

Florida Shines in Southern California

It's been a long time coming, but Florida Aquatic Swim Team's combined victory in the AAU Indoor Nationals men's and women's races, giving FAST the overall team title, was the first such sweep since Santa Clara Swim Club's win at Cincinnati in 1970.

The last outdoor sweep was by Mission Viejo at Philadelphia in 1976.

Indoor sweeps are about as rare as snow in Gainesville. Since 1925, the year the championships were first held, only two other teams in addition to Santa Clara and FAST have swept both the men's and women's races—Los Angeles Athletic Club in 1932 and Lake Shore in 1936. Santa Clara also won both indoor titles in 1967.

"Since we didn't win the NCAAs with our men, we were aiming for a sweep at the AAUs—that was our goal," a relieved Randy Reese, Florida Aquatic coach, said following his team's victory in the men's 400 yard freestyle relay, the meet's final event.

The University of Florida's women's team had swum to the AIAW title at Pittsburgh in mid-March, while their men finished third in the NCAAs.

Combining the talents of the cream of Southeastern Conference male swimmers, including Auburn's David McCagg, Rowdy Gaines and Billy Forrester, plus Reese's own Florida contingent, and bolstered by the strong Gator women's squad that featured such additions as Stephanie Elkins and Nancy Hogshead, FAST was just too fast for the rest of the nation's clubs, not to mention foreign contingents from Hungary and France.

Defending overall champion Mission Viejo was second with 679 points, followed by Longhorn Aquatic (429), Pleasant Hill (244½) and Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins (244). Last year's third-place finisher, Nashville Aquatic, was not among the Top 10 teams in 1979.

Mission was third in the men's standings, runner-up in the women's, and Southern California was second to Florida among the men. Defending women's champ Nashville, with superstar Tracy Caulkins but minus Joan Pennington and Jann and Dian Girard (who now swim for Longhorn), slipped to third despite Caulkins' four wins and five American records.

Men's Team Race

On the Sunday morning before the AAU short course Nationals were to begin, Florida Aquatics' David Larson

stepped off the Eastern Airlines widebodied jet at Los Angeles International Airport, squinted into the smoggy Southern California sunshine, took off his blue Arena warmup jacket and revealed a very interesting T-shirt.

Boldly emblazoned thereon was a simple inscription in oversized letters: "Burn Down the Mission."

The "Mission" was the Mission Viejo Nadadores, defending AAU team champions and swimming's answer to the Pittsburgh Steelers as far as dominance of the competition is concerned.

What Larson and his FAST teammates had in mind for the Southern California aquatic powerhouse was simple: termination of Mission's reign at the top. FAST was already defending men's team champion from last year's indoor and outdoor national championships, though it was the women's and overall crown the Gainesville Gang was after in addition to the men's title.

Florida coach Randy Reese had been disappointed with his male contingent at the national collegiate meet in Cleveland several weeks earlier. He thought his team had an excellent shot at the NCAA Championship, but the men hadn't performed up to expectations and the Gators finished third. So the AAU Championship was not only a vehicle for "redemption," but also for keeping the win streak alive.

"Nothing makes up for our showing at the NCAAs, but winning the AAUs for the third time sure helps," an ecstatic Larson said following FAST's victory in the meet's final event—the 400 yard freestyle relay—Saturday evening.

Florida stroked to a 453-340 victory over runner-up USC, with the Mission Viejo men third (322) and Longhorn Aquatics' men fourth (251).

Led by David Larson, Rowdy Gaines, David McCagg, Glynn Perry and Craig Beardsley, the FAST men took an early lead in the team title chase and were never headed.

Their superior strength in the freestyle, butterfly and individual medley events (plus two of three relays) was evident.

For example, Larson, Beardsley and John Hillencamp went two-six-seven in the 500 free finals. Larson and Gaines went one-two in the 200 free (with a mere two-hundredths separating them). McCagg and Gaines went one-three in the 100 free. Perry and Beardsley went one-two in the 200 fly and Perry and Kyle Miller went three-five in the 400 IM.

Now that's what you call scoring the points where they count the most. ➤

After two days of competition, FAST led Longhorn, 235-142, and only a complete bellyflop by Randy Reese's charges—which never occurred—could prevent them from winning.

After three days, FAST led USC, 342-231½, with Mission third (200).

As is the case in most major national championships, the meet produced a few surprises. For example, there was Tallman Pools' Steve Lundquist emerging as this country's premier breaststroker with American records in the 100 and 200. There was a stunning 100 fly upset victory by unheralded UCLA sophomore Bob Placak; McCagg's 100 free win and runner-up placing in the 100 fly; and the surprise qualifying successes of Beach's Greg Winchell in the 200 breast and David Douglas' Dennis Baker in the 200 fly.

After the excitement engendered by the NCAAAs in late March, many collegians came to the AAUs in less than the greatest of condition. Yet competition in almost all the races was of the highest order, and invariably the seventh and eighth-fastest qualifiers in a race swam faster than similar qualifiers from last year's meet—proving there's been no retrogression in American men's swimming.

While the Mission may have been burned, Nadadores' coach Mark Schubert is not one to take defeat with a shrug of the shoulders or a wave of the hand. Mission's Brian Goodell maintained his No. 1 ranking in the distance freestyles; and teammate Jesse Vassallo regained his American record in the 400 IM (from Goodell) and became the meet's only male tripler with wins in the 200 back and 200 IM.

And with Goodell and Vassallo, plus newcomers Andy Schmidt and Paul Asmuth and veterans Chris Woo and Tony Bartle, Mission will be a definite title threat at the U.S. Outdoor Nationals in Fort Lauderdale next August.

Similarly, Coach Peter Daland's Southern California Trojans, which become Dutch Boy during the summer, and Coach Eddie Reese's resurgent Longhorn Aquatic team will be in a position to "gobble the Gators" at Fort Lauderdale.

But for now, Randy Reese may claim something no other AAU swimming coach can: "We're No. 1."

Women's Team Race

Stress on overall team depth was the key that fit the lock on the national title for Florida's women's team. Despite the fact that they were unable to capture a single gold medal in any of the 15 events of the Short Course Nationals, FAST's women ran up a 375-point total, enough to surpass the threat of nearest challenger, the Mission Viejo Nadadores (357).

Nashville Aquatic Club (which lost key points from last year's women's team title with the departure of Joan Pennington and Dian and Jann Girard, who followed former Nashville coach, Paul Bergen, to Texas and Longhorn Aquatics) finished some distance back in third with 276 points, ahead of Pleasant Hill (221) and Longhorn (178).

Crucial to Florida's national title was their ability to place women in the finals in all but one event—the 200 IM, in which Florida's Renee Laravie ended up winning the consolation finals in 2:01.69, the second-fastest time of all championship and consolation finalists.

Some of the key contributors to the FAST victory included the 19-year-old Laravie (second in the 200 breast; third, 100 breast; eighth, 200 free), Stephanie Elkins (third, 100 free, 500 free and 200 fly), Nancy Hogshead (third, 400 IM; fourth, 200 fly; eighth, 100 fly); Chris Breedy (seventh, 100 back; eighth, 200 back); Eney Jones (seventh, 1650 free) and Torrey Blazey (seventh, 100 breast). With added power coming in the relays from Brenda Borgh and Virginia Allen,

FAST's leading relay combinations finished second in the 400 free and took thirds in the 400 medley and 800 free relays.

Mission Viejo, after losing more than enough points to have eventually beaten Florida on a disqualification for an early jump on their 400 medley relay final exchange, rebounded the following evening in the 800 free relay with a stunning 7:15.14 American record to topple the long-standing three-year mark of the USA national team then in preparation for the Montreal Olympics.

Top point-getters for Mark Schubert's Nadadores included new team member Linda Jezek, formerly of Santa Clara, who doubled in the backstrokes, Jennifer Hooker (second in the 1650 and anchor for the 800 free relay in an impressive 1:46.80 200 free relay split) and Marybeth Linzmeier (third in the 200 and 1650 free).

Third-placing Nashville, under new head coach Don Talbot, featured the meet's incomparable high point champion, Tracy Caulkins. Not only did Caulkins clock an amazing 1:00.15 breast leg in her team's winning 400 medley relay plus masterfully break her own former 100 breast and 200-400 IM records, but she also shifted training during the short course season to prepare for a new event, the 500 free. Just 30 minutes after setting the breaststroke mark, she came back to lop over 3½ seconds off Sippy Woodhead's former standard.

Tracy stole yet another record from Riverside's Woodhead when, in a repeat performance of her 400 free relay leadoff a year earlier, she led off Nashville's American record-clocking 400 free relay in a new 100 free national mark of 49.03. Earlier that same evening, Woodhead had captured the 100 free championship final in 49.39 to top the 49.55 American record of El Monte's Jill Sterkel (swimming unattached). Sterkel touched second at 49.48.

Woodhead couldn't be denied of a U.S. record, however, when she sparkled in the 200 free for a 1:44.10 gold-studded finish. She additionally finished second to Caulkins in the 500 free.

Sterkel couldn't be kept off the top spot on the awards stand, either, as she swam to a 100 fly American record of 53.76 after first breaking the national mark in the prelims in 54.06.

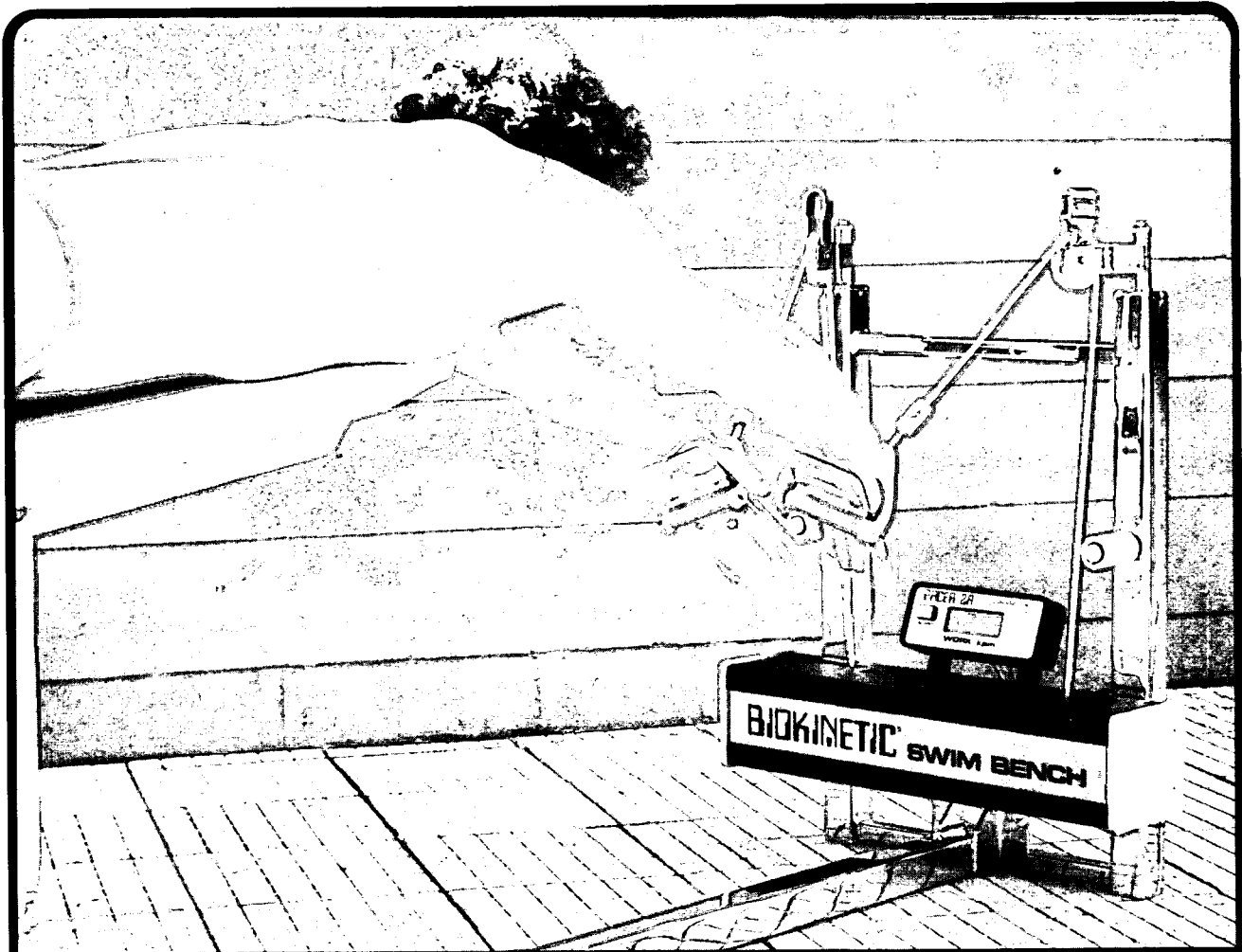
Another single event winner was 16-year-old Kim Linehan of the Sarasota Y Sharks who swept away with Woodhead's previous 1650 national mark (15:55.15) in 15:49.10. Linehan settled for the second spot to Woodhead, though, when it came to the 200 free.

Two newcomers to the elite circle of national champions were 17-year-old Patty Spees and the 14-year-old Mary T. Meagher. Spees' victory in the 200 breast, coupled with relay strength good enough for a second-place finish in the 400 medley, third in the 400 free and sixth in the 800 free helped boost Pleasant Hill Swim Club up to the fourth team spot among the women.

