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By Glen Johnson
Injuries seem to be an important factor in the outcome of the men's swimming team at Texas A&M University this season. Although

the injuries are few, they have befallen some of the best members of the team.

First, junior Bob Leland was put out of action with a broken wrist. Steve Spicer, a promising new water polo player, has been dormant with persistent ear infections.

Bill Sammons, the team's leading springboard diver, lost valuable points in the University of Texas meet due to a pulled muscle in his back.

Now, sophomore Roger Lien, the team's top long distance freestyle swimmer, is indefinitely out of competition with traumatic arthritis in his left elbow.

Lien holds A&M records in the 1,650-, 1,000- and 500-yard freestyle.

"Traumatic arthritis is not what most people think," said Dr. H. D. Lagan, the athletic physician. In Roger's case it was caused by overuse of the arm and resulted from a type of trauma or strain. It is an inflammation caused by an injury of some kind, Lagan said.

"We don't know how long he'll be out," head coach Dennis Fosdick said Friday. "We were hoping he would be alright by this weekend, but he isn't."

"Now we just hope that he'll be

able to compete in the conference play-offs," Fosdick said.

Lien's elbow started hurting on Feb. 1, after workouts at which he apparently strained the joint in an arm exercise known as pulling, he said. He decided to get a check-up after the motion in his arm became limited.

Lien does not complain of much pain, however, his arm is wrapped and he is taking medication along with whirlpool and heat treatments.

He is not practicing now so his elbow stays rested.

"I hope to be back by next weekend," Lien said. "I'm going to try to swim anyway, even though it might hurt it worse."

According to Dr. Lagan, if Lien swims now, it will just keep the elbow aggravated. The very activity that caused the injury would proba-

bly cause a perpetuating injury, he said.

Lien's absence from competition could hurt the team's status in the conference, because he is the only outstanding freestyle swimmer on the team, Fosdick said.

Bruce Hoak, also a sophomore, is progressing with improved technique in the long-distance freestyle, but he still lacks experience in competing with Lien.

Hoak did well in the meet against the University of Houston, bringing a third in the 1,000-yard freestyle, however, a first place finish was needed badly.

"We really have no hope of winning the conference with our men out," Fosdick said. "Lien has won the distance races but if he can't swim in the meet, then our boat is sunk."

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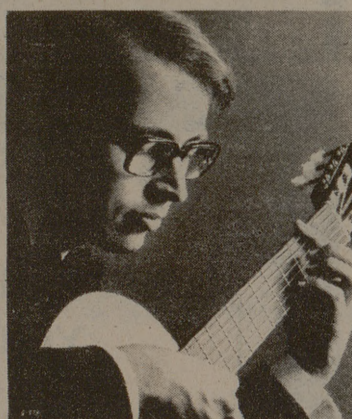
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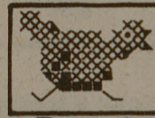
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