

# Sports

## A&M swim team wants new facility

By Barbie Jones  
Reporter

The Texas A&M swim team is hoping that the University will soon allocate funds for the construction of a new indoor swimming pool.

Mel Nash, A&M head swimming coach, said the Board of Regents was receptive to the idea of building a new pool last year until the actual dollar amount was proposed.

"The figures that were proposed ranged from \$5-7 million all the way up into the double digits," Nash said.

Nash has no hard feelings about the Board's refusal of the proposal however, because "academics must come first among the financial responsibilities of the University," he said.

Downs Natatorium, A&M's indoor pool that was built in 1932, poses many disadvantages for the A&M swim team, Nash said.

Among these problems are limited pool time and space.

David Kohel, a senior member of the men's swim team, said that the teams must compete for pool time with recreational swimming and swimming classes.

Pool space is also a problem. Nash said that because of overcrowding in the lanes, swimmers may have to run over the swimmer in front of them to really "push" themselves.

The size of the pool also limits the amount of swimmers the team can have.

Because the men's and women's teams practice together, the total for both teams cannot exceed 40 swimmers, Nash said.

"I must turn away many swimmers who want to swim for A&M because we have a ceiling limit of swimmers we can carry and our heads are touching that now," he said.

One of the biggest problems

caused by A&M's older facilities is recruiting.

"Recruiting in the last two or three years has become a problem because we have a good team now, but the kids we need to help our team improve are being recruited to top 10 schools," Nash said.

Nash said the training facilities are good, but when recruits see the pool they falsely believe the University does not support the swimming program.

Kohel said, "It (the pool) definitely is affecting recruiting. You just can't recruit without top-notch facilities like Texas has."

A&M's diving program was ended in 1985 because of a lack of indoor facilities.

This places A&M's swim team at a serious competitive disadvantage when competing in dual and conference meets, Nash said.

In dual and conference meets the competition consists of swimming and diving, so A&M must start these meets with a point deficit.

The advantages of a new pool would be numerous for the swim team.

For example, a new pool would allow A&M to host conference and national meets, Nash said.

Peter Staruch, a sophomore member of the men's team said, "Being able to hold conference and national meets would attract young swimmers to come to A&M and take a look."

Kohel agreed with Nash and Staruch.

"A new pool would bring more recognition to the swim team and perhaps build a stronger following," Kohel said.

Despite the obstacles, Nash is confident about the future of the A&M swim team.

"If we had a good solid pool we could be in the top 10 of the NCAA within the next three years," Nash said.

## Ideal Olympic Games are for amateurs only

Those horrid 1988 Winter Olympic Games are long over now and many people are quite relieved and happy just trying to forget them.

The U.S. team didn't win a ton of medals but even now, four years from the next Winter Games, some helpful people are working toward what they hope to be a better U.S. hockey team.

It is now acceptable to have professional players on Olympic hockey teams and some countries had already jumped on the bandwagon during the 1988 Games while others, including the United States, restricted their teams to amateur players.

Now comes the news that Alan Eagleson, executive director of the NHL Players' Association and the Canadian hockey team's chief negotiator, has suggested that the NHL season be interrupted during the Olympics to make players available for the United States and Canadian Olympic hockey teams.

The idea is to interrupt the season

and pay the NHL teams about \$1 million per club garnered from Olympic television revenue.

This is a dangerous idea. Traditionally the U.S. team has been made up of cream-of-the-crop college players not NHL all-stars, and it should stay that way.

Sure the U.S. would have a greater chance at a medal with players of the professional caliber but at what price?

If the U.S. team officials decided to let professional players on the team, what would happen to those college players trying to make the grade?

It is feasible that the team would be composed mainly of NHL players with college players as supplemental teammates.

It is a far better program to bring these college players into the Olympics than let the professionals run rampant throughout the Games.

The Soviets once again won the gold at these past Olympics, but they were not in top form.

The Soviet team is in decline, and the reason for the decline is the longevity of its players.

Fewer Soviet youths are getting hockey experience because of the dominance of the older players.

There just aren't a lot of opportunities to make the Soviet Olympic team.

This would be a difficult situation to imagine in the United States but it is one to learn from.

If there is one thing that needs to be done for hockey on the college level in the United States it's promotion.

The admittance of professional players to the U.S. team may very well be a discouraging measure for young players.

The Olympics should be a celebration of amateur talent not professional experience.

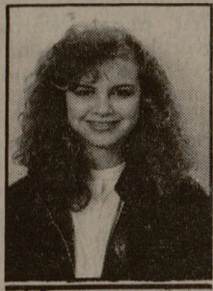
The U.S. team officials say they will stick to amateur status for its hockey team, and hopefully they won't back down when faced with the pressure to win medals.

At this point, there is support and disagreement from NHL teams about the Eagleson proposal.

Lou Nanne, an executive for the Minnesota North Stars, said the price was right while Barry Shenkarow, president of the Winnipeg Jets, said he didn't believe the proposal would come to light.

But Harold Ballard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, echoed my sentiments when he said, "it's an idiotic idea."

The best proposal for the U.S. Olympic team is to keep the professionals where they are enjoyed and respected — in the NHL.



Cray Pixley  
Sports viewpoint

## A&M women's tennis team survives Rice assault for win

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M women's tennis team held on the defeat Rice 5-4 Wednesday.

The Lady Aggies are now 10-2 overall and 3-1 in the Southwest Conference and will face a pair of ranked teams in 15th-ranked South Carolina and No. 8 Kentucky this weekend at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

"We were fortunate to get out with a win," A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "We kind of have our backs to the wall as far as the conference goes. You can't lose twice and expect to win the Southwest Conference."

In singles play, A&M's No. 1 player Lisa Keller, taking over the top spot from an ill Gaye Lynn Gen-

sler, defeated Emily Cates 7-6, 7-6; A&M's Cindy Churchwell beat Alice Vodicka 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, and Rice's Liz-Sulzberger defeated Cindy Crawford 6-2, 0-6, 6-3.

In other action, A&M's Susan Williams defeated Lori Cronk 6-1, 6-0; A&M's Traci Nix beat Alison Culver 6-3, 6-3, and Rice's Meghan Tanner defeated Derryn Haygarth 6-2, 6-3.

In doubles play, A&M's No. 1 team of Keller and Nix lost to Cronk and Vodicka 6-2, 6-1, and Churchwell and Haygarth lost to the Lady Owls' Cates and Sulzberger 6-1, 6-7, 7-5.

A&M's No. 3 team of Crawford and Williams ended doubles play with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Tanner and Culver.

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