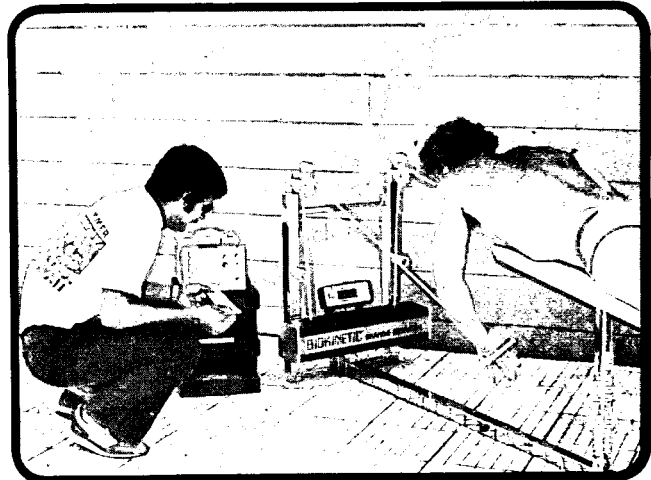
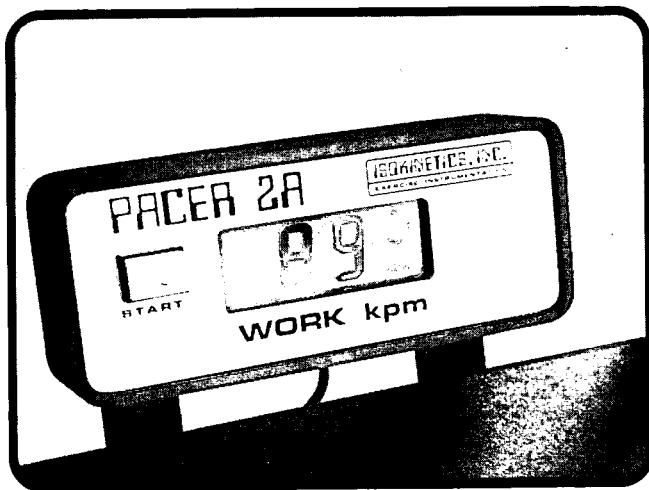
Meagher's 200 fly win to beat Nashville's Karinne Miller, plus her seventh-place time in the 100 fly and No. 3 honors in the 100 for teammate Lisa Buese, helped Lakeside Swim Club to its No. 9 team placing.

Fifth-placing Longhorn Swim Team was led by Joan Pennington's silver finishes in the 100 fly and 200 IM and a third in the 100 back. Dian Girard pitched in No. 2 honors for the 200 back.

Pennington was followed in the 200 IM by third placer Anne Tweedy, who also took second in the 400 IM, adding points toward Santa Barbara Swim Team's seventh-best team total. Ahead of Santa Barbara for the sixth team spot were the Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins, whose Kim Carlisle clocked the second-fastest 100 back time in the finals. ■

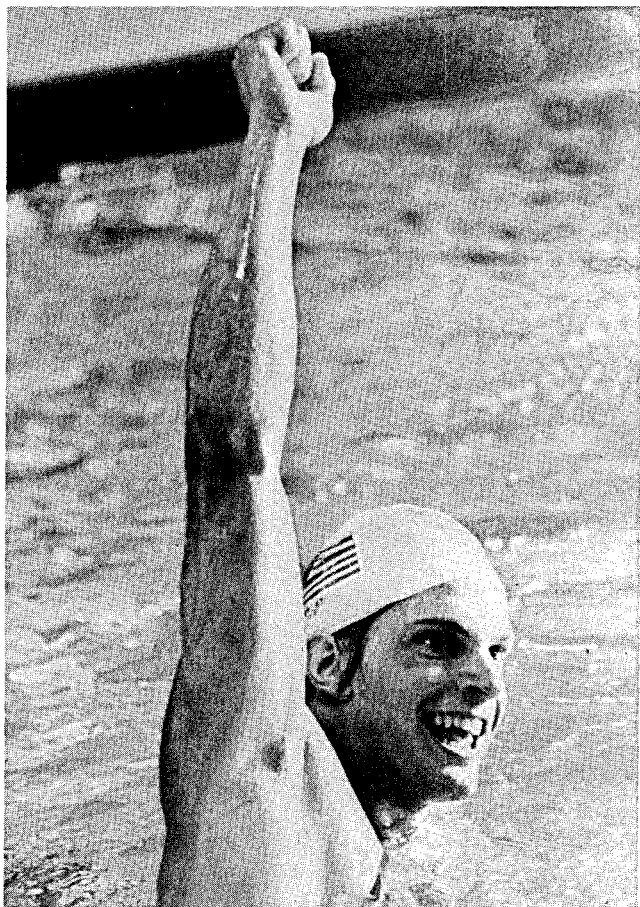


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Steve Lundquist, Tallman Pools, set two American records.

Photo by Bob Ingram

MEN'S EVENTS

By Bill Bell

100 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Andy Coan, Tennessee, 1979 20.72 43.25

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Jonty Skinner, North River 21.3 43.64

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)

David McCagg, Florida 21.26 43.71

John Newton, U.T. Gatorade 21.04 44.02

Rowdy Gaines, Florida 21.25 44.08

Jack Babashoff, No. River Yacht Club 21.44 44.14

Kris Kirchner, Longhorn 21.04 44.26

David Larson, Florida 21.50 44.31

John Ebuna, U.T. Gatorade 21.04 44.56

Byron Sims, Beach 21.92 44.88

Florida Aquatic's David McCagg blasted into the final wall at the conclusion of the men's 100 yard freestyle, took a quick look at the scoreboard, and said "Damn."

McCagg had seemingly outtouched the field for victory but the board said otherwise, tabbing UT Gatorade's John Newton as the winner.

In fact, according to the computerized scoreboard flashing the final results, McCagg was way back in eighth — last place — with a dismal 46.61 clocking.

FAST coach Randy Reese was over checking with the officials faster than you could say "Tracy Caulkins," and after a review of the tapes and the backup timing equipment, McCagg was restored to his rightful place at the top of the list—as befits a world champion — with a very strong 43.71 effort, a mere seven-hundredths of a second slower than the championship record 43.64 set by North River Yacht Club's Jonty Skinner last year.

McCagg's time is also less than a half second slower than Tennessean Andy Coan's American record 43.25, set during the prelims at this year's NCAA Championships. Coan, however, was rendered *hors de combat* by an auto accident a week before the AAUs.

Thus the FAST supersprinter qualified for his second event on the Pan-American Games' team, having previously placed second in the 100 fly to UCLA's Bob Placak.

"I was so mad I couldn't believe it when I looked up and saw the results saying that I was eighth," an understandably relieved McCagg said later. "I knew there had to be a mistake and I was about ready to maybe do something rash when I figured I'd let my coach argue about the results. He's pretty good at that."

The revised results showed Newton runner-up (44.02) and McCagg's FAST (and Auburn University) teammate Rowdy Gaines third (44.08).

Longhorn Aquatics' Kris Kirchner, fastest qualifier in Thursday's 200 free, was also quickest to qualify in the century off his 44.10. McCagg was next to him in lane five (44.17) and Gaines was on the opposite side in lane three with his 44.31.

At the gun, Kirchner, Newton and UT Gatorade's John Ebuna, the latter pair famed for their explosive starts, hit the water like so many dive bombers. At the halfway point, these three were tied for the lead at 21.04 and it was anybody's race — anybody, that is, unless your name happens to be David McCagg.

On the second 50, McCagg took command, bobbed ahead after the 75 turn and brought it home in blazing fashion as befits ▶

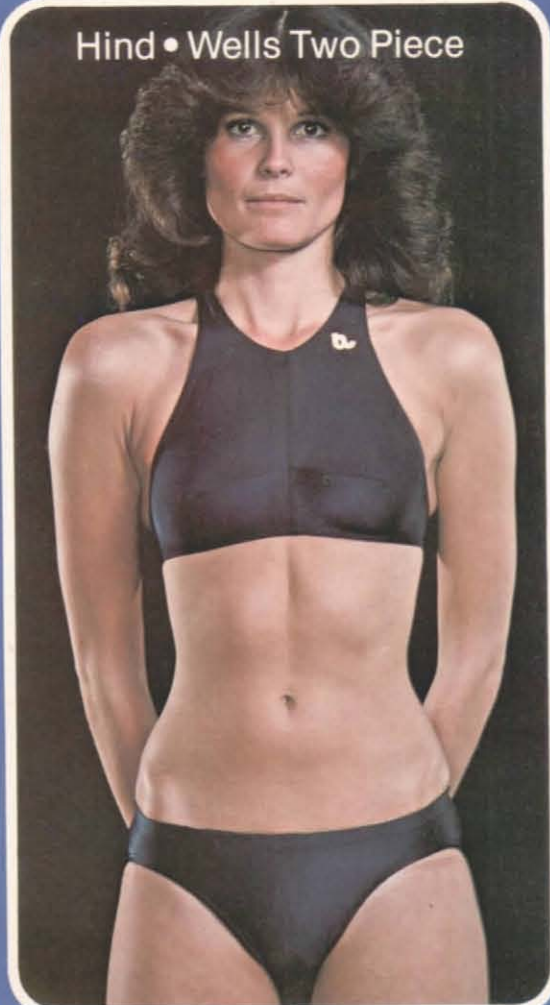
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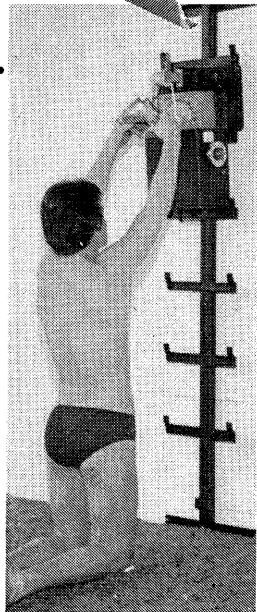


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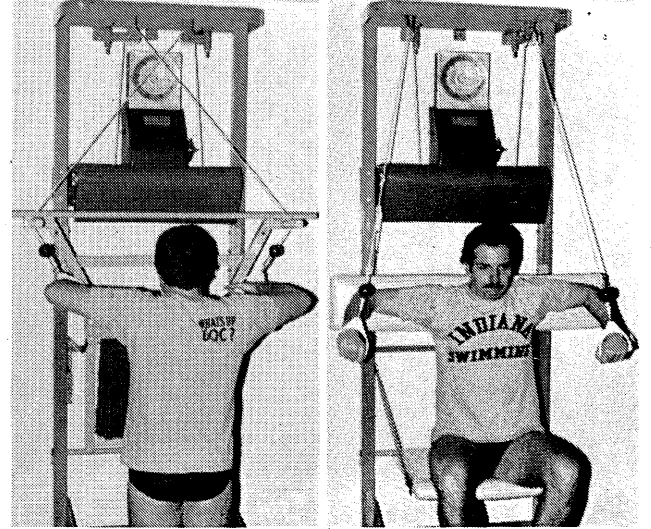
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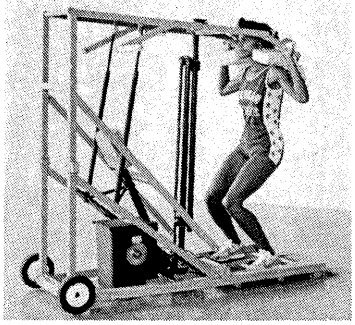


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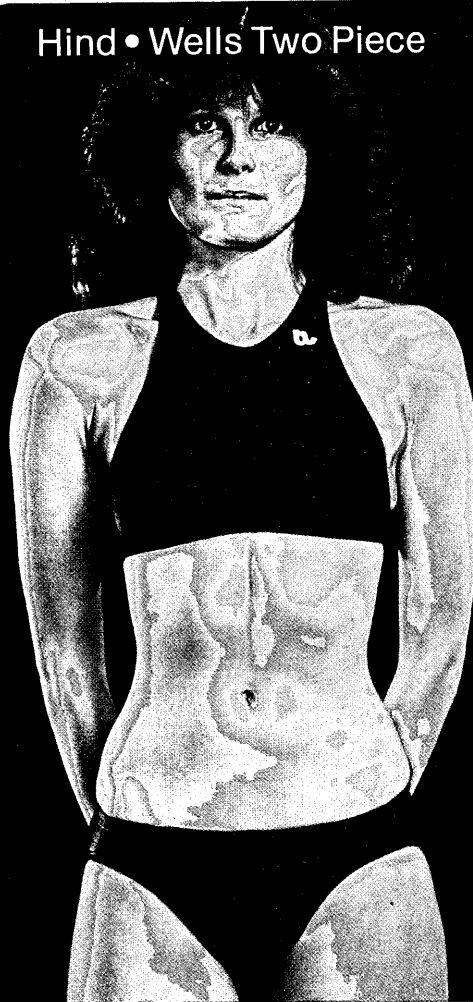
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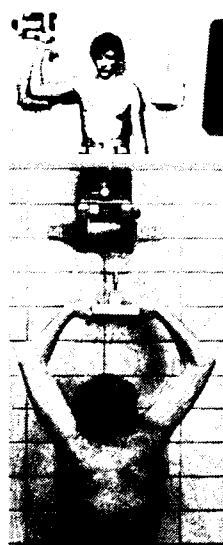
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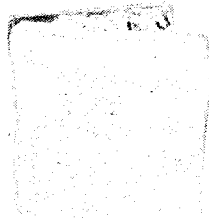
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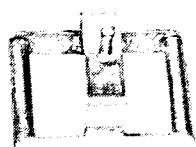
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AAU NATIONALS — MEN *continued*

history's third-fastest all-time 100 mah (long course).

McCagg had been suffering from mono and pneumonia during the preceding collegiate season and, thus, is just now rounding into top form. He said he's looking forward to taking a crack at Skinner's 49.44 long course world record this summer in San Juan, and if not there, certainly at the U.S. Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale a month later.

"I might have gotten it (the world record) at Berlin last year, but the night of the finals was so cold that Joe (Bottom) told me just to concentrate on winning the race and get the record when conditions are more favorable, and I took his advice," McCagg said.

200 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Andy Coan, Tennessee, 1979 21.76 45.73 1:10.36 1:35.62

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Andy Veris, Mustang 22.6 46.7 1:11.9 1:36.84

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)

David Larson, Florida 22.71 47.49 1:12.07 1:36.20

Rowdy Gaines, Florida 22.48 47.22 1:11.77 1:36.22

Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo 22.94 47.60 1:12.54 1:37.30

Chris Cavanaugh, De Anza 23.09 47.96 1:13.28 1:37.84

Kris Kirchner, Longhorn 22.08 46.21 1:11.59 1:37.87

Greg Kraus, SMU 23.06 47.65 1:12.78 1:37.90

Bruce Furniss, USC 22.65 47.50 1:12.77 1:38.36

Byron Sims, Beach 23.08 48.01 1:13.25 1:38.76

FAST's one-two sprint punch of David Larson and Rowdy Gaines was superfast in the 200 yard freestyle Thursday evening and so, for the second-consecutive Nationals, a pair of Florida Aquatics' swimmers will represent the United States internationally in this event.

At last year's III World Championships in West Berlin, it was FAST's Billy Forrester and Gaines going one-two in the year's two fastest times globally.

In 1979, it will be FAST's Larson and Gaines swimming for their country at the Pan-American Games in the 200 free.

Larson and Gaines were the race's top two qualifiers (1:36.54-1:36.89) with Mission Viejo's Brian Goodell, 500 free winner opening night, alongside Larson in lane three with the third-fastest time, 1:37.33.

