

Sports

Swimmer is out for year with a broken wrist

By Glen Johnson

Leland reported to Dr. Henry D. Lagan, the athletic doctor, to have his wrist checked during the swimming season following his injury. X-rays taken at the time did not indicate a break in the bone; however, Lagan advised Leland to return if the pain got worse.

"It didn't really bother me until water polo season," Leland said. Then it hurt so bad I knew I had to do something so I decided to get it fixed.

He waited until the end of water polo season so he could finish playing. X-rays taken then clearly showed a break, Leland said.

Leland went to Houston during the following summer to have corrective surgery done. There, doctors performed a bone graft in his wrist and set a pin in the graft.

"I decided to have a fiberglass cast put on so I could still workout," Leland said.

Leland is one of the most valuable swimmers on the men's team and an asset to the men's water polo team, Fosdick said. "He's our only world-class swimmer. He can swim any event and win for us except backstroke, and he can probably win that," he said.

"In water polo, he is one of our best outside shooters," Fosdick said. "But I know his wrist must have hurt him a lot. It affected his shooting because throwing a water polo ball puts a strain on the wrist."

Leland holds A&M records in the 100- and 200-yard breast stroke, and the 200-yard individual medley. He also holds the record in the 400- and 800-yard relays. His partners in the

400-yard relay were Svante Rasmuson, Don Reeser and Jim Yates. Leland swam with Rasmuson, Yates and Roger Lien to set the record in the 800-yard relay.

Although Leland cannot compete, he does workout with the other swimmers every day.

"I can't use my hands much because the force of the water would push my hand back and possibly break the bone again," Leland said. "I'm mainly trying to build up my legs and develop my breast stroke kick," he said.

He also runs and lifts weights to keep in shape.

"The coaches don't tell me what

kinds of workouts to do," Leland said. "They just give me suggestions."

He now swims about 5,000 yards a day compared to the 7,000 yards of the other swimmers in his class. He swims with a float which is used in practicing kicking.

"Bob is not the kind of guy that you have to force to practice," Fosdick said. "He'll get out there and do it himself."

The other swimmers are working harder to fill Leland's place, Fosdick said. They have to work harder to make up for the loss, he said.

Leland's absence from competition is a disappointment to the

seniors he swims with, Fosdick said. But it is encouraging to the guys he will swim with next year.

Presently, Fosdick does not have the depth in his team to make up for Leland's absence from competition. His hope lies in a transfer student named J.B. Walters.

Walters is a junior majoring in industrial food technology. He transferred to A&M from South Seattle Junior College in Washington, and he is also a world-class swimmer.

He is good in the breast stroke, Fosdick said. But he doesn't have the versatility that Leland has.

Walters will not be eligible to compete until his transfer is com-

pleted. The only thing stopping this action is the receipt of his transcripts by A&M from the junior college. It should be here in the near future, Fosdick said.

In compliance with Southwest Conference rules pertaining to swimming, A&M is allowed only 18 swimmers who can compete in a swim meet. This has been a handicap in the training of new swimmers.

"We just haven't had the space to put our freshmen in competition and see what they can do," Fosdick said. Only a few of his promising swimmers ever get a chance to prove themselves.

Aggies stop Frogs 74-67

Don't let any of the big boys of the Southwest Conference (SWC) know it, but the Texas Aggies are tied for third with Texas Tech.

Last night the Aggies achieved a lofty position by defeating the CU Horned Frogs 74-67. Strong second half play by Joey Robinson and Willie Foreman helped halt a CU surge.

It's the character of this team that was able to stop TCU from coming back," coach Shelby Metcalf said. "A lot of teams would have lost their poise when TCU made that surge at the end."

The Horned Frogs were down by 13-1 zone trap defense. The defense seemed to confuse the Aggies and TCU cut the lead to three with 10 minutes left in the game.

Foreman and Robinson then went to work. Each man had 10 points in the second half, with many of those buckets coming at crucial moments in the game.

This is Joey's second good game in a row," Metcalf said. "He and Willie really made the difference in the second half."

The leading scorer for the Aggies was Steve Jones with 20 points. Jones, the fourth leading scorer in the conference, also collected six rebounds for the game.

Wally Swanson led the team in rebounds with 11. Swanson is the

second leading rebounder in the conference behind Texas Tech's Mike Russel. Wally also scored 10 points for the evening.

The Aggies have a week off before entertaining the Baylor Bears next Tuesday night. A&M is currently a game and one-half out of second place. The Ags have won three in a row, and are looking to finish in the top five so they can host the first round in the play-offs.

"Right now we're battling it out with Texas Tech, Texas, Baylor and SMU," Metcalf said. "It's going to be a battle right down to the wire."



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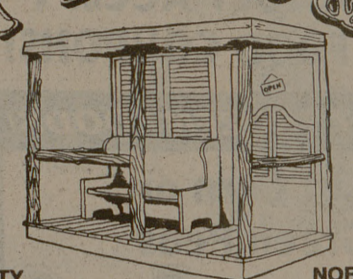
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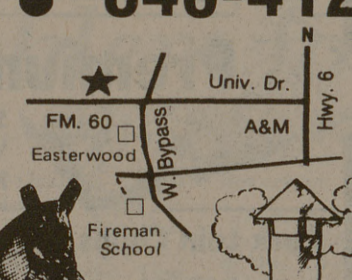

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