

Men swimmers to host Texas

by Tracey Taylor
Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M men's swimming team has been warming up this week to meet the University of Texas Longhorns, who were ranked first nationally in the pre-season polls.

And although Texas is a disappointing 1-2 in dual meets this season, its competition has been pretty tough. The Horns beat Florida 68-45 but lost two close duals to Auburn and Stanford by identical scores of 58-55.

Many might say the Aggies can only hope to beat the Longhorns, but the swimmers are optimistic.

"Naturally, they're (the Longhorns) favored," coach Mel Nash said. "But we're looking for some real nice races."

And look he should. While on a team-to-team basis, the University of Texas may outmatch the Aggies, but head-to-head, the outcomes may be different.

Consider the 100-yard butterfly. William Paulis, the world record holder for the 100-yard butterfly, competes for UT, as does Chris Rives, another nationally-ranked butterflyer. But the Aggies have a few 'flyers' of their own.

According to Nash, freshman Chris O'Neil, A&M's top butterflyer, has times faster than both of these men. Nash wants junior John Heldenfels to give them a race as well.

The Aggies are also counting on their own na-

tionally-ranked distance swimmer, Rick Walker. Walker has done consistently well this season, and the Aggies will need a good meet from him to compete.

The Longhorns are also led by Rick Caray, who swims the 200-yard butterfly and the 200-yard backstroke. Caray posted the fastest time in the nation in the 200-yard butterfly Sunday against Stanford. Diver Matt Scoggin also performed well against Stanford, sweeping both the one and three-meter competition.

Despite the odds, Nash said that the team did nothing special to prepare for the Longhorns.

"We've been practicing just like we were going to swim against anyone in the country," he said. "We're looking for some good individual swims."

The men's team record is 7-3, and the losses have been to Indiana, Southern Illinois and SMU, all top 20 teams.

The meet is scheduled to be televised on cable by the Houston Sports Entertainment Channel and will begin at 7 p.m. tonight in Downs Natatorium.

Next Saturday the Aggies swim against the University of Houston — one of those Top 20 teams they hope to surpass.

The women's swim team is off this weekend, but they have a busy schedule next week. On Friday the women, currently 4-3 on the season, will swim against the University of Texas, and on Saturday they too will go against the University of Houston.

Mackovic hired as KC head coach

Dallas assistant is new Chiefs' boss

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — First the city of Dallas gave Kansas City a professional football team and now it has given that football team its new head coach.

The Kansas City Chiefs, who as the Dallas Texans of the old American Football League were run out of town by the National Football League Cowboys back in 1963, dipped into the coaching staff of Tom Landry Thursday to hire John Mackovic as the fifth head coach in franchise history.

Mackovic, 39, had served the past two seasons as quarterback coach of the Cowboys and was given a five-year contract by the Chiefs as the replacement for Marv Levy, who was fired two days after the completion of the 1982 regular season following a 3-6 finish by the Chiefs.

Levy had coached Kansas City for five seasons without delivering a playoff berth. The Chiefs have now gone 11 consecutive seasons without making

the playoffs — the longest drought of any AFC team and the second longest in the NFL behind the New Orleans Saints, who have never played a post-season game in their 16-year existence.

"The Chiefs have had a great reputation, both in the old AFL and in the early years after the merger, as being one of the outstanding teams," said Mackovic in a conference call from Hawaii where he and the Dallas staff were preparing the NFC team for Sunday's Pro Bowl. "Their overall history and tradition helped me to feel that it could be done again and should be done again."

The Chiefs announced the day they dismissed Levy that their next coach would have to be offensive-minded — someone who could devise a passing attack that could make Kansas City as competitive on offense as it has been on defense.

The Chiefs ranked fourth in

the AFC in defense last season and sent three defenders to the Pro Bowl (Gary Barbaro, Gary Green and Art Still) while their offense ranked 25th in the 28-team NFL in yardage and 27th in scoring.

The Chiefs felt Mackovic, who developed a passing attack from scratch at Wake Forest and spent the last two seasons serving as the caretaker of the Dallas passing game, could answer their needs.

Mackovic posted a 1-10 record in his first season at Wake Forest in 1978, but was named the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coach of the Year in 1979 when his Demon Deacons rode the passing of Jay Venuto to an 8-3 record and a Tangerine Bowl berth.

Venuto threw for 2,400 yards that season and Wake Forest had two of the nation's top 15 receivers in Wayne Baumgardner (55 catches, 1,000 yards) and Albert Kirby (48 catches). Ven-

uto passed for 2,600 yards the following year and Kenny Duckett ranked among the national leaders in receiving with 50 catches, but the Demon Deacons were able to manage only a 5-6 record.

Mackovic moved from his alma mater to Dallas in 1981 and the Cowboys went on to rank second in the NFC in passing behind the eventual Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers. The Cowboys slipped to No. 6 in the NFC in passing in 1982 but scored the most points of any team in the conference with the overwhelming majority of those — 16 touchdowns worth — coming through the air.

In two seasons under the direction of Mackovic, Dallas quarterback Danny White completed 59 percent of his passes for 5,177 yards and 38 touchdowns.

"John Mackovic is the man we wanted and the man we got," Chiefs' President Jack Steadman said. "As the quarterback coach

of the Dallas Cowboys, John has had the benefit of working for and learning from one of the NFL's most successful coaches and organizations.

"He'll bring good ideas from the Dallas Cowboys. He'll bring a lot of positives to our organization. He's amazingly competent and confident for his age. He's the right guy for our future — beginning now."

Mackovic had also served on the collegiate level as an assistant coach at Army, San Jose State, Arizona and Purdue and becomes the third offensive assistant to leave the Cowboys for an NFL head coaching position in the last three years. Dan Reeves went to Denver in 1981 and Mike Ditka to Chicago in 1982.

"I enjoy being a head coach," Mackovic said, "and I felt this was the best opportunity for me. I feel my two years with the Cowboys gave me the proper foundation for becoming a head coach in this league."

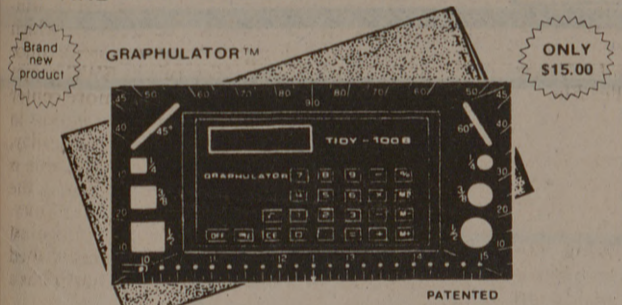


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