Goodell, triple American record holder who split a tremendous 1:35.93 at the NCAAs on the opening leg of UCLA's 800 free relay (history's third-fastest) was attempting a difficult double, the 200 free and 400 IM, within a half hour of each other. Speculation was rife as to whether he might deliberately "tube" the 200 in order to have a better shot at the IM win and a rematch against Mission teammate Jesse Vassallo.

Such talk was quickly dismissed following Goodell's strong showing in qualifying, and Goodell himself declared before the race he was out to win every event he entered.

And not to be overlooked was former American record holder Bruce Furniss of USC, lurking ominously over in lane six.

The David and Rowdy show was almost spoiled by Longhorn Aquatics' Kris Kirchner, who took it out hard and left the field trailing in his wake at both the 50 (22.08) and 100 (46.21) yard marks. By contrast, Larson went 22.71 and 47.49 for his initial 50 and 100 and at the halfway was third, with teammate Gaines second.

At 150 yards, it was still Kirchner ahead (1:11.59), but Gaines was closing fast (1:11.77) and Larson not far behind (1:12.07). Goodell was fourth, clearly not a factor as far as the winning was concerned.

Larson and Gaines stroked furiously towards the finish and at the wall, it was the former outtouching the latter, 1:36.20-1:36.22. Goodell was third (1:37.30) with DeAnza's Chris Cavanaugh fourth and Kirchner fifth.

Conspicuously absent was UT Gatorade's Andy Coan, American record holder, who was banged up in a car accident

the weekend before the Nationals were to begin and sustained two broken wrists and a busted knee. Coan was blindsided when a teen-aged girl ran a red light, but is expected to satisfactorily recover and be able to swim later this summer.

500 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo, 1978	50.1	1:41.7	2:33.1	3:25.0	4:16.40
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)					
Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo	49.35	1:41.16	2:32.99	3:25.33	4:17.67
David Larson, Florida	49.70	1:41.95	2:34.27	3:27.40	4:20.91
Jeff Float, USC	50.70	1:43.68	2:36.80	3:30.97	4:23.05
Bobby Hackett, Bernal's Gator	49.43	1:41.89	2:35.39	3:29.51	4:23.68
Andy Schmidt, Mission Viejo	51.24	1:44.07	2:36.90	3:30.62	4:23.90
Craig Beardsley, Florida	51.71	1:45.44	2:37.82	3:31.61	4:25.90
John Hillencamp, Florida	50.67	1:43.35	2:36.83	3:32.16	4:28.01
Bill O'Brien, USC	51.47	1:45.45	2:39.74	3:35.12	4:30.33

Every time Brian Goodell goes for a dip in the pool, an American record is sure to fall, right?

Wrong.

At least not on the opening evening of competition.

Goodell, triple American record holder in the 500 and 1650 yard freestyles and 400 IM coming into the meet, came within an eyeblink of breaking his domestic standard of 4:16.40 for the 500 free three weeks earlier at the NCAA Championships when he clocked 4:16.43.

So, swimming at East Los Angeles, where he's competed literally hundreds of times and before the hometown folks in Southern California, he was as sure as smog in Los Angeles to break his 500 free record here.

He didn't.

Oh, he was close, 4:17.67, but not quite close enough.

"I felt pretty good tonight, but after the first couple of hundred yards, my stroke started getting choppy and I fell off my pace a little bit," Goodell said later.

Indeed, for the first 300 yards, pushed by Florida Aquatics' David Larson, swimming next to him in lane three, it appeared as if Goodell, the top qualifier at 4:19.59, was well on his way to breaking the record he just missed at Cleveland and had set at Austin last year. He was not quite a second under at 100 yards (49.35-50.1) and at 200 (1:41.16-1:41.7). Larson, by this time, was beginning to fade and was three-quarters of a second behind.

At 300 yards, Goodell split 2:32.99; his record pace split was 2:33.1. The volume of noise at the East Los Angeles Swim

Stadium had swelled to ear-shattering proportions, but Goodell was oblivious to the racket. At 400 yards, he was just over (3:25.0-3:25.33) and even though he sprinted his last 50, his final 4:17.67 was 1.27 seconds too slow.

Larson, swimming his best time ever, was a strong second (4:20.91) and FAST teammates Craig Beardsley (4:25.90) and John Hillencamp, last year's runner-up, occupied the sixth and seventh positions. Goodell's Mission teammate, Andy Schmidt (the morning's No. 2 qualifier at 4:21.64) was fifth (4:23.90), while the bronze medal went to Southern Cal's Jeff Float (4:23.05). Float was third at the NCAAs while Bernal's Gators' Bobby Hackett, runner-up to Goodell at Cleveland, finished fourth here (4:23.68).

1650 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Brian Goodell, UCLA, 1979	51.89	1:46.45	2:40.49	3:34.38
	4:28.64	5:22.96	6:17.34	7:11.97
	8:06.69	9:01.42	9:55.68	10:50.07
	11:44.87	12:39.20	12:34.60	14:28.61
				14:54.13

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo	52.5	1:47.1	2:42.1	3:37.1
	4:31.9	5:26.7	6:21.5	7:16.7
	8:11.9	9:06.0	9:59.9	10:53.7
	11:47.6	12:41.6	13:34.60	14:28.6
				14:54.54

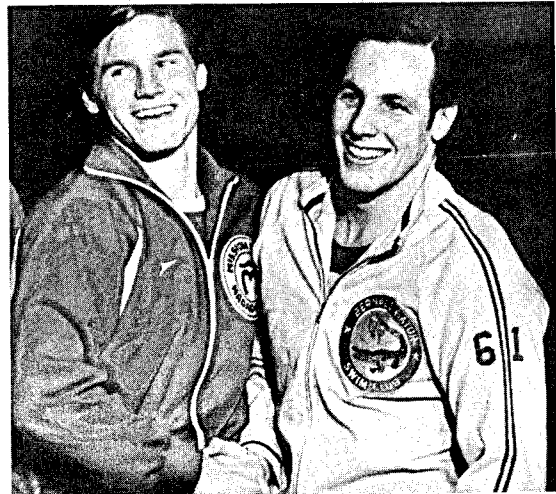
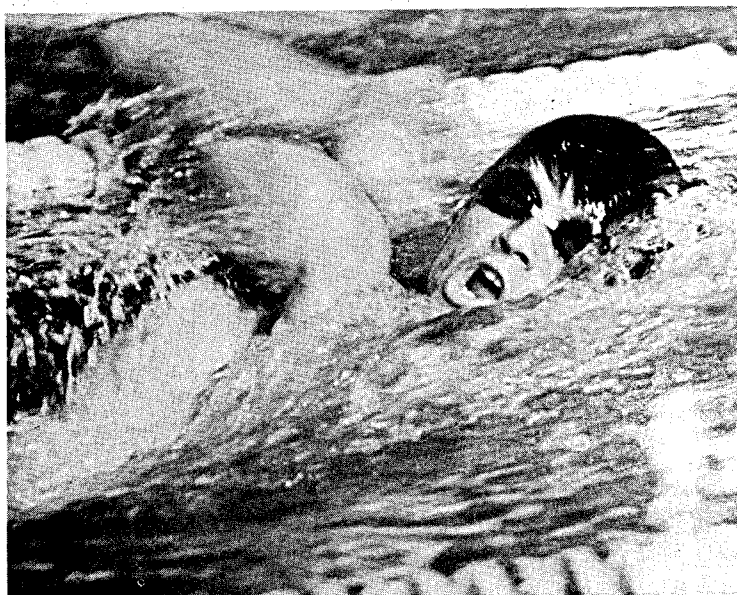
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)

Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo	51.32	1:45.00	2:39.12	3:32.94
	4:26.78	5:20.54	6:14.41	7:08.32
	8:02.21	8:56.25	9:50.72	10:45.07
	11:39.35	12:33.98	13:28.18	14:21.56
				14:47.27*
Bobby Hackett, Bernal's Gator	50.67	1:44.25	2:38.44	3:32.77
	4:27.05	5:21.39	6:16.12	7:11.13
	8:06.04	9:01.11	9:55.99	10:51.16
	11:46.24	12:41.44	13:36.33	14:31.10
				14:57.15

Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo	15:06.72
Chuck Bauman, SMU	15:15.45
Monte Brown, DeAnza	15:19.58
Zoltan Wladar, Hungary	15:20.27
Paul Asmuth, Mission Viejo	15:22.17
Dan Harrigan, Sweet Acidophilus Milk	15:23.05
*American/U.S. Open Record	

The Brian and Bobby Show, temporarily put on hold a month ago in Cleveland, was back in living color in East Los Angeles the second Saturday in April and its ratings were even higher than when it played in Long Beach, Montreal, Canton, Austin or The Woodlands.

Mission Viejo's Brian Goodell, fresh off his American record ➤



Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo (left), set American mark in 1650. At the awards stand (above), Goodell and runner-up Bobby Hackett, Bernal's Gators, congratulate each other on their one-two finish.

(Photos by Bruce Bollinger)



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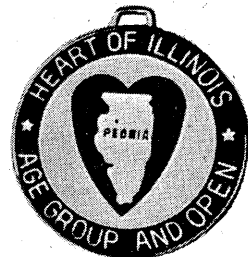
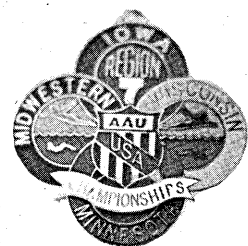
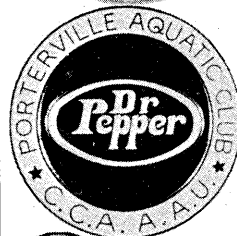
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AAU NATIONALS — MEN *continued*

14:54.13 in the 1650 free at the NCAAs, faced Bernal's Gators' Bobby Hackett in the finals of the AAUs and the question on everyone's mind was: Could Goodell do it again?

Well, with "Hackett the rabbit" to first lead, then chase him into a frenetic pace, Goodell lopped nearly seven seconds off his barely ink-dry record with an incredible 14:47.27. That equates with a sub-14:55 for the 1500 meter freestyle, and Goodell's current world record (assuming he hasn't broken it by the time you read this in the USA-West Germany dual meet a week hence) is 15:02.40.

After tripling at the NCAAs for the second consecutive year, there was considerable speculation as to what Goodell's frame of mind would be like at the AAUs. It was quickly answered opening night when he won the 500 free in a mere second-and-a-quarter off his American record, then finaled in the 200 free and 400 IM Thursday.

Thus the stage was set for the classic Goodell-Hackett "mile" showdown.

In the morning heats, Mission's Jesse Vassallo, 200 back and 400 IM winner, sped to a 15:06.72 for the fastest 1650 of the non-championship finalists. And when the starter called the top eight to the blocks, the atmosphere was electric. How long could Goodell keep it up? Would Hackett grab a big early lead (as he is wont to do and as he did last year) only to be corralled in the end?

Answers weren't long in coming as Hackett, swimming in lane six, took it out H-A-R-D and was over two seconds ahead of Goodell's record pace after a mere 200 yards. But at 400 yards, Hackett led Goodell by less than two tenths of a second and both were still a couple of seconds below the standard.

A third of the way through at 500 yards, Goodell was in command, leading 4:26.78-4:27.05 over his Gator rival. Their two coaches—Mark Schubert and Joe Bernal—were almost side by side on the deck whistling, shouting and waving, urging their swimmers on with almost as much vitality as the athletes were exerting.

Goodell now began stretching out on Hackett as if he were Henry Rono, and the two left the field trailing in their wake. By a thousand yards, Goodell had a quarter-pool lead on Hackett as he touched in 8:56.25, by far the fastest 1000 ever in a 1650 race. Goodell's previous best was a 9:01.42 at this year's NCAAs and his 1000 free collegiate record is 8:52.45.

While Schubert and Bernal were almost ready to go one on one, the crowd was in a frenzy, too, and there was doubt as to the roof's ability to stay in place.

It did, but Goodell and Hackett sure didn't. Goodell quickly covered the 500 yards between the 1000 and 1500 in 4:41.98 (13:28.18 overall) and led Hackett by over eight seconds.

At the end, the lead was 10 seconds—14:47.27-14:57.15—and the two dominant distance freestylers then shook hands and hugged each other in a warm display of friendship and sportsmanship.

Hackett suffers from a rare blood disease that leaves him highly susceptible to viral infections, yet still managed to knock more than 10 seconds off his NCAA second-place finish (15:08.07). His second-place finish here assured him of a trip to Puerto Rico and still another 1500 meter free rematch with his friendly rival.

"It's always a much better race with Bobby in there," Goodell explained. "Our rivalry is a mutually sustaining one—we're good for each other. I was psyched up for the meet before I got here, but once I came, I was kind of disappointed to see that some of the top college guys who I had been swimming against all year were not in the shape they were at the NCAAs or during the season.

"I was disappointed with my time in Cleveland (where he broke his American record by only 40-hundredths of a second) because I knew I had a lot more in me, which I showed tonight," he said.

100 Back

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

John Naber, USC, 1977	23.46	49.31
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION		
Peter Rocca, Concord	23.8	49.83
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)		
Bob Jackson, West Valley	23.55	49.58
Clay Britt, Rockville Municipal	23.81	50.12
Jamie Fowler, USC	24.01	50.32
Mark Kerry, Indiana	23.95	50.43
Peter Rocca, Concord	24.60	50.78
Rick Carey, Badger	24.23	50.83
Ken Ireland, Pleasant Hill	24.26	50.93
Phil Nenon, Longhorn	24.32	51.39

West Valley Aquatic Team's Bob Jackson scored an easy wire-to-wire victory in the 100 yard backstroke over Rockville Municipal's Clay Britt—so what else is new?

When Jackson *doesn't* win a 100 yard or meter backstroke race . . . well, that's news.

AAU long course champion last summer, world champion at Berlin, leadoff on the USA's medley relay team in 56.33 (third on the all-time list and second on the American), Jackson will carry the red-white-and-blue to Puerto Rico off his 49.58 victory at East Los Angeles. John Naber's American record is 49.31.

Britt, who earlier this year swam a national prep record 51.42 for the 100 back for Bullis School, Potomac, Md., finished second (50.12) and also earned himself a trip to San Juan.

Jackson was the race's top qualifier (49.54) with Britt a half-second behind (50.01). NCAA 200 back champ Peter Rocca (Concord), who was second to Mission Viejo's Jesse Vassallo in the 200 back opening night, was third-fastest (50.51); with Southern Cal's Jamie Fowler a tenth back in fourth (50.61).

