospects as far away as Califor-



DENNIS FOSDICK

nia, Indiana, Georgia and New York. "We'll take them from anywhere as long as they have the times." One problem Fosdick is having in recruiting is that most of the prospects are not through swimming until after the signing date and their coaches frown upon their best swimmers gone to visit college campuses.

The Aggie coach is mostly looking at the high school athletes but junior college transfers have benefited the team in the past. Fosdick says only California has any quality

junior college swimmers. A good many of his recruits come to A&M wanting to play water polo. The Aggie water polo team has made a trip to California for the past three years to compete with West coast teams. The publicity received from these excursions has helped in recruiting says Fosdick.

The meet with Southwest Missouri is the last one for the Aggies at home. After facing the Red Raiders, they then travel to Houston to meet the Owls of Rice.

Aggie recruiting signs 24 hopefuls

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer

Some say, championship football teams are won by what kind of material you can recruit. If this is the case Head Coach Emory Bellard and his coaching staff had another good year.

"I think we had a good signing day," Bellard said. A&M had a great reception wherever they went to recruit and they signed a big percentage of the ones they wanted. The ones they didn't sign went out of state, Bellard said. A list of the signees is at the end of the article but a summary of some of the top signees follows:

MARK THURMOND— A quarterback from Spring Branch with fine credentials. Even though Thurmond is only 5'11" he completed 96 of 179 passes last year for 1,363 yards and eight touchdowns. He led District 16-4A in scoring with 70 points including 11 touchdowns.

ADGER ARMSTRONG— A running back out of Jersey Village who averaged seven yards a carry. The 6'1" 195 lb. Armstrong rushed for 1,057 yards, making it two straight years over the magic mark of 1,000. Besides being able to carry the ball he caught 14 passes for 201 yards and led 16-4A in punt returns with 18 for 296 yards.

EDDIE HARDIN— One of the most highly recruited players in the Houston School District area. Hardin helped lead Madison to its first playoff berth ever. He rushed for 794 yards on 152 carries for a 5.2 average.

GARY YOUNG— A three-year running back and twice All-District in 24-4A. The 6'0" 198 lb. Young rushed 288 times for 1,560 yards (5.4 avg.) and scored 21 touchdowns. Hit the 100-yard mark in nine of his 10 games and was over 100 in 18 of his last 20 games.

CODY RIESEN— A 6'6" 240 lb. tackle from Cypress-Fairbanks who was hampered by injuries much of the year. He still made second-team all-district after making first team a year ago. He was still one of the top line prospects in the state.

RONNIE SMITH— A 6'4" 240 lb. tackle who was highly sought after. The Baytown Sterling product started 40 straight games and was all-district unanimously twice. Was all-greater Houston as a junior and senior. He was also picked on five pre-season All-America teams. Has good agility and leadership qualities.

JOHNNIE DONAHUE— The 6'6" 240 lb. guard was another of the top linemen in the country. The Houston Yates player was all-district in 17-4A and All-HISD.

But A&M was not the only team that did well on signing day in the Southwest Conference. "Everyone signed some good athletes," Bellard said. "Baylor did a good job," added Melvin Robertson, assistant head football coach. And as for the product of football players in the state Bellard said, "It's a fine group of football players."

Complete list of Aggie signees:

John Baber	back	6-2	180	Hobbs, N. M.
Mark Thurmond	quarterback	5-10	165	Spring Branch
Adger Armstrong	back	6-0	200	Houston (Jersey Village)
Roderick Reed	linebacker	6-2	225	Aldine Carter
Steve Flynn	linebacker	6-2	195	Spring Branch (Memorial)
Mark Burger	linebacker	6-4	240	Spring Branch (Westchester)
Cody Bisten	linebacker	6-6	225	Houston (Cypress-Fairbanks)
George Woodard	back	6-2	230	Van Vleck
Gary Young	back	6-1	198	Dickinson
Eddie Hardin	back	6-4	225	Houston (Madison)
Larry Johnson	defensive back	6-2	180	Houston (Sterling)
Johnnie Donahue	linebacker	6-6	240	Houston (Yates)
Ronnie Smith	linebacker	6-4	250	Baytown (Sterling)
Curtis Jennings	linebacker	6-5	225	Baytown
Stacy Briehlan	linebacker	6-5	220	San Marcos
Lou Caviello	linebacker	6-3	235	Dunmore
Garry Mulligan	linebacker	6-1	250	Lampasas
Darrell Smith	back	5-10	160	Fort Worth (Wyatt)
Tony Franklin	back	5-10	165	Fort Worth (Arlington Heights)
Chet Chandler	back	6-1	205	Shreveport (Jesus)
Chuck Carr	back	6-5	190	Richardson (Berker)
Carl Grulich	back	6-0	170	Richardson (Pearce)
Eddie Heath	linebacker	6-5	215	Richardson (Pearce)

Ag fems beat UH; fifth win

HOUSTON — Behind the 18 points of freshman Karen Aulenbacher the Texas A&M women's basketball team stretched their season record to five wins and three losses with a 95-66 victory over the University of Houston Cougars here last night.

Coach Kay Don said that her team's performance was one of their best of the season. "I thought we played better in the Lamar Tournament but tonight was definitely our second best game."

"We played a little sluggish in the first half," said Don, "but I thought we opened up in the second half and really played good ball." The Aggies led at half, 43-36.

Sally Morisse was slightly injured in the game when she was poked in the eye by a Cougar defender while trying to get off a jump shot. The injury is not believed to be serious.

Eight other Aggies got into the scoring act along with Aulenbacher. Sally Morisse was second high point with 16, followed by Cissy Auclair, with 10, and Laura Holmes with nine. Cindy Horton, Dana Callaway and Lucy Neiman each had eight points and Ruth Whiteley rounded out the scoring with five.

The next action for the women's cage team is Friday when they travel to Waco to participate in the Baylor Tournament. The next home game for the Aggies is Tuesday, February 11. That game is the first of a double header with Baylor. The women's game starts at 5:15 followed by the men's contest at 7:30.

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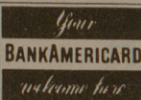
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