

Swimming team reaps rewards from Rec Center

□ A&M will host both the '96 SWC and '97 Big 12 Conference Championships.

Staff & Wire Reports

The Texas A&M Swimming and Diving team was awarded the final Southwest Conference Championships Friday, to be held at the new Student Recreational Center next February.

This event will be the last of its kind in SWC history, as the conference will break up on July 1, 1996. A&M head swimming coach Mel Nash, in his 16th season at A&M, said he and the teams are extremely excited about hosting the final SWC meet.

The SWC Championships have been held in Austin for the past 15 years, and A&M has not hosted the event since the 1950s. The Longhorns have won the conference championships for the last 15 years straight while possessing the home-pool advantage.

The natatorium in the new Student Recreational Center will also be the host site of the first Big 12 Swimming and Diving Championship meet in 1997. The new complex will be the largest in the Big 12 with a seating capacity of 2,500, 500 more seats than the University of Texas' Lee and Joe Jamail Swim Center in Austin. No other school in the Big 12 has a seating capacity of more than 800.

Athletic Director Wally Groff said that the new diving facility is rated as one of the top three in the nation.

Nash has been involved in the planning and design of the Student Recreational Center Natatorium since day one, but has not been able to coach a SWC meet in College Station due to the size constraints of the P.L. Natatorium, A&M's old facility.

Nash and Groff said the new center should be open by mid-summer, and that the swimming and diving teams will be practicing there once the fall semester starts.



Mike Friend, THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Swimming and Diving team will host the final SWC Championships in February 1996 at the new Student Recreation Center on West Campus. The center is scheduled to open this summer and the teams will begin to practice there in the fall.

History proves hoops reign in U.S.

KYLE LITTLEFIELD

STAFF WRITER



Humans are entertained by relatively simple concepts. A ball goes through a hoop, and people wet their pants.

The visionary Dr. James A. Naismith recognized this fact, and the game of basketball was born.

One can only imagine what life was like before the game was invented. When Thomas Jefferson crumpled his rough drafts of the Declaration of Independence and tossed them into the wastebasket, was he impressed with his aim? Obviously, he didn't yell, "Two!" or taunt, "That was in your eye, Franklin."

But he was probably entertained with himself.

Naismith probably didn't expect basketball to grow into the spectacle that it is today. He probably never fathomed the dunk, the no-look pass, Jordan or that "Rare Bird," Dennis Rodman — all the things that make basketball the greatest sport.

There are other reasons why we should set basketball apart from the other American pastimes, too.

For starters, you have to be in shape to constantly run up and down the court. This is very different from baseball, where a beer belly looks great in a stretch-fabric uniform, and you only have to run when you either hit the ball or chase it.

As a result, many baseball players' stand sedentary for long periods of time, while trickles of tobacco juice run down their chins.

This brings us to another difference between basketball and baseball — no drugs allowed — well, at least on the court.

Baseball players have an unhealthy fascination with chewing tobacco. With wads of it in their mouths, it's a wonder that they can call each other off on fly balls. I

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Collegiate Baseball Top 25 Poll

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Cal St Fullerton	53-8	495	1
2. USC	45-19	492	2
3. Florida State	52-14	489	3
4. Tennessee	52-14	487	4
5. Clemson	54-12	485	6
6. Oklahoma	42-14	484	10
7. Miami, Fla.	46-15	482	8
8. Stanford	39-23	478	16
9. Auburn	50-13	477	5
10. Texas Tech	51-14	476	9
11. Oklahoma State	46-19	470	11
12. Texas A&M	44-22-1	469	18
13. Wichita State	53-17	462	7
14. Alabama	42-23	460	17
15. Rice	43-19	458	19
16. Long Beach St.	39-25-1	455	22
17. Mississippi	40-22	450	24
18. Louisiana State	47-18	448	12
19. Pepperdine	36-19-1	440	23
20. Florida Intl.	50-11	438	14
21. Central Florida	49-13	437	13
22. Fresno St.	41-22	432	15
23. Texas	44-19	429	21
24. Winthrop	41-17-2	426	—
25. North Carolina	39-23	422	—

A&M professor to be 'driving force' behind Southwest Conference's finale

□ Physics professor Dr. Thomas Adair will become the league's president on July 1.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M physics professor Thomas Adair will spend the next year preserving the history of the Southwest Conference, because last Friday he became a part of it.

On July 1, Adair will become the final president of the SWC because of the disbanding of the conference after the 1995-96 season. Texas A&M, Baylor, Texas Tech and the University of Texas will join the Big 12 conference, while Texas Christian, Southern Methodist and Rice will enter the Western Athletic Conference. The University of Houston will join the newly-formed Conference USA.

For the last two years Adair has served as the vice president for the SWC. He replaces Dr. Joseph Helmick of TCU. Adair will only get to serve one year of

the usual two-year term. "We are going to make plans for the conference until it ceases to exist," Adair said. "We'll still be doing the usual work of planning championships and tournaments."

Adair will chair the governing body of the SWC which includes presidents, faculty representatives and athletic directors of each school.

"With this being the last year of the conference, we'll

athletic director Wally Groff will be the head of the SWC athletic directors.

In addition to his position as SWC vice-president, Adair has served as Texas A&M's faculty representative to the conference since 1982.

He will become the fifth conference president in the SWC's 81-year history to come from Texas A&M, and the first in 14 years.

In the early history of the conference, the president controlled all decision-making processes for the league.

As the conference continued to expand in the 1930s and 1940s, the need arose to have a full-time office, headed by an Executive Secretary (later re-titled Commissioner).

Since 1983, there have been only six SWC commissioners.

The previous four A&M faculty representatives who went on to become SWC presidents were: A.C. Love (1915-1916); D.W. Williams (1950-1951); Chris Groneman (1963-1965) and Charles Samson Jr. (1979-1981).



"We are going to make plans for the conference until it ceases to exist."

— Dr. Thomas Adair
1995-96 SWC President

have to do things a little different," Adair said. "We'll have to decide what to do with the things that the Southwest Conference owns."

Members of the Texas A&M administration will also chair the major committees in the SWC. For example, A&M

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