Jackson got a fast start and at the halfway juncture was leading Britt by a quarter second (23.55-23.81). Indiana's Mark Kerry was third (23.95).

Jackson began stretching out on the third lap and as the field turned for home at 75 yards he was clearly in command of the race. Fowler was overtaking Kerry for third, but didn't have the speed to threaten the two leaders.

Jackson touched in 49.58, 13-hundredths better than Alabama's Carlos Berrocal's 49.71 NCAA-winning time. Jackson transferred from Cal State Long Beach to the University of Arizona last fall and, thus, was ineligible during the college season.

200 Back

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

John Naber, USC, 1977	24.58	51.16	1:18.36	1:46.09
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION				
Peter Rocca, Concord	25.1	52.1	1:19.4	1:47.02
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)				
Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo	24.86	51.69	1:18.83	1:46.98
Peter Rocca, Concord	25.44	52.90	1:20.70	1:48.65
Jamie Fowler, USC	25.15	52.72	1:20.37	1:48.83
Rick Carey, Badger	25.19	52.60	1:20.47	1:48.98
Dan Harrigan, Sweet Acid. Milk	25.15	52.85	1:20.43	1:49.04
Phil Nenon, Longhorn	25.58	52.42	1:20.83	1:49.24
Tim Shaw, Conquistador	25.35	53.03	1:21.29	1:49.88
Kyle Miller, Florida	25.75	53.97	1:21.33	1:50.58

A world champion and world record holder doesn't get nervous before a big race, right? He stays calm and cool. Nothing phases him. Let the others worry and fidget about. This guy's the best. Nobody's going to psyche him out.

Hah.

Jesse Vassallo was a bundle of nervous energy before the finals of the 200 yard backstroke opening night.

"It's your first race of the meet and you don't know what the other guys are thinking, what they're planning to do," Vassallo explained afterwards following his 1:46.98 victory. "I was a little nervous going in because there were a lot of fast guys in the field—Peter Rocca, Dan Harrigan—guys who are good 100

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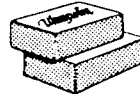
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back men too, so I was kind of afraid somebody might take it out really hard and get too far ahead."

That "somebody" was Mission Viejo's own Jesse Vassallo, who blasted off the blocks in lane four as if he were superman (which some are wont to suggest). At the 50 yard mark, he was a tick behind Longhorn Aquatics' Phil Nenon (24:66-25:15), but by the 100 turn, Vassallo had assumed control of the race.

He split a very rapid 51.69 for his opening 100 with Nenon second (52.42) and defending champ Peter Rocca of Concord sixth (52.90). Vassallo began stretching his lead over Nenon at 125 yards and by that time was nearly a full body length ahead of his Texas rival, who was rapidly fading. Rocca, who had won the NCAA 200 back title three weeks previously, now started to come on strong and wound up finishing second—but nearly two seconds back (1:46.98-1:48.65).

Southern California's Jamie Fowler was third (1:48.83), followed by Rick Carey of Badger Swim Club (1:48.98). Last year's runner-up Sweet Acidophilus' Dan Harrigan, finished fifth (1:49.04). Nenon would up sixth (1:49.24).

Vassallo's 100 split of 51.69 was even faster than consols' winner Bob Jackson (West Valley), a notoriously "take it out fast" 200 man who went 51.88 en route to his 1:48.11.

When USC's John Naber went his American record 1:46.09 two years ago, he split 51.16.

"I'd like to have swum a more even race, but I'm really happy with my time and the fact that I'll now be going home this summer," Vassallo commented, referring to the fact that the race's winner automatically qualified for the United States' Pan-American team. The Games are slated for Vassallo's native Puerto Rico in early July.

Runner-up Rocca said he wasn't disappointed with either his placing or his time.

"I just wanted to make the Pan-Ams and I did, so I'm happy. After the emotional 'high' I was on at the NAAs, it was hard to come back down and start competing again, so I'm not at all displeased with how things turned out."

Vassallo's coach, Mark Schubert, said he felt his star pupil took the first 100 out too fast but still swam a good race.

"We were hoping Jesse could go a 45 (1:45)," Schubert grinned. "The plan was for even 100s of 53 each, but Jesse's still learning to swim the 200 short course. His turns are improving but I think he's better in meters right now."

Vassallo won the 200 back at last year's outdoor Nationals (2:03.57), then won the gold medal at the World Championships in a world-leading 2:02.16.

100 Breast

AMERICAN RECORD

Scott Spann, Auburn, 1977 25.77 55.19

U.S. OPEN RECORD

Graham Smith, Cal, 1979 26.08 54.91

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

John Hencken, Santa Clara 26.2 55.27

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)

Steve Lundquist, Tallman Pools	25.46	54.77
Prelims	25.08	54.08*
Greg Winchell, Beach	25.57	54.82
Jeff Freeman, Santa Clara	26.29	55.39
John Hencken, Santa Clara	26.05	55.54
Bill Barrett, Cinci. Marlins	n.t.	55.93
Rick Meador, Longhorn	26.37	56.05
Scott Spann, Longhorn	26.17	56.20
Chris Woo, Mission Viejo	26.19	56.39

*American/U.S. Open Record

If some people mistake Greg Jagenburg for Larry Csonka, then after Wednesday's 100 yard breaststroke race many people in the swimming world may mistake Tallman Pools' Steve Lundquist for O.J. Simpson.

Both play football, both lift weights, both have blinding speed . . . only trouble is, O.J. doesn't swim competitively while Lundquist does.

The tow-headed high school senior from Jonesboro, Ga.,

shattered the American and U.S. Open record in the 100 breast during the prelims (54.08), then came back to win the finals in 54.77—and attributed his success to football and weight lifting.

"After I came back from the World Championships last summer, I didn't get in the water again until December," Lundquist explained, adding that he then trained only about three days a week. Most of his time was spent bulking up his lanky 6-2 frame to the point where he now looks like he could play flanker for the Rams.

"Maybe you could call it senioritis, but I just felt this was my last year before the Olympics and I wanted to have some fun, be a 'normal' high school senior. So I started going out with some of my friends and kind of let swimming take care of itself."

About the only competitive aquatic activity Lundquist engaged in before the Nationals was the big Emory Prep meet in Atlanta in early February, the Georgia state high school championships a month later and an international long course meet in Hamburg, West Germany.

He said he only got back in the water to train seriously a couple of weeks before the Nationals and even then, "I wasn't going as hard as I will during the summer."

Nevertheless, it was plenty hard enough as he blasted Graham Smith's U.S. Open record 54.91 and Scott Spann's American record 55.19 in the prelims with his stunning 54.08. Second-fastest qualifier was Beach Swim Club's Greg Winchell in a lifetime best 55.05, yet he was nearly a full second behind going into the finals. Lundquist split 25.08 in the prelims after grabbing an early lead and easily led wire-to-wire.

Defending champ Hencken was third-fastest qualifier, 55.96.

Lundquist raced to an early lead in the finals and at the 50, led Winchell, 25.46-25.57. The rest of the field, including last year's runner-up (Longhorn's Scott Spann) and 1979 NCAA runner-up Jeff Freeman (Concord) were clearly racing for third.

Lundquist tired a bit in the finals, but still outtouched Winchell, 54.77-54.82. Freeman was third (55.39) and Hencken finished fourth (55.54).

"The competition is so tough, you have to be prepared to break the record during qualifying if you want to make that championship heat," Lundquist explained following his record-breaking morning swim. "I think the weights have given me the strength necessary to go a fast 100. The breaststroke's not a finesse-type race, it's a power race, and you need to be a big, strong guy to be competitive. Just look at (Scott) Spann and (Greg) Winchell."

200 Breast

AMERICAN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Nick Nevid, Nashville, 1978 27.0 58.2 1:28.9 2:00.53

U.S. OPEN RECORD

Graham Smith, Cal, 1977 27.90 59.05 1:29.62 2:00.05

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)

Steve Lundquist, Tallman Pools	26.07	56.15	1:26.85	1:59.18*
John Simons, Unat.	28.14	59.00	1:30.01	2:01.60
John Hencken, Santa Clara	27.99	58.74	1:30.11	2:01.71
Alban Vermes, Hungary	28.67	59.86	1:31.27	2:02.32
Greg Winchell, Beach	28.00	59.08	1:30.70	2:02.45
Glenn Mills, Cinci. Marlins	28.17	59.75	1:31.30	2:02.59
Jeff Freeman, Santa Clara	27.87	59.11	1:31.50	2:03.39
Gary Faykes, U.T. Gatorade	28.30	59.14	1:30.94	2:03.45

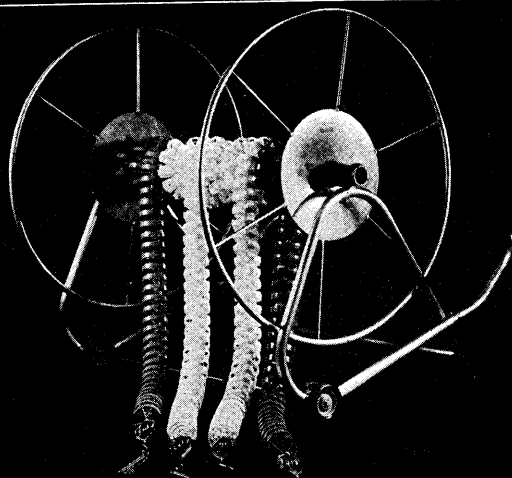
*American/U.S. Open Record

If Affirmed could swim, they'd call him Steve Lundquist.

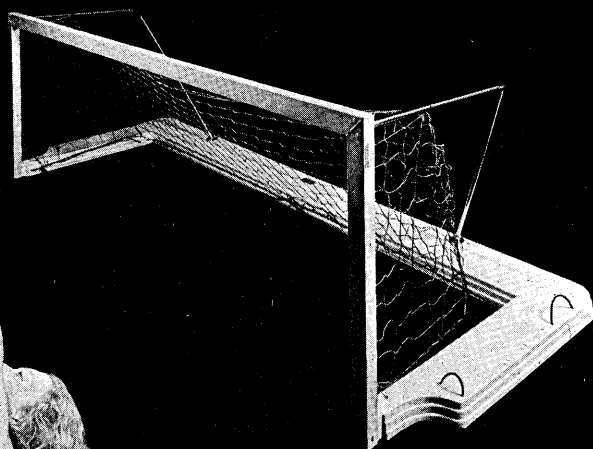
Last year's Triple Crown winner built his reputation off stirring wire-to-wire victories with the competition trailing far behind. At this year's short course AAU Nationals, Tallman Pools' Mr. Lundquist built a reputation for following suit—only in a swimming pool, not on the race track.

Lundquist scored his second straight "knockout" in the 200 breast when he swept to an astonishingly easy victory (1:59.18-2:01.60) over runner-up John Simons, Unat., and John Hencken, Santa Clara, 2:01.71. ➔

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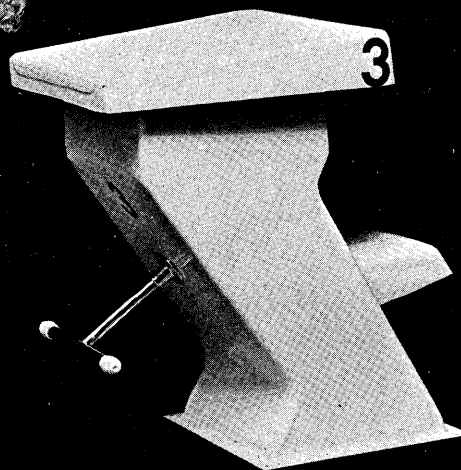
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Lundquist's mind-boggling time was not only an American record by nearly a second-and-a-half, but it enabled him to become the first man under the "magical" two-minute barrier. The previous record was a 2:00.53 by Longhorn Aquatics' Nick Nevid (then of Nashville), and the closest anyone had gotten to cracking the two-minute mark was California's (and Canada's) Graham Smith, who won the NCAA 200 breast title as a freshman two years ago in 2:00.05 for a U.S. Open record.

Lundquist had established an American record in the 100 breast (54.08) during Wednesday's qualifying rounds, then won the race wire-to-wire over Beach's Greg Winchell.

Afterwards, Lundquist commented on how little training he had done in the water following the World Championships and nearly right up to this meet, preferring instead to lift weights and play defensive end for the Jonesboro (Ga.) High football team.

"My dad hates me playing football and my coaches sure don't care for it much either," Lundquist grinned following his 100 win. "But I kinda like the contact and it gets me in shape, builds my endurance."

Lundquist almost didn't get a chance to become a history maker in the 200, barely qualifying for the finals (seventh) with a 2:03.18.

Missing from the top eight was Nevid, who qualified 14th (2:04.59) and finished last in the consolation finals (2:06.46).

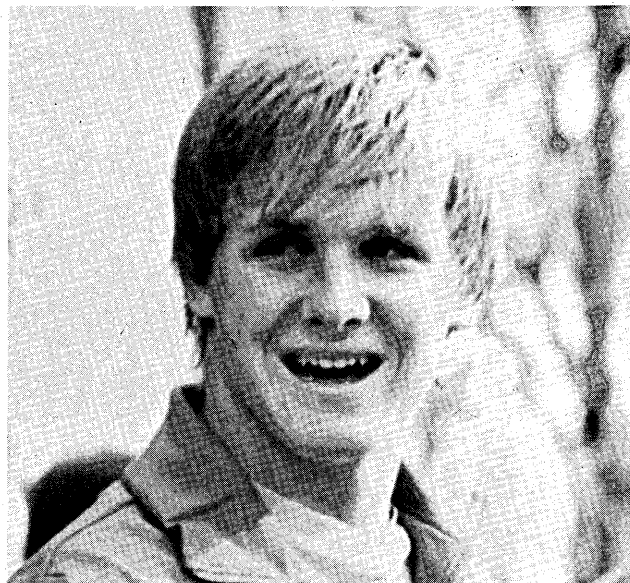
Lundquist and Nevid were in the morning's final heat and the Tallman Pools aquatic phenom figured (correctly) that if he could win a seeded heat, he'd make the finals.

Once the race began, Lundquist's strategy was simple: go as far as you can as fast as you can and let the rest of the field catch you.

"They can't beat you if they can't catch you. I figured if I got out fast enough, I could hold my second 100 long enough to come home a winner," he analyzed later, and that's exactly how the race worked out.

