

# Swimmers ranked No. 15

By BARBARA BROWN  
Reporter

The Texas A&M men's swimming jumped into the Top 20 this week.

"It's kind of odd to jump into the rankings by getting beat," Coach Mel Nash said, "but that's kind of what happened."

Earlier this month, the Aggies

swam in a meet against No. 7 Auburn University, and lost by a small margin.

Auburn went on to compete against No. 2 Texas the next day, and beat them by the same margin that the beat the Aggies.

Nash says, "That, combined with the fact that some of the times that we have done are nationally ranked gave us national recognition. This is the first time

in mid-season that we have been ranked."

The ranking which is done by the College Swimming Coaches Association is an honor for the team rather than a few individual swimmers.

When the A&M hosts Texas Tech University and Rice University this weekend, the Aggies will have an edge — team unity, says head coach Mel Nash.

The teams meet Texas Tech at 3 p.m. Friday and Rice at 2 p.m. Saturday in P.L. Downs Natatorium in the last competitions at home for this season.

"The oneness — the solidarity of purpose that we have here — is probably worth 30 or 40 points on the conference level," Nash says.

For junior Melanie Schmauch, who swam for Texas Tech her freshman year, this unity convinced her to transfer to Texas A&M.

"I had seen the Texas A&M girls at the meets and I was jealous of the unity they had as a team," says Schmauch who is nationally ranked in the 50-yard freestyle. "It's unbelievable how the constant encouragement and support from other team members during practices as well as meets can make you want to swim faster."

"When you have the whole men's team lining the poolside in the middle of the set yelling at you, it's really a thrill."

Describing the Texas A&M swimming program as "unique," assistant coach Tracy Johnston says most schools have totally separate programs for the men and women.

"We feel the swimmers benefit and work harder with a combined program," says Johnston, a former Texas A&M Outstanding Female Senior Athlete.

Debbie Scheider, a junior on the nationally ranked 200-yard freestyle relay, says the combined team helped the women recover from the 1982-83 season, which was plagued with injuries and faltering momentum, and start this season with renewed motivation. The women's dual meet record has improved from 4-8 in 1982-83 to 5-1 so far this season.

"Our team is so close, it's like having a family of 40 people," Scheider says. "It has really made a difference in our motivation."

Nash says the team swims around 10,000 to 14,000 yards every day — or about 35 miles a week. The practices are concentrated on improvement of endurance, technique, style and speed.

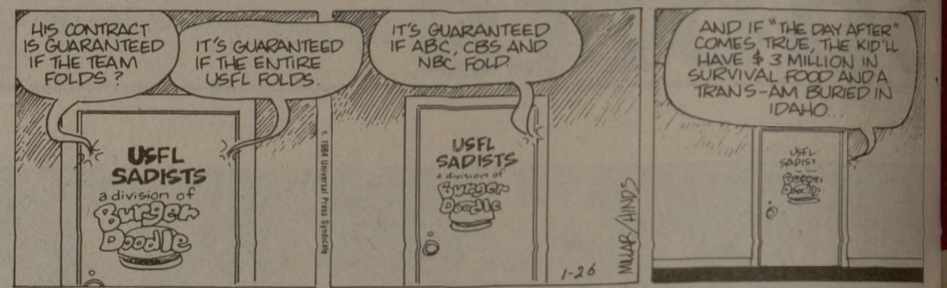
With only two weeks remaining in the regular dual meet season, Nash says the Aggies will be ready to compete in the SWC and NCAA championships.

"We have someone in every stroke that either has qualified or has the potential to qualify for the national championships in March," Nash says.

Led by 1983 All-America Chris O'Neil, the men's team has a season record of 5-3, with all the losses being to top 20 teams. O'Neil was the first Aggie swimmer to earn All-America honors since 1959 when Al Harrington stroked in the 100-yard backstroke.

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## Mets' GM catches flak as White Sox pick up Seaver

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Poor Frank Cashen. He took all the heat in the kitchen, but that wasn't enough. Now the fire is spreading and someone should throw him a ladder before he's roasted alive over the Mets' loss of Tom Seaver.

In the face of the uncommon furor his action has caused, I can't help but be reminded of that classic line from The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Remember how it goes? The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on. Nor all your piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all your tears wash out a word of it.

