

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M swimmer Karen Sullivan does practice laps in Wofford Cain pool in preparation for the Aggies' season opener this weekend at the SWC Relay meet in Lubbock.

Nash makes a splash

By TAMARA BELL
Sports Writer

As head coach of the Texas A&M Men's and Women's Swimming teams, Mel Nash encourages a family atmosphere. Sort of an aquatic Brady Bunch.

"One of our strengths as a combined swimming program is the way we work together as a large family," Nash said. "In our workouts, the men aren't as coarse and the women are less complaining. The teams compliment each other by bringing out the strengths of each swimmer and squelching the weaknesses."

Even though the Aggie men's team is considered a young squad, according to 1983 statistics, the team should finish fourth in the Southwest Conference this year.

"In the six years I've coached at A&M, this is the youngest team we've had," Nash said. "Out of eighteen members, eight are freshmen. The talent is there. It's just a question of how long it will take for that talent to manifest in the water."

"This season is a learning experience from both standpoints because, while I'm learning what each athlete is capable of, the swimmers are learning the 'Aggie method.'"

The Aggie women's team is exactly the opposite.

"The women have a lot of experience coming back," Nash said. "We expect to do well with five seniors returning and our All-American relay team of Melanie Schmauch, Susan Marks, Eileen Doull and Jody Tan-



Swimming Coach Mel Nash

ner coming back from last year." In past swim seasons, the men's low finish within the SWC hindered, rather than helped, when it came time to recruit. However, Nash believes this season is an exception to that past rule.

"Traditionally, if a swimmer from Texas is any good, he will either apply to SMU or Texas because of their outstanding swim programs," Nash said. "Ironically, once we leave the state, it's easy to sign talented athletes because A&M is considered

a strong swim team nationally. In five years we've rebuilt the program and prospective recruits from around the country realize the Aggies' potential."

While strength changes are prominent in the men's program, the women retain strong freestyle swimmers, Nash said.

"The women's team is known for its strong freestyle stroke," he said. "The men's program will emphasize the butterfly stroke because of its executors — Chris O'Neil and John Heldenfels. Both teams have a better balance and depth than in past seasons. We're three-deep in every stroke and I've never been able to say that."

The Aggies' 1984-85 conference campaign begins with the SWC Relays in Lubbock November 2. A&M's first home meet is scheduled for November 10 against SMU, ranked one of the top four teams in the nation.

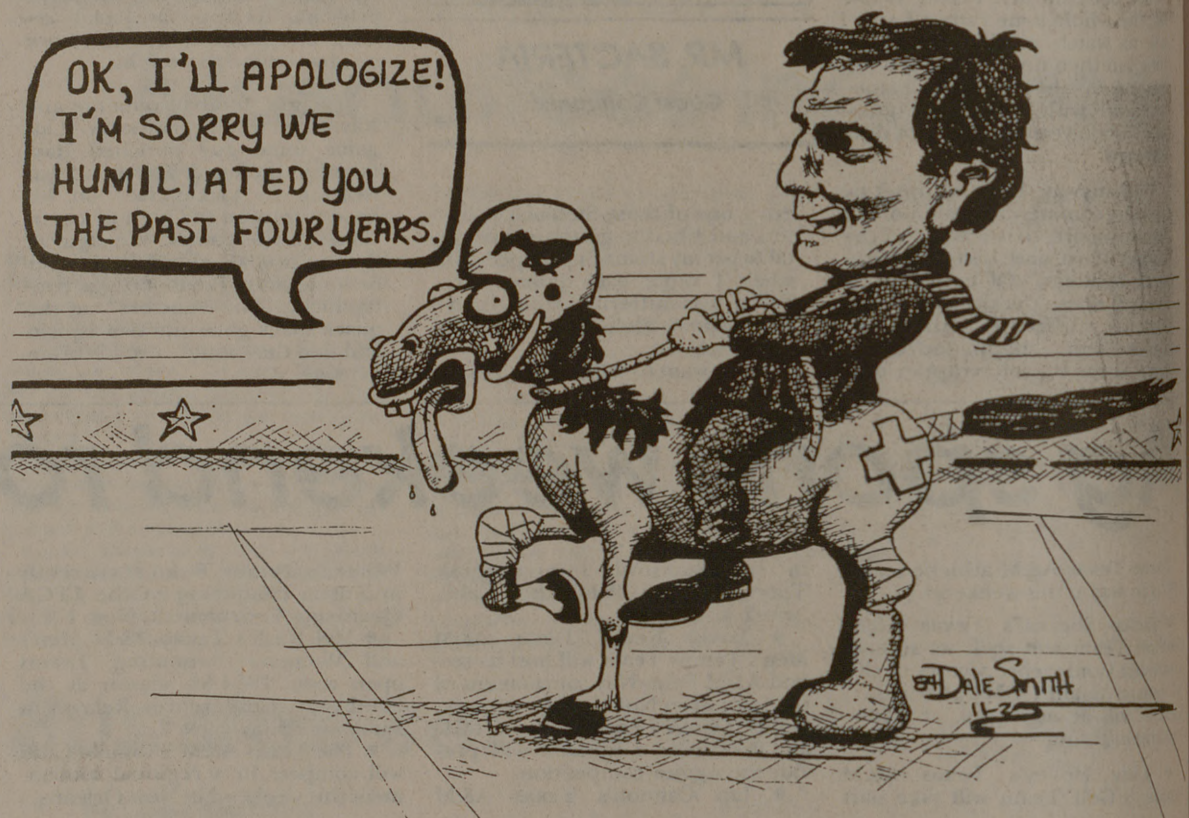
One of Nash's goals for his A&M swimmers is to improve the athlete with each meet.

"Not only do I want the team to improve with each swimming meet, but I want to improve as a coach because each event is a learning experience for both the coach and the team and I want to be the best coach I can be. That just takes trial and error."

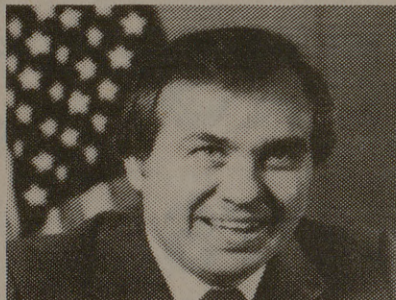
"When I see the team pull together at a meet, encouraging each other through the individual as well as the relay events, I know that I've accomplished another one of my goals."



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Compare Experience and Positions

Legislative Experience:

Dan Kubiak
14 Years

7 terms, Texas House of Representatives; Chairman, Public Education and Higher Education Committees. One of *Texas Monthly's* "Ten Best Legislators".

Joe Barton

None

Endorsed by Primary Election Opponents:

Endorsed by both of his primary opponents, Hugh Parmer and Rip Van Winkle.

All three primary opponents - Max Hoyt, Bob Harris, and Pat Friedrichs - refused to endorse Barton.

Low Interest Student Loans:

FOR

AGAINST

History of Working for TAMU:

As Chairman of the House Education Committee, he worked with Appropriation Chairman Bill Presnal (D. Brazos County) to help A&M grow from 9,000 students to over 30,000. Dan served on the Higher Education Committee and appropriated monies to further the high standards of TAMU.

None

Independence:

Will evaluate each individual issue and will vote in the interest of the district, the state and the nation.

Vows "100% support" of his national party platform.

"Dan Kubiak will take the special Texas wisdom with him when he goes to Washington."
—Senator Lloyd Bentsen

Dan **Kubiak**
A Texas Democrat for Congress

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