Swimming in lane one, Lundquist grabbed the lead with a tremendous dive and by the time the field had surfaced, he was already a body length ahead. It got worse. His first 50 was 26.07, his initial 100 was 56.15. Only Santa Clara's John Hencken was conceivably within striking distance (58.74) and Lundquist quickly made short shrift of the former American record holder, leading at 150 yards in 1:26.85.

His closest pursuer (Simons) was three seconds-plus back (1:30.01) and the only question was whether the leader would



(Photo by Ann Churchill)

UCLA's Bob Placak won his first national title in the 100 fly.

break two minutes. That he was going to win was obvious.

After splitting 1:03.03 for his final 100 and smashing into the touch pad in a sensational 1:59.18, Lundquist took one look at the scoreboard and turned a couple of double back flips in jubilation, pounding his fists together all the while.

Simons' 2:01.60 for second was his lifetime best and Winchell, who was the morning's top qualifier (2:01.54, also his career best) was fifth. Hungary's Alban Vermes finished fourth.

100 Fly

AMERICAN RECORD		
Joe Bottom, USC, 1977	22.86	47.77
U.S. OPEN RECORD		
Par Arvidsson, Cal, 1979	22.68	47.76
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION		
Scott Spann, Florida	22.5	48.08
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)		
Bob Placak, UCLA	22.71	48.72
David McCagg, Florida	22.93	48.88
Greg Porter, SIU	23.20	48.92
Scott Spann, Longhorn	22.78	49.03
Kirt Fredericks, USC	n.t.	49.10
Grant Ostlund, Florida	22.98	49.17
Dave Wilson, Cinci. Marlins	23.12	49.36
Greg Jagenburg, Conquistador	n.t.	49.44

UCLA's Bob Placak, longest of the long shots in the 100 yard butterfly, won the race and a place on the U.S. Pan-Am Games' team because he wanted to make sure Bruin teammate Brian Goodell—who earlier Wednesday evening had won the 500 free for his spot on the squad — wouldn't get lonely.

It's as simple as that. Well, almost.

The unheralded Placak, whose only previous AAU success had come a couple of years back when he won the consolation 200 fly short course finals, defeated defending champ Scott Spann (Longhorn Aquatics) and 100 free world champion David McCagg (Florida Aquatics), not to mention 100 fly world champion runner-up Greg Jagenburg (Conquistador) to win his first national championship.

The blond Bruin sophomore with an engaging grin had won the NCAA 100 fly consols' in 49.08 last month and had also won the Pac-10 title (49.44).

But against the assembled "heavyweights" at the AAU meet, which also included national prep record holder Dave Wilson (Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins), Placak was given about two

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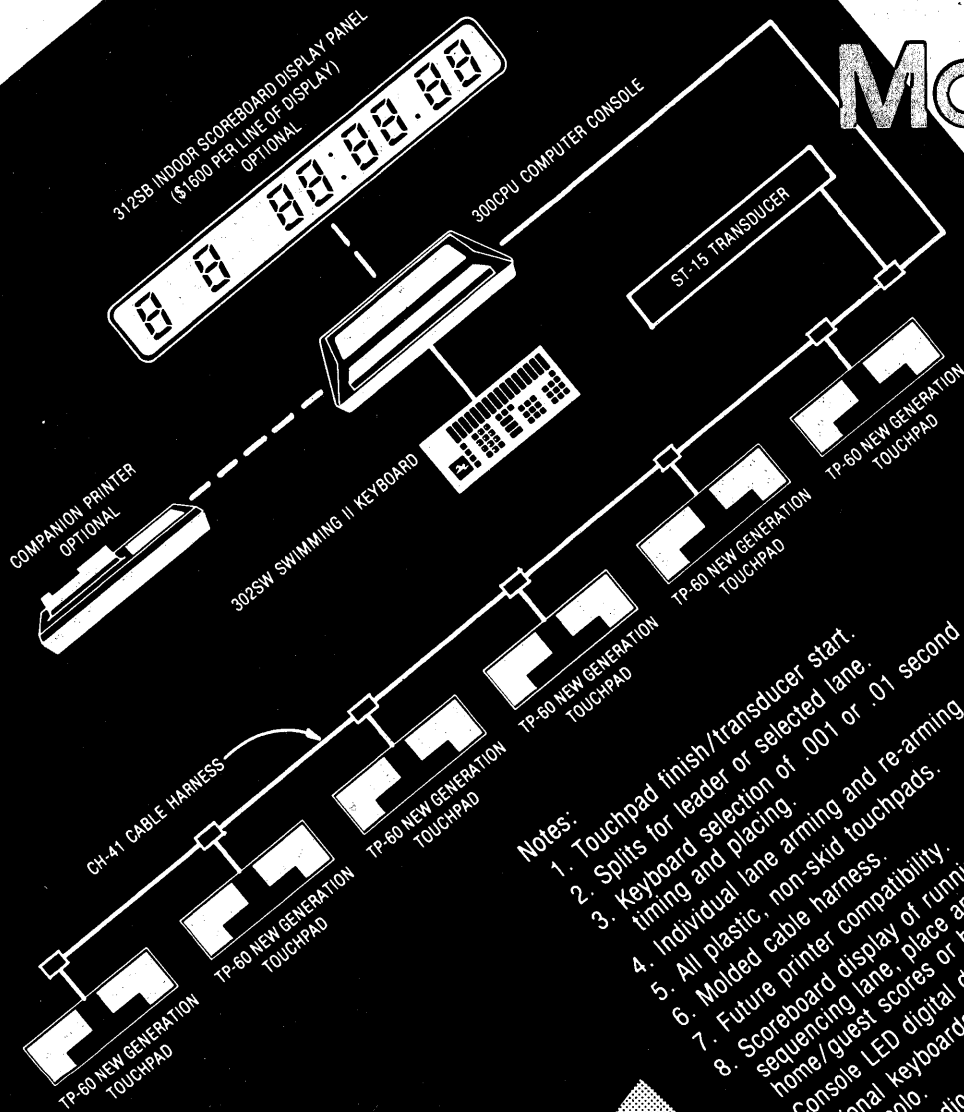
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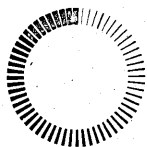
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chances of making it to Puerto Rico—slim and none, with the latter favored over the former.

Southern Illinois' Greg Porter, an NCAA finalist, was top qualifier (48.74), and defending champ Spann was third (48.97). McCagg hit 49.12 in the prelims, showing he had just about recovered from his bout with mono earlier during the college season; and FAST's Grant Ostlund, another NCAA finalist, was second-fastest in prelims (48.88).

Placak was tied with Jagenburg for sixth (49.30).

The race saw Spann get off fast at the 25 mark (11+), but at the 50 turn, it was Placak in lane seven leading his Texas rival, 22.72-22.78. McCagg and Porter were hot on the leader's heels, but Placak was not to be denied. As the field made its final turn at 75 yards, he "sucked it up" and blasted to the wall in 48.72—his first sub-49 effort.

McCagg was second (48.88) with Porter taking the bronze (48.92). Spann was a disappointed fourth (49.03), but perhaps his finaling in the 100 breast earlier that evening took too much out of the Longhorn star.

However, Spann went this same double a year ago with far better results, winning the 100 fly (48.08) and finishing second in the 100 breast.

200 Fly

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Mike Bruner, Stanford, 1977 24.49 51.33 1:18.22 1:45.27

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Greg Jagenburg, Foxcatcher 23.8 50.7 1:17.9 1:45.55

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)

Glynn Perry, Florida 24.66 51.82 1:19.27 1:46.89

Craig Beardsley, Florida 24.56 52.12 1:19.59 1:46.95

Jeff Float, USC 24.35 51.27 1:19.06 1:47.02

Steve Gregg, Conquistador 24.61 51.60 1:18.92 1:47.18

Greg Jagenburg, Conquistador 24.54 52.20 1:19.81 1:47.46

Tony Bartle, Mission Viejo 24.79 52.04 1:20.12 1:47.73

Greg Porter, SIU 23.89 51.11 1:19.29 1:47.80

Dennis Baker, David Douglas 24.66 52.35 1:20.11 1:47.83

"Eight-five one-two, eight-five one-two, eight-five one-two!" was the joyous cry emanating from the Florida Aquatic Swim Team's camp Friday evening after the finals of the 200 yard butterfly.

And the meaning of the chant was perfectly clear to everyone within earshot of the FAST din, for the Gainesville Gang had just recorded its second one-two finish in as many nights via Glynn Perry and Craig Beardsley, swimming in lanes eight and five.

When David Larson and Rowdy Gaines swept the top two spots in the 200 free the previous evening, it marked FAST's first one-two finish of the meet—but it certainly wasn't going to be their last.

Indeed not, as Perry and Beardsley raced to a hotly-contested victory.

It was "hotly contested" because a mere 13-hundredths of a second separated the top three finishers (Southern California's Jeff Float was third); and because Perry had to come from behind to haul in Olympic and world champion silver medalist Steve Gregg en route to victory.

The victory represented Perry's initial national championship. He was third in the 200 fly at this year's NCAA's (with Beardsley occupying the runner-up post) and is more noted as an IM'er than a flyer. He ranked 17th globally last year in the 200 meter individual medley and 16th in the 400.

Beardsley's biggest claim to fame prior to his runner-up spot at the NCAA's was a nation-leading 1:46.63 200 fly at this year's Southeastern Conference Championships for Coach Randy Reese's winning Florida Gators team.

David Douglas' (Oregon) Dennis Baker, a 17-year-old high school senior, was the race's top qualifier (1:47.13) with Beardsley second and Perry eighth.

Southern Illinois' Greg Porter was the early leader during the championship final, touching at 50 yards in 23.89 and at 100 in

51.11, just ahead of Float's 51.27.

Perry, strung out in lane eight, was fourth (51.82) and Beardsley sixth (52.12).

Coming on strong in the second 100 was Conquistador's Gregg, who hit the 150 mark in a leading 1:18.92 was Float hot after him (1:19.06).

As the field headed for home, Perry had moved into third and ever-so-steadily overtook the leaders.

"I knew Steve (Gregg) would be tough the second hundred, so I figured if I could get ahead of him, I'd be in good shape to maybe win it," an elated Perry said afterwards. "I tried to really go all out my last 75 and when I touched, I really didn't know who had won. All I kept hearing was 'eight-five, eight-five,' so I guessed Craig and myself had gone one-two."

Float's 1:47.02 was good for third while Gregg was fourth (1:47.18). Pole-sitter Baker finished eighth, 1:47.83.

200 Individual Medley

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Scott Spann, Auburn, 1977 22.60 50.58 1:21.83 1:48.26

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Scott Spann, Florida 23.3 51.1 1:22.7 1:48.43

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)

Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo 23.98 51.25 1:22.59 1:48.50

Scott Spann, Longhorn 23.53 51.44 1:23.26 1:49.58

Bruce Furniss, USC 23.49 51.25 1:24.50 1:49.80

Bill Barrett, Cincinnati Marlings 23.68 52.27 1:24.24 1:50.03

Steve Lundquist, Tallman Pools 23.97 52.68 1:23.47 1:50.46

John Simons, Unat. 24.56 53.11 1:24.60 1:50.94

Kirt Fredericks, USC 23.16 51.50 1:24.20 1:50.94

Jamie Fowler, USC DQ

Steve Lundquist's "triple crown" was gone with the wind (waves?) the final evening of competition as Mission Viejo's version of Tracy Caulkins—Jesse Vassallo—won the 200 IM in an impressive 1:48.50.

The American record holder in this event, Scott Spann, was second (1:49.58) and earned himself a seat on the plane to Puerto Rico for the Pan-Am Games in his last chance. Spann had previously finalied in the 100 fly and 100 breast, but was not among the top two finishers.

Lundquist, who had set American records while winning both breaststroke races earlier in the meet (and who set the current American long course 200 IM record at last year's outdoor Nationals) couldn't get that elusive third win here, but he still joined Vassallo and Brian Goodell as the third multiple men's winner.

Former 200 IM world record holder Bruce Furniss (USC) was top qualifier in 1:50.10, followed by Vassallo (1:50.13) and Spann (1:50.35). Lundquist was seventh-fastest (1:50.61) and as he had commented after the 200 breast race, his lack of training was bound to have an adverse effect. It did.

Always a strong flyer, Furniss touched after 50 yards in



Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo, winner of three individual titles, receives men's high point trophy from Bill Lippmann.

(Photo by Ann Churchill)

AAU NATIONALS — MEN *continued*

23.49, but was second to teammate Kirt Fredericks in lane one, who hit the pad in 23.16. After the backstroke leg, Furniss and Vassallo were even at 51.25, with Spann third (51.44) and Fredericks fourth (51.50).

Vassallo took command at 150 yards, splitting 1:22.59 to Spann's 1:23.26 and Lundquist's 1:23.47. The balance of the field was a second behind and the sprint for home would determine the winner.

Vassallo won that final 50 free race and his 1:48.50 winning time was only a quarter-second slower than Spann's American record 1:48.26. Furniss was third (1:49.80) and Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins' Bill Barrett was fourth (1:50.03).

400 Individual Medley

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Brian Goodell, UCLA, 1979 52.69 1:50.86 2:59.12 3:50.80

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo 53.8 1:50.8 2:57.9 3:51.69

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)

Jesse Vassallo, Mission Viejo	52.19	1:48.74	2:54.92	3:48.24*
Jeff Float, USC	51.85	1:50.70	3:00.95	3:53.92
Glynn Perry, Florida	52.49	1:52.80	3:02.12	3:54.35
Brian Goodell, Mission Viejo	53.59	1:53.81	3:04.65	3:57.16
Kyle Miller, Florida	52.70	1:51.79	3:03.48	3:57.45
Roger VonJouanne, SIU	54.18	1:55.88	3:04.93	3:58.26
Darrell Fick, Longhorn	53.44	1:55.40	3:04.63	3:59.19
Csaba Sos, Hungary				DQ

*American/U.S. Open Record

Who's to say history doesn't repeat itself? Just ask Jesse Vassallo and Brian Goodell.

At last year's collegiate nationals, Goodell, then a UCLA freshman, won the 400 IM and just missed the American record of 3:52.07.

A couple of weeks later at the AAU Nationals, Mission Viejo's Vassallo not only defeated Goodell and six others, including record holder Bruce Furniss, but went an American record 3:51.69. Vassallo was later to win the 400 meter IM in a world record 4:20.05 at last summer's World Championships.

Enter Goodell again. At this year's NCAAs in Cleveland, the Bruin sophomore smashed Vassallo's American record with a 3:50.80 clocking.

