

Can success be kept afloat?

by Karl Wilberg

Conditions for successful college sport can be found underwater. John Hogg's U of A swim program reveals some restraints and requirements for a winning program. However, the question remains can we put the requirements together?

The swim team's season is straight forward. The pre-Christmas part started in November with a local sprint meet and later one at the U of Puget Sound. This weekend Brigham Young University will be sending a strong team to the U of A.

BYU first came to Alberta in 1977 and according to Hogg, "beat us quite comfortably" although "the women did well." Last year in Provo Utah the women lost to BYU by only five points. Also, Hogg detects weaknesses in team strength and mentions BYU has "lost some reasonable swimmers". On the other hand the U of A has lost "some outstanding performers". Consequently, Hogg will be inviting "local senior swimmers to go in a select unit" to balance the competition.

In spite of tough southern competition the U of A has done well in the past. Swimming requires rigorous training that at the college level can be difficult to expect of athletes. It would

seem Hogg has been able to motivate swimmers to train successfully, in spite of the commitment needed.

Important to the U of A's success, Hogg believes, are the "good facilities" and "good competitive outlets". Also, "good local swimmers who "make a serious attempt to train" have made the program a winner.

However, the problems of collegiate sport appear when consistent results are sought. College programs have difficulty attracting top class athletes, supporting them, and motivating them to train for excellence. Consequently, Hogg states, "the intensity of program fluctuates with the type of people coming in."

Because swimmers coming to the U of A vary in ability, and dedication, Hogg varies the emphasis in training. He states you can "play around with two variables" in training: "quantity and quality". Still, "Whatever you do, it still hurts."

A team's numbers help swimmers to continue training. Hogg states the bigger the group "the easier it is to motivate." To ask so much of an athlete, particularly when swimming is not a first priority, Hogg feels he must "tread carefully in training". There are "all kinds of problems to overcome" and Hogg emphasises there is a "high



Two suits are better than one. Still, they are little protection against the East pool's killer amoebas.

price" paid for results.

Given that the potential for a program to succeed is dependent on the athlete's dedication, is it worthwhile to work less dedicated athletes to compete with swimmers from schools with more intensive programs? To ask this may result in swimmers losing interest and

enjoyment in a program. Hogg is concerned with the question and points out alternatives as well as a proposal for long term development.

Hogg states the team is "at a crossroads" where a less ambitious program stressing fun could be followed, or the team could "go for excellence." If the latter path is chosen Hogg says organizers must "make decisions people don't want to make."

Those decisions involve recruiting athletes from other areas and the offering of sport scholarships. Hogg suggests the problems associated with these attractions to athlete can be avoided by introducing safeguards

As well as attracting athletes, other requirements, Hogg states, are necessary for success. He believes there is "no sense in the U of A trying to become the greatest thing since sliced bread" because other universities will be discouraged from improving swim programs. Instead, Hogg advocates having other universities "improving at the same rate." Hogg believes incentives like scholarships should reflect a "certain fairness squareness" regionally.

If the U of A is going to develop a program "it won't do it over-night" declares Hogg. He adds "support of a lot of people" is needed, and goes on to list close ties with communities, provincial help, and academic support "built in to help the athlete".

Furthermore, Hogg emphasises, "If you develop in isolation you can forget it". Consistent success involves a rounded program with support from society as well as the university.

On close observation there are few mysteries about successful programs. The success of universities, nations and people depend on similar qualities. If they can be encouraged winners, in swimming and other sports are not luck, but results.

Beat me, whip me, I'll tell

by Garnet DuGray

Well, excuuuuuse me, for apparently neglecting Women's intramurals over the past months! However if Barb Chapman and Bonnie Saligo are concerned about better coverage leave a note for me at either one of the three offices or call 433-3675.

Results are now in for the overall winners of the Women's portion of the Campus Superstars. Finishing first by a mere two points was Cathy Tuckwell (Leprechauns) followed closely by Noreen Skoreyko (Pandas Gym Team).

In following the ball on the Women's side of the court, the time has come! Tuesday, November 27 at one p.m. at the Women's office is the entry deadline for the Women's Racquetball Tournament. The tourney will run Saturday, December 1 at the East Courts so come on out for a super time and end the semester with a bang!

Also a quick reminder that the 3-on-3 basketball deadline is Tuesday, December 4 at one p.m. at the Women's office. League play will begin next semester in January, so get your trios together.

In the Co-Rec department, the staff would just like to thank all the teams (95) and officials that made the Volleyball league a huge success, possibly the best event of the year. First place finishers of the competitive league were: Monday - Prosimians (undefeated); Tuesday - Dig & Dive; Wednesday - Chieftains; Thursday - Newtwits, W.W. & Co., Queen (three way tie).

The Co-Rec Volleyball tourney is now in full swing so make sure you check outside the Co-Rec office for playing times and locations. A last reminder to those twenty-six teams that entered the Co-Rec Curling Bonspiel, as it will run this Saturday, November 24 starting at 10 a.m. at the SUB rink.

In the Men's department, the final results of the Superstars shows John McConkey a clear winner by six and one-half points over Rick Buoy of Henday. Following Buoy by one-half and one point respectively, were R. Joines and Eric Ruckenthaler, both of the Bears Gym Team.

Both Men's Basketball and Waterpolo are well under way, both on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as on Mondays for Basketball. Both events will continue until the last week of class with the Waterpolo ending that week and Basketball continuing into the second semester.

Lastly, a reminder of Men's Track and Field this Friday, November 23 at the Kinsmen Fieldhouse starting at 6:00 p.m. Also the last event of the semester, the Snooker Tournament, will run Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, November 26, 27, and 29 downstairs in SUB from 7:30-10:30 p.m. each night.

B-Ball now!

by Dora Johnson

This past weekend both U of A basketball teams travelled to the coast to play the U Vic Vikings and Vikettes. The Pandas lost both matches against the Vikettes with scores of 88-46 and 80-45.

"Our offense worked quite well" said assistant coach Kathy Moore, "when we could get the ball down to their defensive end."

The Vikettes applied good pressure on balls coming up the court: this slowed the Pandas significantly. After the weekend the Pandas have a record of 1 win and three losses in league play.

This weekend the Bears and Pandas play their first home series of league play. Games go Friday and Saturday evenings at Varsity gym against the U of S.

CHECK OUT THE GOOD TANS AND BODS AT....
the Golden Bears and Pandas

TRIP TO MIAMI





December 1st, 1979
CHECK POSTERS FOR DETAILS
Kinsmen Field House