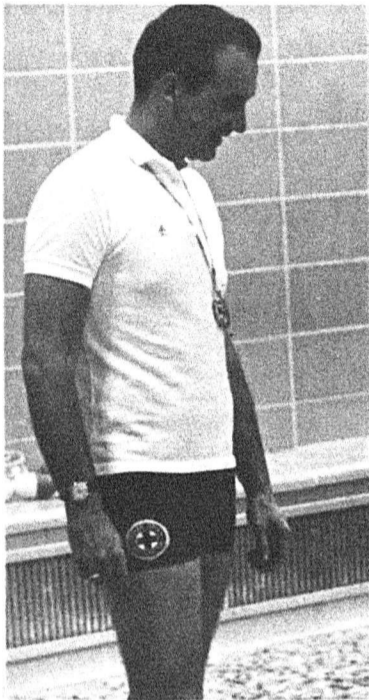


Bear splashers set for season



COACH MURRAY SMITH
... highly optimistic

Good bet for WCIAA titles

By **BILL KANKEWITT**

There is a small core of hard-working dedicated young athletes on campus who receive little or no public recognition.

They toil away at sports such as fencing, gymnastics, track and field and judo.

While they practice just as diligently as the football and hockey players, they just don't get equal recognition because their sports lack the vast spectator appeal that comes with our national games.

Foremost in this unknown group of athletes are the members of the university swim team.

Both the men's and women's squads are defending conference champions and, individually, there were several national champions on the team. Although their swimming feats are on a par with the football and hockey Bears, little is known of their success.

It is in this light, the 30 men and women who make up the Golden Bear swimming and diving teams must be held in the highest regard.

If you are a glory seeker or a "Saturday hero" type, swimming

is most certainly not your sport.

Under veteran coach Murray Smith the men's squad is again highly rated this season.

With seven returnees and an equal number of promising rookies Smith is optimistic about the teams chances.

Smith said, "We're a little stonger overall, however we do have a weakness in the backstroke. Most of the swimmers we got don't really have a solid age-group background," he elaborated.

"It takes four years of hard work to develop a swimmer's championship potential, providing, of course, that they possess the natural ability.

"One of the key attributes a swimmer must have," Smith went on to say, "is a natural sensitivity to pressure on the hands."

NO CUTS

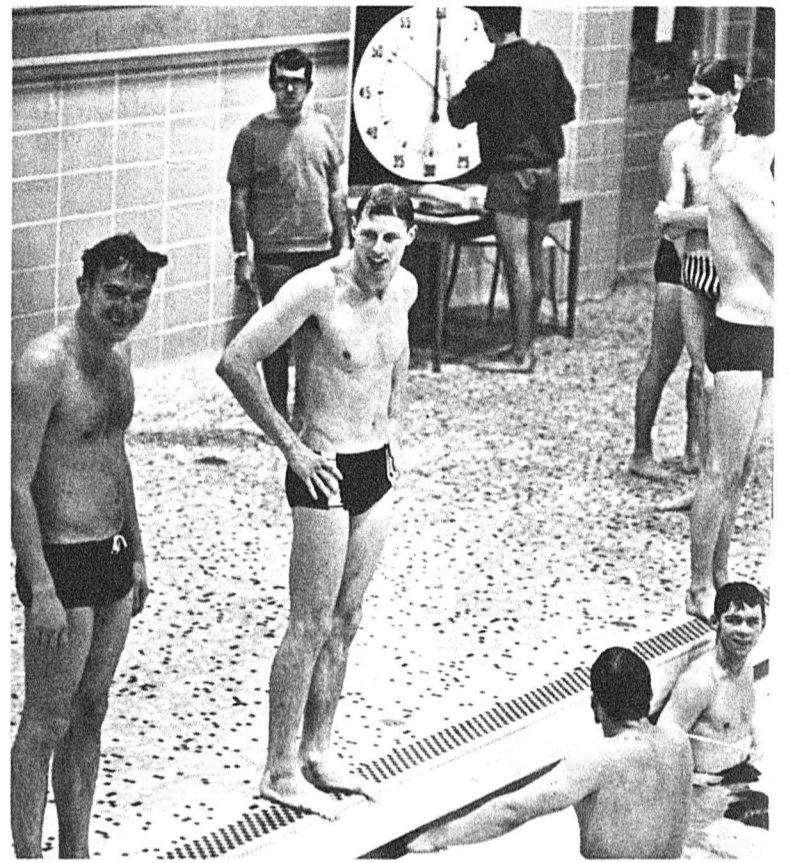
The swim team is the only intercollegiate club on campus that doesn't cut prospective athletes.

"If they have enough desire to come out to practice every night, then we'll retain them on the squad," Smith said.

Sophomore Mike Morrow is the star splasher in Smith's group of guppies. He copped national honors last year by winning the 500-yard freestyle at the Hamilton championships.

Veterans Ross Hetherington and Jeff Thomas are looking good in workouts and figure prominently in Smith's plans. Medicine Hat's Jim MacKay is the most impressive of the rookies with Mark Hyslop and Don Richards also showing great potential.

If the team doesn't do well, it won't be due to a lack of training. Smith's charges swim two miles every night besides taking part in a variety of other drills. A close



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, WHO'S THE WISE GUY
... who pulled the plug

check is kept on the pulse rates of the team members in an effort to better gauge their physical progress.

EDGAR GONE

Women's coach Mike Horrocks faces a tough task this season. He has lost his number one swimmer Rae Edgar who had been a mainstay on the team for a number of years.

Horrocks has begun a rebuilding job with his team aiming at the 1970 national championships.

With regard to the WCIAA championships Horrocks admits his team will have a tough time repeating this season. But he is enthusiastic about his young crop of paddlers and hopes to knock off the favoured UBC team.

Corrine Parslow, Carla Swart, Denise Durfee, Betty Ann Kennedy, Mary Corbett and Lynn Jenkins are some of this year's team members.

Under coach Stuart Robbins the diving squad looks very much like title contenders. Recognized as perhaps the best diving coach in the province, Robbins is rounding his group of novices into top form.

Gayleen Robertson, Colleen Kasting, Lynn Tompkins and Mary O'Brien are some of the more outstanding prospects.

The Alberta squad will open the indoor season on the weekend of Dec. 14 when they host the Golden Bear relays. Competing in the events will be a number of teams from within the province.

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