With the gauntlet thus thrown down, Vassallo responded (and how) to the challenge by clipping two seconds-plus from that record with a smashing 3:48.24 of his own at the AAUs.

Southern California's Jeff Float, runner-up to Vassallo a year ago, was top qualifier (3:55.03) with Vassallo next (3:55.66) and Goodell third (3:56.93).

Float, a strong butterflyer, took it out hard on the opening 100 and touched in 51.85, ahead of Goodell's American split 52.69. But Vassallo was within striking distance (52.19), as were FAST's Glynn Perry (52.49) and Kyle Miller (52.70).

But Jesse Vassallo was ranked No. 1 in the world last year in not just one but two events, the 400 IM and the 200 back, and following the backstroke leg of this race, it was all but over. Splitting a very strong 56.55 for his 100 back, Vassallo pulled to an almost two-second lead (1:48.74-1:50.70) at the halfway point and the handwriting was on the wall for the field.

After the breaststroke leg, Vassallo had a mind-boggling six-second lead over Float (2:54.92-3:00.95) and the only question left to answer was how badly he was going to break Goodell's record.

The answer wasn't long in coming as he sprinted his final 100 free in a rapid 53.32, touching in an American record 3:48.24.

Interestingly, Vassallo's world record 4:20.05 converts almost exactly to a 3:48 400 yard IM.

Float was 5½ seconds back in second (3:53.92) and that translates into a 10 yard disadvantage. Perry captured the bronze medal with Goodell fourth and Miller fifth.

Longhorn Aquatic's Darrell Fick, who announced his retirement following the race, was seventh (3:59.19) after qualifying fourth (3:57.69). ▶

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400 Medley Relay**AMERICAN RECORD**

Auburn, 1977 53.06 1:47.28 2:35.01 3:17.62
(McCagg, Spann, Langenmayr, Schatz) (54.22) (47.73) (42.61)

U.S. OPEN RECORD

California, 1979 49.71 1:43.95 2:31.32 3:15.22
(Rocca, Smith, Arvidsson, Holmertz) (54.24) (47.37) (43.90)

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Florida 51.78 1:46.44 2:34.32 3:18.14
(Dickson, Spann, McCagg, Gaines) (54.66) (47.88) (43.82)

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)

Longhorn 51.17 1:46.61 2:34.84 3:18.39
(Nenon, Meador, Spann, Kirchner) (55.44) (48.23) (43.55)

USC 50.70 1:47.89 2:36.06 3:19.91
(Fowler, Wiltse, Fredericks, Furniss) (57.19) (48.17) (43.85)

Florida 51.44 1:48.89 2:37.05 3:20.13
(Wood, Messer, Ostlund, Gaines) (57.45) (48.16) (43.08)

Beach 52.61 1:46.94 2:36.18 3:20.40
(Gordin, Winchell, Volcan, Sims) (54.33) (49.24) (44.22)

Sweet Acidophilus Milk 52.23 1:47.68 2:36.22 3:21.02
(Harrigan, Goodhew, Umbdenstok, Gaul) (55.45) (48.54) (44.80)

Florida "C" 51.73 1:49.15 2:38.21 3:21.72
(Miller, St. Denis, McCagg, Larson) (57.42) (49.06) (43.51)

U.T. Gatorade 52.84 1:49.05 2:38.22 3:21.76
(Ebuna, Faykes, Rindahl, Newton) (56.21) (49.17) (43.54)

Mission Viejo 51.12 1:48.21 2:37.98 3:22.09
(Vassallo, Woo, Bartle, Griffith) (57.09) (49.77) (44.11)

400 Freestyle Relay**AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD**

Tennessee, 1979 44.09 1:27.51 2:11.86 2:54.54
(Newton, Ebuna, Rindahl, Coan) (43.42) (44.35) (42.68)

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Gatorade South 43.76 1:27.85 2:11.44 2:55.27
(Coan, Foreman, Ebuna, Newton) (44.09) (43.59) (43.83)

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)

Florida 43.83 1:27.05 2:11.32 2:55.41
(McCagg, Gaines, Larson, Dickson) (43.22) (44.27) (44.09)

UT Gatorade 44.20 1:27.68 2:12.67 2:58.18
(Newton, Ebuna, Rindahl, Faykes) (43.68) (44.99) (45.51)

Mission Viejo 44.89 1:29.68 2:15.22 2:59.79
(Griffith, Miles, Schmidt, Goodell) (44.79) (45.54) (44.57)

Conquistador 45.13 1:30.03 2:14.73 2:59.87
(DeMont, Wyatt, Northway, Tucker) (44.90) (44.70) (45.14)

USC 45.20 1:30.52 2:15.47 3:00.39
(Furniss, Fredericks, Reed, Hannula) (45.32) (44.95) (44.92)

Longhorn 46.03 1:31.09 2:16.82 3:00.72
(Hawthorne, Spann, Lajoie, Kirchner) (45.06) (45.73) (43.90)

SMU 45.04 1:30.79 2:16.07 3:01.06
(Davis, Redinger, Winegarner, Kraus) (45.75) (45.28) (44.99)

USC "B" 45.67 1:30.75 2:16.35 3:01.50
(Templeton, Kelly, Johnson, McGowen) (45.08) (45.60) (45.15)

800 Freestyle Relay**AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD**

Florida, 1979 1:37.82 3:15.54 4:51.87 6:28.01
(Zubero, Hillencamp, Dickson, Larson) (1:37.72) (1:36.33) (1:36.14)

U.S. OPEN RECORD

USC, 1977 1:37.96 3:14.85 4:50.80 6:28.01
(Pickell, Greenwood, Furniss, Naber) (1:36.89) (1:35.95) (1:37.21)

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Florida 1:38.12 3:14.64 4:52.42 6:29.81
(Gaines, McCagg, Hillencamp, Larson) (1:36.52) (1:37.78) (1:37.39)

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)

Florida 1:36.39 3:12.02 4:49.24 6:25.42*
(Gaines, Larson, McCagg, Dickson) (1:35.63) (1:37.22) (1:36.18)

Mission Viejo 1:37.57 3:17.07 4:55.08 6:34.41
(Goodell, Bartle, Schmidt, Vassallo) (1:39.50) (1:38.01) (1:39.33)

Conquistador 1:39.53 3:17.16 4:56.23 6:34.82
(K. DeMont, R. DeMont, Shaw, Northway) (1:37.63) (1:39.07) (1:38.19)

USC 1:37.36 3:17.03 4:55.98 6:35.18
(Furniss, Roney, Float, Hannula) (1:39.67) (1:38.95) (1:39.20)

North River Yacht Club 1:38.43 3:18.76 4:59.15 6:39.01
(Bugg, Tonelli, Smith, Borgstrom) (1:40.33) (1:40.39) (1:39.86)

Starlit 1:38.64 3:17.59 4:58.01 6:39.03
(McCarthy, Perdue, Hewson, Varner) (1:38.95) (1:40.42) (1:41.02)

USC "B" 1:39.57 3:19.34 4:59.55 6:39.44
(Fredericks, Templeton, Scannel, McGowen) (1:39.77) (1:40.21) (1:39.89)

Florida "B" 1:39.40 3:19.84 5:00.72 6:40.77
(Miller, Forrester, Beardsley, Perry) (1:40.44) (1:40.88) (1:40.05)

* American/U.S. Open Record

400 Medley Relay

Eddie Reese is getting his act at Texas together and the Longhorns are on the march.

This was never more evident than in the 400 yard medley relay where the Horns splashed to victory in 3:18.39, more than a second-and-a-half quicker than runner-up Southern California's 3:19.91, and they did it with a team that may comprise most of Reese's University of Texas medley for next year.

The foursome of backstroke Phil Nenon, Ricky Meador, Scott Spann and Kris Kirchner made up the victorious Longhorn Aquatic relay, and with the exception of Meador, all will be wearing the Horns' orange colors next season.

Nenon and Spann accompanied Reese to Texas from Auburn last year while Kirchner transferred from Cleveland State. Meador still has eligibility at LSU.

Florida Aquatics' "A" was defending champ off his 3:18.14 victory in 1978 at Texas, but missing from that team was Spann. And in the final heat, it was the Longhorns against the combined might of FAST's "A" and "B" teams as well as UT Gatorade "A" and USC.

Trojan Jamie Fowler got USC off to a quick start, splitting 50.70 (the only sub-51 of the race) for the backstroke leg. But Longhorn Phil Nenon touched right behind in 51.17 and once Meador hit the water, it was all but over. He split 55.44 for the breaststroke leg, touching in 1:46.61, a second-and-a-quarter quicker than USC's Bob Wiltse's 1:47.89. FAST "A" was lying fourth (1:48.89) and in second was Beach's "A" team (1:46.94) on the strength of Greg Winchell's super-fast 54.33 100 breast split.

Spann quickly expanded the Longhorn's advantage as he split 48.23 for the 100 fly leg, and after 300 yards, it was the Horns by a second-and-a-half over the Trojans. Kirchner came home in a very solid 43.55 and the Longhorns were a winner. Bruce Furniss split 43.85 for USC's anchor leg.

Other impressive times were a 49.06 100 fly leg by FAST "C's" David McCagg and a 43.59 anchor by teammate David Larson, plus a 48.54 100 fly by Sweet Acidophilus' Jim Umbdenstock. FAST "A's" Rowdy Gaines split 43.08 for his team's anchor leg, quickest of the race and among the 10 fastest 100 free splits of all time.

400 Free Relay

If FAST is the fastest relay team of all, then they should sprint to victory in the 400 freestyle relay, and they most certainly did Saturday night.

Faster than John Travolta's flying feet,

AAU NATIONALS — MEN *continued*

Florida Aquatic's foursome of David McCagg, Rowdy Gaines, David Larson and anchor Keith Dickson flew away from the field and clocked 2:55.41, a shade slower than Gatorade's championship record 2:55.27 last year and nine-tenths above Tennessee's American record 2:54.54.

Minus injured Andy Coan and relying on breaststroker Gary Faykes to be their anchor swimmer, UT Gatorade finished a commendable second (2:58.18). Mission Viejo's "A" team was third (2:59.79) with Conquistador's "A" team fourth (2:59.87) to round out the only teams under three minutes.

McCagg, who earlier in the evening had won the 100 free (43.71), led off the fast FAST foursome with a 43.83, fastest (natch) leadoff split of the race and the only sub-44 leadoff clocking as well.

Gaines followed with a fine 43.22 (1:27.05), yet FAST only led at 200 yards by six-tenths of a second over Gatorade, 1:27.05-1:27.68. Mission was wedged in third (1:29.68), just ahead of Conquistador (1:30.03).

John Ebuna split 43.68 on Gatorade's second leg to keep the men from Tennessee in contention (after John Newton opened in 44.20), but FAST's David Larson pretty much decided the issue on

the third leg when he went 44.27, giving his team a 2:11.32-2:12.67 margin over UT. Conquistador had moved into third off Doug Northway's 44.70 split with an overall time of 2:14.73.

Dickson uncorked a brilliant 44.09 anchor leg to ensure the FAST victory. Gatorade's final two splits were 44.99 by Bruce Rindahl and 45.51 for Faykes.

800 Free Relay

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the FASTest 800 yard freestyle relay team of all?"

"Florida Aquatics, Florida Aquatics, Florida Aquatics!"

No doubt this little bit of doggerel didn't take place when Rowdy Gaines, David Larson and their Florida Aquatic teammates woke up in Los Angeles Saturday morning. But it might well have, for FAST indeed was every bit its acronym on supposedly unlucky Friday the 13th, as Randy Reese's charges stroked to an American record 6:25.42 victory, breaking their own 6:28.01 record set three weeks earlier at the NCAAs.

That time was first accomplished by USC when it won the NCAA 800 free title two years ago but it wasn't an American record — rather a U.S. Open

— due to the presence of Canadian Steve Pickell.

FAST made fast work of both its own and USC's record at East LA, simply demolishing the competition. Runner-up Mission Viejo "A's" team was a staggering nine seconds back (6:34.41) which translates to almost an entire pool length. Conquistador AC's "A" team, with Olympians Rick DeMont and Tim Shaw swimming the middle legs, was third (6:34.82).

At last summer's U.S. outdoor Nationals, FAST's 800 meter free relay team, comprised of Gaines, Larson, Keith Dickson and John Hillencamp, blasted to a then world-leading 7:30.23, a time that would eventually wind up as the year's third-fastest.

So when Gaines led off Friday's final heat in a hummin' 1:36.39, knowledgeable observers nudged one another in anticipation of a "hot one."

The fans weren't disappointed as Larson, 200 free winner a day earlier in 1:36.20, split 1:36.63 for the second leg to give FAST a five-second lead over USC "A," 3:12.02-3:17.03. Mission was third, 3:17.07.

McCagg kept up the pace, splitting 1:37.22, and Keith Dickson rounded out the foursome with his 1:36.18.

