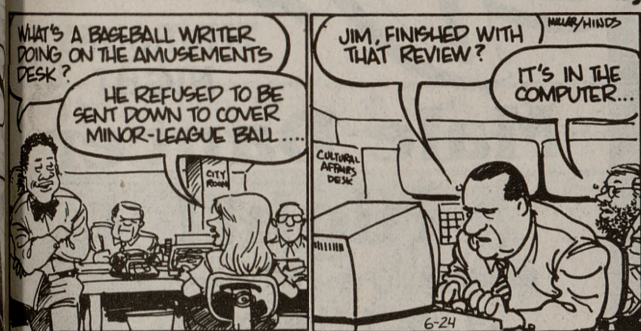


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Nash

(continued from page 11)

hundreds of a second while swimming his best time ever in the event.

"That was when I finally figured it out," Nash said. "I coach a lot on the power of the mind, and my claim to fame was always when I would get ready for races. Everyone else would always get nervous for three weeks, and I was real loose."

"Right before the meet, I could go over to the side, put my towel over my head and if I had 10 minutes, I was OK. If I was really psyched up — and this is when I started getting the name 'Psycho' — I would get up on the blocks with my big red Indiana towel on my shoulders. When everybody else was sitting back relaxing, I'd be there staring at the lane."

Nash said his swimming experiences, both the positive and negative ones, will assist him throughout his coaching career. "I think it's going to help me in the long run," he said. "I never made it to the Olympics and that still grates. I think if I can help as many folks as I possibly can to get to the Games, that's going to be very satisfying to me."

Before he accepted the assistant coaching position at Indiana, Nash said, Counselman provided him with some much-needed inspiration.

"Doc pulled me aside and said: 'Mel, if you go into coaching, you'll be a better coach than you were an athlete.'"

"Everybody kept telling me not to go into coaching, because you don't make too much money as a coach," Nash said. "Most coaches in swimming are age-group coaches, they're there for \$10,000 a year and they're living

in a tiny little apartment with eight roommates.

"All my life, I wanted to coach, partly because of my father and the experiences I saw him have. He was not a coach as a profession, but he did it privately and he enjoyed it so much."

Nash said when he started coaching, he went in with the objective of being not a mediocre coach, but one of the best in the business. Although he describes his coaching career as having been rough at first, Nash said his second job began pushing him upward and onward.

When he took over the head coaching job at UT-Arlington in 1978, Nash said, two athletes on the team were older than he. To add to the situation, Nash had the distinction of being the youngest head swimming coach ever hired in the NCAA.

"It was really rough," he said. "I'm very conservative, and I don't believe in smoking dope. When I came into college, I was flabbergasted. Marijuana was running rampant and I had to battle it. I had to battle it at Arlington and I had to battle it here."

"I'm realistic enough to say that I know that at some point or another, a lot of folks are going to play around with dope. It's just something of value that I've (fought) on my team and I want to stick by it. We did a lot of weeding out, to use a poor pun."

"At Arlington," Nash said, "it didn't work because I was so naive that I thought if I told them not to do anything wrong, they wouldn't. Then I figured out that you can only change the program by dropping the people that won't change, changing the people you can and bringing in the new people that already

have your values.

"So that's what we've been doing at A&M and I think that we've changed the personality of the team a lot. When I came in, I had to clean up a rat's nest. We dropped some and we brought in some others, and I had to use some rather bizarre methods."

As for the Aggies' outlook for the near future, Nash said the program still continues to progress.

"We've got a good shot at the Top 20 next year," he said. "Everything would have to go absolutely perfect for that to click. It'll be a goal."

"It's the recruiting that's tough, because you need two solid people in each stroke, so that's eight off the bat. Then you need an ultra-swimmer and an ultra-distance man, too. You need 12 people to take you to the Top 20, but you can't get all 12 in one year. You can't bring in three recruits and revolutionize a team."

Nash says it's easy to pinpoint his top objective as the Aggies' coach.

"My No. 1 goal in coaching is to make the team feel close ... and to care about each other where you live and breathe with the people on the team. If you get up on the blocks and you see 18 people who are just going to live and die with you, you're going to feel good."

And, Nash said, he has another personal goal for his coaching career.

"I want to retire here," he said. "Texas A&M is not a stepping-stone for me. As long as I stay in coaching, this is where I'd like to be."

No suspense yet during normally exciting Wimby

United Press International
WIMBLEDON, England — In a moment of unguarded frustration, a BBC commentator termed this year's Wimbledon tennis championships "catastrophic."

Perhaps a better word would be "dull."

John McEnroe has zipped through two matches without a single tantrum, and also without losing a set. Chris Evert-Lloyd is the only seeded women's singles player even to appear.

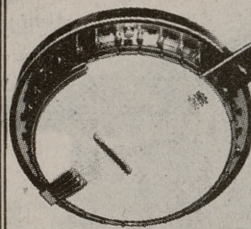
The only real tension in three days of sporadic play was Virginia Wade's 15-13 tie-break triumph over fellow Briton Joanne Durie. In the men's singles, only seven matches have gone to five sets. Crowd-tinging tennis has been as rare as real crowds.

Brian Teacher, the American 11th seed, was scheduled to play Israel's Shlomo Glickstein before rain came Monday. And again Tuesday. And again Wednesday. They may actually get to a court now.

Top-seeded Martina Navratilova and 14 more of the world's top women players haven't been seen at all — few of them even as spectators. All 16 women's seeds drew first-round byes — defending champion Evert played and won a second-round match as a bow to tradition — and the weather left many first-round matches still to be played.

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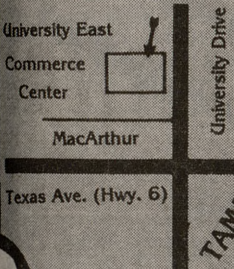
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United Press International
An animal that typically weighs about two tons but can gallop over 50 miles an hour still exists. It is the great Indian rhinoceros. This vegetarian be-

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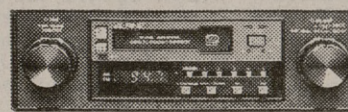
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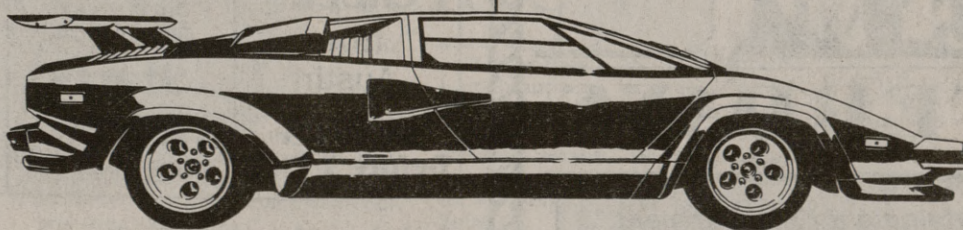
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