Little did Frank Cashen ever realize how easy he had it when he was with the Baltimore Orioles or when he was working in the baseball commissioner's office. That was before he became general manager and chief operating officer with the Mets. Sure, he had problems, but never anything like this.

Now what? Should he be thrown to the lions or simply fired?

Somehow, I don't think Nelson Doubleday, the Mets' owner, will avail himself of either of these options. He has some of that old Phil Wrigley in him. The late former owner of the Chicago Cubs never let himself get stampeded by the avalanche of suggestions he regularly received from the media. He resisted them magnificently. Not only the consummate mistress of all those who offered them, but to that great, long-suffering legion of Cub fans as well. Like Phil Wrigley, Doubleday has unbending patience.

One thing, though, Frank Cashen would be prudent not to test it much further. That's my advice to him, for what it's worth. I believe Doubleday still has a lot of faith in him, but I also think Cashen used up quite a bit of his credit when the Mets failed to protect Seaver and

allowed the White Sox to buy him for \$150,000. What Nelson Doubleday really needs is another \$150,000.

Ironically, if anything helps Cashen keep his job, it's the media, by their very nature. Doubleday should turn the over to someone else. Cashen has been practically burned, stake, all but crucified, for what he did, or rather, for what was allowed to happen, and what part of the criticism is warranted, too much of it is times can bring about a real effect.

What I'm trying to say is that everyone loves an underdog and you never saw a greater underdog than Cashen. Now. He's getting kicked around by everyone, and after a while that kind of one-sidedness generates sympathy. You want to know how Doubleday is about underdogs? I can't be sure, but I've got a hunch. Do you think he bought the Mets?

## Hatfield couldn't resist Hogs

**United Press International**  
ATLANTA — Arkansas' new coach Ken Hatfield never intended to leave the Air Force Academy.

But when Lou Holtz bailed out at Arkansas, Hatfield, an Arkansas native who captained the Razorbacks in the early '60s as an all-conference defensive back, couldn't resist the opportunity.

"Leaving the Air Force (where he was head coach five

seasons) was probably one of the hardest decisions I ever had to make," said the 40-year-old coach. "I had planned to stay at Air Force the rest of my life."

"The only way I would ever have left would have been to go back to Arkansas. The timing of the opening coming up made up my mind for me."

Holtz, now coach at Minnesota, left Arkansas a month ago after a 6-5 season, claiming "burn out," and didn't leave his successor much time for recruiting.

"I haven't had much time for anything else in the month I've

been at Arkansas," said Hatfield. "It's a different experience than the one at Air Force."

"There, you had to recruit nationally, looking for people who not only wanted to play football, but also were qualified for and dedicated to serving in the Air Force. There are no athletic scholarships at the service academies."

"You don't get many prospects at a military academy," said Hatfield. "That's why we always felt if we could incorporate something a little bit different in our offense, spread people across the field, we

would have a better chance."

With this in mind, Hatfield split his offensive line, putting his guards out four or five and ran a wishbone that aimed more at finesse than power.

"We weren't very big, but we couldn't be power oriented," said Hatfield. "One advantage of that style of play was that our offense didn't get beat up as much as could be with less of the wishbone at Arkansas."

Hatfield says he also planned the wishbone at Arkansas. "The first reaction I got was shock," he said. "I was asked whether we could do it. We'll have a selling job to do."

"I haven't had time to learn that much about personnel, but I think we'll have material that will enable us to run pretty much the offense we ran at Air Force. We have the quarterback and receivers we need to get it done."

In returning to Arkansas, Hatfield goes back to work with his old coach, Frank Broyles, who is now the Razorbacks' athletic director.

"That was another factor in my accepting the job," he said. "I learned a lot from playing with Broyles and I know he'll be of help to me. Also, Arkansas is unique in the support it gives from its fans. We still have earned their trust, though, that will take a little time."

Hatfield had three losing seasons at the Air Force. He is going 8-5, including a Heisman Bowl victory over Virginia Tech in 1982, and 10-2, including an Independence Bowl win over Ole Miss, this past season when the Falcons nipped the Razorbacks, 23-22.

"That was the first time the Air Force ever won 10 games in a season," said Hatfield.



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