Jim Montbellas



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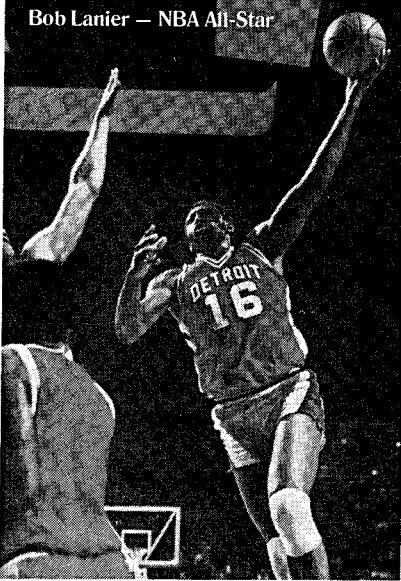
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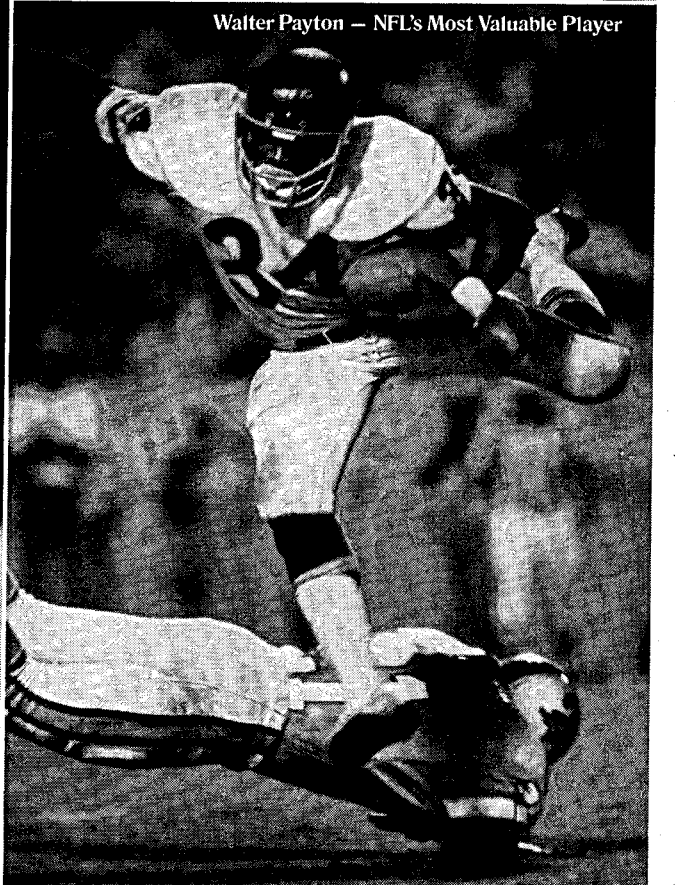
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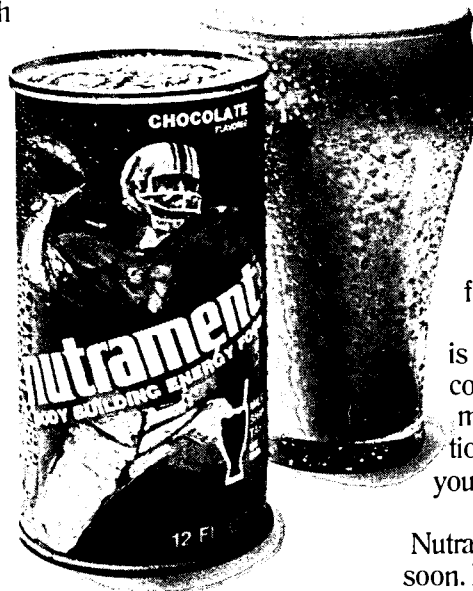
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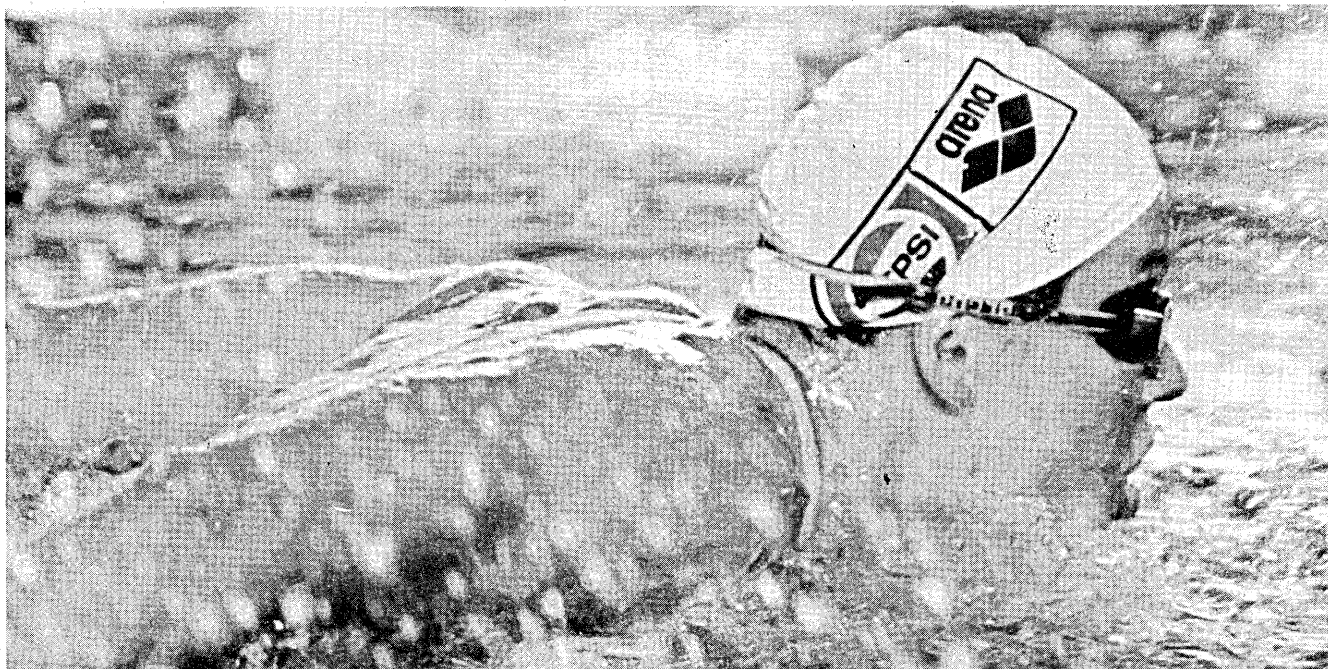
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(Photo by Bruce Bollinger)

Jill Sterkel of El Monte established an American record in the 100 yard butterfly in 53.76.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

By Ann Churchill

100 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Jill Sterkel, Unat., 1979	23.43	49.55
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION		
Stephanie Elkins, Amberjax	24.1	49.66
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)		
Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside	24.19	49.39*
Jill Sterkel, Unat.	24.44	49.48
Stephanie Elkins, Florida	24.30	49.89
Andrea Cross, Nashville	24.64	50.39
Jan Ujevich, Pittsburgh	24.52	50.48
Kelly Asplund, Santa Clara	24.51	50.54
Missy Gehan, Pleasant Hill	24.61	50.96
Wendy Boglioli, Central Jersey	24.96	51.23

* American/U.S. Open Record

The number of ways one can prepare to swim a championship final in national competition at times seems as endless as flip turns in your first 1650, but as far as Sippy Woodhead is concerned, there's only one way to swim the 100 yard free. "Just go! That's all you can do!"

As simplistic as her philosophy appears, it bears the unmistakable burden of proof — a national title.

Though Sippy was the top qualifier for the event following the morning's prelims, she knew she had her work cut out for her. Earlier in the season, she had topped the 49.58 sprint record set by Tracy Caulkins of Nashville in the leadoff leg of the 400 free relay at last year's Short Course Nationals with a 49.56, only to see El Monte's Jill Sterkel (swimming at Nationals unattached) skim past that time shortly thereafter by the narrowest possible margin (49.55).

Now, standing on her left before the championship final was

that same Jill Sterkel, qualifying in 49.63, just behind Woodhead's 49.59 which led the prelims. Not making her task any easier, Sippy added, "I knew there would be a lot of waves with Jill and Andrea (Cross of Nashville) on either side of me. There were, for sure."

Nevertheless, Sippy claimed the 50 yard first in 24.19, identical to her morning prelim split. Turning just behind her came Florida's Stephanie Elkins at 24.30 and Sterkel at 24.44.

The return trip was no simple task, Sippy admitted later. "I had trouble coming back. It was hard." But she made the final touch just ahead of a fast-closing Sterkel, 49.39 to 49.48, with both beating the old standard. Stephanie Elkins took the show spot.

Sippy later admitted to slight disappointment over her winning time. "Jill and I thought we'd go a 48," she explained.

Ironically, as it turned out, it would have been better for the two friends had they gone 48's, for Caulkins once again got the last hurrah. Come the 400 free relay, she outdistanced her nearest leadoff relay swimmers by half a length, and when her touch flashed on the scoreboard, she had recaptured her American record in 49.03. "I just wanted to start it off good for our team," Tracy recounted later. The record, of course, didn't hurt.

200 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Stephanie Elkins, Amberjax, 1978	24.7	51.2	1:18.5	1:45.91
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)				
Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside	24.61	50.58	1:17.39	1:44.10*
Prelims	24.58	50.86	1:17.68	1:44.89
Kim Linehan, Sarasota	25.46	52.60	1:19.97	1:46.92
Marybeth Linzmeier, Mission Viejo	25.46	52.64	1:20.13	1:46.96
Jill Sterkel, Unat.	25.18	52.14	1:19.58	1:47.43
Missy Gehan, Pleasant Hill	25.54	52.43	1:20.08	1:48.10
Jennifer Hooker, Mission Viejo	25.46	52.75	1:20.91	1:49.26
Lori Armbruster, Cinci. Marlins	25.46	53.13	1:21.57	1:49.51
Renee Laravie, Florida	25.44	53.02	1:21.82	1:50.63

*American/U.S. Open Record

Despite her youth, 15-year-old Cynthia "Sippy" Woodhead has already gained a lot of wisdom in the few short years during which she has skyrocketed to the forefront of American women's swimming. She knows the feeling of striving to achieve national rankings . . . what it's like to look up (in more ways than one) to the nation's pacesetters . . . what it's like to be a chaser.

But at last summer's Long Course Nationals, she suddenly found herself standing alone following the 200 meter freestyle, nearly two seconds ahead of her peers. In the World Championships, the story was the same, with her nearest contender over a second away.



Photo by Bruce Bollinger

Sippy Woodhead gets hug after 100 free win from Stephanie Elkins as Jan Ujevich (left) and Jill Sterkel (right) look on.

Now, looking back, Sippy struggled unnaturally, searching for a way to verbally convey the feeling of being unsurpassed in an event. "It's difficult to be on top," she concluded, "because everyone's after you. No. 2 can always beat No. 1."

Being "No. 1" in the 200 free, Sippy has had to learn that sometimes her only real competition is herself. When she trains with her Riverside Aquatics teammates, "for anything over a hundred, I have to push myself."

The same was true for her on the second day in the short course version of her specialty. In the morning's prelims, while her closest competitor (Jill Sterkel, swimming unattached) clocked a 1:47.65 and the remaining finalists touched 1:48's or slower, Sippy lopped a second off the American record, splitting 24.58, 50.86 (26.28), 1:17.68 (26.82) and 1:44.89 (27.21).

There was one very conspicuous absence from the final eight to face the evening's championship finals following the prelim eliminations — that of last year's short course champion, Stephanie Elkins. Stephanie's disappointment in qualifying only tenth was shared by Sippy, for the two share a close-knit bond of friendship and friendly rivalry. Sippy's face dropped when asked about the absence of her buddy from the final eight. "I know Stephanie has it. She should have been there with us."

Though Elkins was not able to join the top qualifiers, she showed that she does, indeed, "have it." She attacked the 25 yard pool with a vengeance, winning the consolations in 1:46.91, making a shambles of her 1:49.40 qualifying time.

Ironically, had she swum that time in the championship final moments later, Stephanie would have placed second to Sippy. Kim Linehan from the Sarasota Sharks, however, received silver honors for her 1:46.92, outtouching the 1:46.96 reach of Mission Viejo's Marybeth Linzmeier.

But the moment of glory went, of course, to Sippy, who, though just off her morning's 50 yard 24.58 pace during the first 50 at 24.61, more than made up for the difference within the next 50 with her 50.58 turn. She then kept up the pace for another 100 yards at 1:17.39 and 1:44.10 to establish the new standard.

"In the morning I was tight inside from the competition the night before (when Sippy had finished second to Tracy Caulkins in the 500 free). Tonight I let it all go."

500 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside, 1978	54.3	1:50.7	2:47.4	3:44.2	4:39.94
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)					
Tracy Caulkins, Nashville	53.55	1:49.74	2:45.63	3:41.49	4:36.25*
Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside	53.79	1:50.27	2:46.43	3:42.29	4:38.93
Stephanie Elkins, Florida	53.39	1:49.83	2:46.61	3:43.77	4:40.71
Marybeth Linzmeier, Mission Viejo	54.49	1:50.79	2:47.36	3:44.41	4:41.65
Kim Linehan, Sarasota	54.26	1:51.32	2:48.33	3:45.79	4:43.15
Jennifer Hooker, Msn. Viejo	55.18	1:52.22	2:48.99	3:46.44	4:43.39
Linda Thompson, Ariz.					
Des. Fox	55.65	1:53.57	2:50.59	3:48.37	4:46.79
Valerie Lee, Mission Viejo	57.14	1:55.54	2:53.83	3:52.32	4:50.76

*American/U.S. Open Record

When the awards were presented to the women's 100 breast finalists, one face was conspicuously absent from the pyramid of national breaststroke leaders—the one which belonged on top. The admiring, expectant applause and bouquet of red roses were accepted by a girl friend of the American record-setter because Tracy Caulkins had something more demanding of her time.

In the 25 minutes separating the 100 breast and 500 free finals, Caulkins had only one thing she wanted to accomplish—concentration. In fact, her coach, Don Talbot, had instructed her to do her best, no matter how her 100 breast swim had gone, to forget that race. The reason? Tracy had qualified second for the finals of the 500 free. ➤

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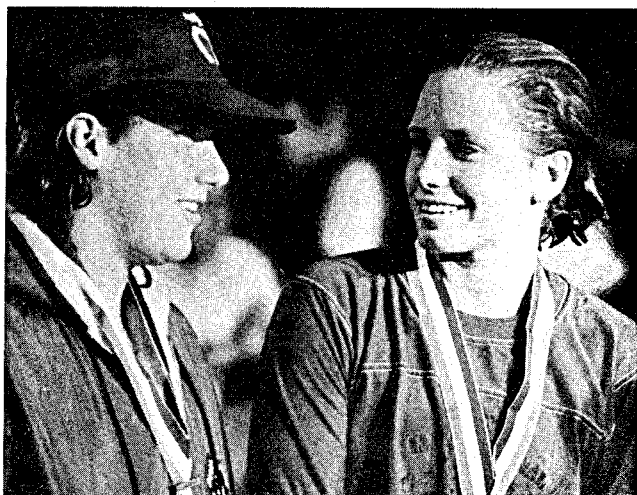


Photo by Bob Ingram

Kim Linehan of Sarasota Sharks (right) won 1650, while Jennifer Hooker of Mission Viejo (left) followed for second.

"I swam down after the 100 breast then had time to prepare for the race," Tracy recounted later. "I got my thoughts together. I had to forget about my breaststroke. This was the first time I swam the 500 in a big competition."

In past competition, Tracy would have been expected to swim the 200 breast rather than a race like the 500 free. But Tracy admitted, "I have trouble with the 200 breast in keeping up my tempo. I had the chance here to try something different."

"Trying something different" brought a creative challenge for Tracy. After dazzling the world with world records in both IMs and the 200 fly during the 1978 Berlin World Championships . . . after receiving the Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete . . . after these and countless other achievements, it's understandable that Tracy would have something of a letdown in settling back into the daily grind. She readily acknowledged that she has "found it hard to get psyched up. I just concentrate on what I'll have to do and where I'll have to do it. Specifically on the 500, I was trying to concentrate on my stroke."

Coach Talbot emphasized later that "being a serious swimmer takes a lot of self-motivation. It's not only the coach who should motivate the swimmer. My role is to try to provide a reasonable balance of challenging and non-challenging situations. For Tracy, I thought the 500 would be a challenge. It was an alternative to the 200 breast. Maybe the 200 breast," he suggested, "isn't the event she should be swimming."

The 16-year-old Nashville superstar has already shown her readiness to tackle the 500 free when she broke the 15-18 national age group record for the event in 4:41.72 at the Nashville International Invitational back in January. She was under that pace when she qualified second in the prelims in 4:41.59.

But Tracy wasn't without a challenge in the finals. To her left in lane six was American record-holder Sippy Woodhead of Riverside Aquatics, qualifying third at 4:45.83, and to her right, Mission Viejo's top qualifier at 4:41.42, Marybeth Linzmeier.

But once the finals began, Tracy took control. After the first 100 yards, Stephanie Elkins of Florida edged into the lead (53.39 to Caulkins' 53.55 and Woodhead's 53.79). Tracy took the driver's seat 50 yards later, and at the 200, she lengthened her lead and never looked back.

Woodhead caught and passed Elkins at 300 yards, splitting a 2:46.43 to Elkins' 2:46.61, while Tracy bulldozed ahead at 2:45.63.

By the 400 mark, it was Caulkins vs. Woodhead, but Tracy gradually widened her lead in the next 50 yards to over 1½ seconds, 4:09.20 to 4:10.94.

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Sippy's final 50 yards came in 27.99, but Tracy's split was an impressive 27.05, knocking over 3½ seconds off Woodhead's former American standard of 4:39.94 with her incredible 4:36.25 finish.

Woodhead also beat her old standard at 4:38.93, with Elkins taking the show spot at 4:40.71.

1650 Free

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside, 1978	57.6	1:56.6	2:56.0	3:55.1
	4:53.8	5:58.8	6:50.0	7:48.2
	8:46.6	9:44.4	10:41.8	11:39.3
	12:36.7	13:34.2	14:32.0	15:29.1
				15:55.15

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)

Kim Linehan, Sarasota	54.66	1:51.96	2:49.66	3:47.55
	4:45.27	5:43.22	6:41.36	7:39.37
	8:37.00	9:34.77	10:32.46	11:30.28
	12:28.11	13:25.67	14:23.17	15:20.94
				15:49.10*
Jennifer Hooker, Mission Viejo	55.37	1:53.21	2:51.43	3:50.07
	4:48.70	5:46.47	6:44.57	7:42.42
	8:39.89	9:37.43	10:34.49	11:32.26
	12:29.53	13:26.97	14:25.13	15:23.18
				15:51.46

Marybeth Linzmeier, Mission Viejo				15:53.29
Linda Thompson, Ariz. Des. Fox				16:17.81
Shelly Bieck, K.C. Blazers				16:18.53
Laura Campuzano, Caltech				16:19.99
Eney Jones, Florida				16:23.21
Ann Shinnick, No. Baltimore				16:30.15

*American/U.S. Open Record

When 16-year-old Sarasota Shark distance ace, Kim Linehan, eyed the line-up for the women's 1650 free finals, she knew she had her work cut out for her. True, last year's champion, Sippy Woodhead, was absent from the roster of the top-seeded eight swimmers after she elected to take on the 100 sprint instead. (As it happened, minutes earlier Sippy had won that race in American record time.) But stepping into the qualifier's spot in her place was the Mission Viejo freestyler Sippy had barely beat for last year's title—Jennifer Hooker. Hooker had, in fact, charmed this same event, American record-style, back in 1977, and remained a threatening challenge.

Backing Hooker up from Mission was Marybeth Linzmeier, who had barely relinquished the show spot in last year's championship bout to Linehan by the infinitesimal span of five-hundredths of a second. Two additional Nadadore challengers (Diane Griebel and Kim Black) only added to the blue-and-yellow psyche so conspicuous in distance circles in recent years with Mission's coach, Mark Schubert, at the reigns. "The field was tough," Kim admitted later, "but I thought it was good for me."

The proof was in the pudding, as they say, when Kim mixed together the ingredients for a prize-winning recipe on the final night of competition. After 100 yards, she caught and passed early leader Linzmeier, then commandeered her follower through the next 900 yards, adding the space of one- or two-tenths of a second as each additional 100 split flashed the race's story out to watching spectators.

By the 950 turn, Linehan appeared well in control, having widened her lead steadily to what was now a safety margin of over two seconds. In analyzing her performance later, Kim shared her strategy for this portion of the race. "I wanted my second 500 to be faster than my first, but it wasn't." She had split 4:45.27 for the 500, then covered the second set in 4:49.50.

Perhaps an inner signal, or maybe the more audible voice from poolside of her coach, Tim Blood ("I couldn't see him from the middle of the pool, but I could hear him."), gave Kim the message to speed up her pace. "At 1,000 I thought, 'I'd better pick it up.'" ➤

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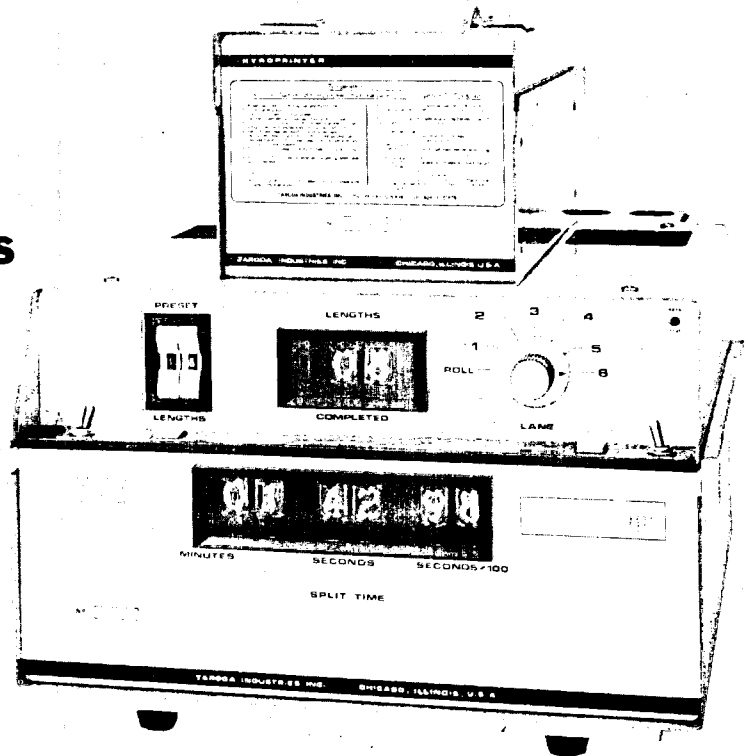
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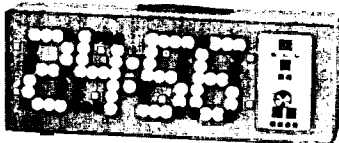


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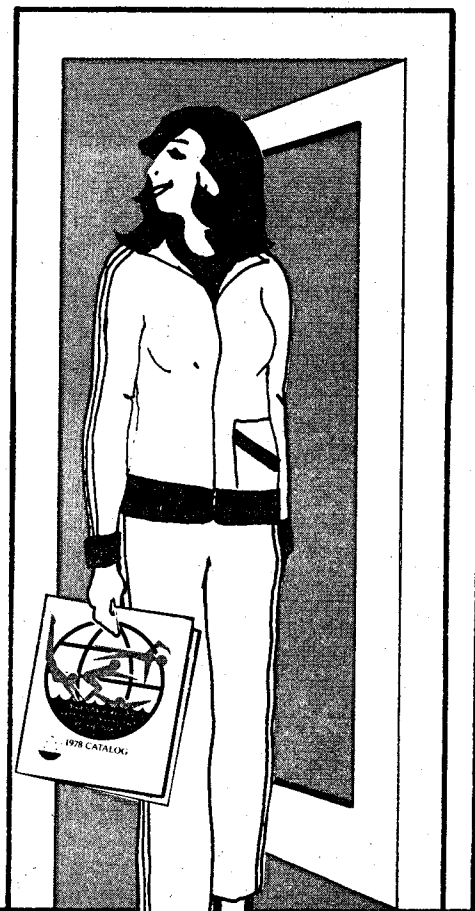
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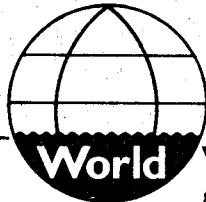
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But someone else had the same idea next to Kim over in lane four. By the 1,050 mark Hooker had roused the now somewhat subdued hopes of her Nadadore cheering section as she not only passed Linzmeier, but was also progressively sneaking up on the event's pacesetter. From a 2:19-second gap at 1,050 yards, Hooker steadily chipped away at Linehan's watery security blanket until she had closed to within one-and-three tenths of a second at the 1,400 mark.

But the cheering finally seemed to serve as impetus for the Sarasota leader as well. With 250 yards to go, Linehan reached into her reserves for a booster shot and had gained four-tenths on Hooker 50 yards later. She sped ahead to a body-length lead at 1,500 yards, and had added three-quarters of a length to that when her drained frame connected at the finish in an impressive new American standard of 15:49.10. Hooker and Linzmeier also finished under the old 15:54.13 mark at 15:51.46 and 15:53.29, respectively.

But the grinning Linehan was the only one who could beat another barrier—that of 15:50. She explained the clenched fist she raised upon seeing her time at the end of the race. "I'm really happy to go under 50!"

100 Back

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Linda Jezek, Santa Clara, 1978	26.54	54.94
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION		
Linda Jezek, Santa Clara	26.7	55.08
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)		
Linda Jezek, Mission Viejo	26.98	55.67
Kim Carlisle, Cinci. Marlins	27.66	56.01
Joan Pennington, Longhorn	26.96	56.73
Tauna Vandeweghe, Mission Viejo	27.04	56.90
Sue Walsh, Zwicker	26.96	56.96
Libby Kinkead, Foxcatcher	27.09	57.06
Chris Breedy, Florida	27.59	57.59
Theresa Andrews, No. Baltimore		DQ

At last year's Short Course Nationals, Linda Jezek broke her own 100 back American record — but not on the third day of the meet. She had topped her standing mark during the leadoff leg of the 400 medley relay, and had not been able to better that time later in the individual swim.

But at this year's short course finale, Linda had already lost the opportunity to better her national standard. Her time of 56.26 was, however, the fastest relay leadoff by nearly two-tenths of a second, despite the fact that her relay was later disqualified for an early takeoff before the final exchange.

Coming into the third night of competition, the 19-year-old

world record holder at 200 meters led all qualifiers with her 56.13 qualifying time, with Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins' Kim Carlisle second-fastest at 56.22 and Linda's Mission Viejo teammate Tauna Vandeweghe qualifying third at 56.33.

But in the championship final, at the halfway point it looked as if Linda's chances to continue her championship string in the event might be in jeopardy. Turning first in matching 26.96 splits were Longhorn's Joan Pennington and Zwicker's Sue Walsh. Linda clocked in two-hundredths behind, just ahead of Vandeweghe and Florida's Chris Breedy.

But like the insurmountable champion she has become in recent years, Linda raced through the next 25 yards and out of the final turn, grabbing precious inches as she went. Carlisle doggedly pursued but was unable to prevent Linda from capturing her fourth consecutive short course sprint title in the 55.67 to 56.01 finish.

The only thing Linda was unable to pass was the 55-second barrier and her own record.

200 Back

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Linda Jezek, Santa Clara, 1978	27.6	57.4	1:27.3	1:57.79
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)				
Linda Jezek, Mission Viejo	27.40	57.50	1:27.89	1:58.76
Dian Girard, Longhorn	28.30	58.29	1:28.85	2:00.07
Libby Kinkead, Foxcatcher	29.12	1:00.18	1:30.95	2:01.42
Kaili Chun, Aulea	28.65	59.97	1:30.93	2:01.95
Kim Carlisle, Cinci. Marlins	28.62	59.62	1:31.48	2:02.66
Margaret Hoefflich, Pleasant Hill	29.58	1:00.44	1:31.22	2:03.02
Cami Berizzi, Shark	29.31	1:01.07	1:32.95	2:04.89
Chris Breedy, Florida	28.70	1:00.06	1:32.60	2:05.65

It's been a long time since any woman has been able to beat Linda Jezek in national backstroke competition. For the last two years, she has reigned supreme in both the 100 and 200, and few, if any, expected 1979's championship meet to be different.

But after several bouts with the Russian flu during the short course season, Linda admitted to feeling sluggish and expressed uncertainty that she was in top shape for the Nationals. Her voice also showed lingering signs of the laryngitis which had greeted her upon her arrival at East Los Angeles earlier that week.

Perhaps more than a few eyebrows raised when, in the prelims of the meet's first event, Longhorn Aquatics' Dian Girard proved the only woman to beat the two minute barrier with her 1:59.83. Linda, swimming in the next heat, qualified second overall at 2:04.00, well off the American record 1:57.79 she had claimed a year ago at the short course finale.

But qualifying second wasn't enough to change one of Linda's most outstanding characteristics. "I really dislike to lose," she emphasized. "I think qualifying second helped me to get excited for this race. I have to always be on the watch for my opposition. Since I've been on top, I've got to stay there. I don't want to lose."

And that determination showed itself from the moment Linda shot away from the wall to open the evening's finals. Sporting the blue and yellow suit of the Mission Viejo Nadadores (Linda had made the decision to shift to Mission from Santa Clara), she left nothing to doubt from start to finish. She was nearly a second ahead of Girard, her nearest pursuer, at the 50, 27.40 to 28.30. Girard plowed through the second 50 to close the gap slightly, 57.50 to 58.29. At that point, Linda's pace was only a tenth off her 57.4 American record split.

But in the next 50 yards, though she again stretched out ahead of Girard, 1:27.89 to 1:28.85, her American record was stretching farther out of her own grasp (her record split was 1:27.3). In the final 50, Linda lost another half-second on her American record, but continued to inch away from Girard until her 1:58.76 finish gave her the title ahead of Girard's 2:00.07.

Aulea's Kaili Chun, fourth through the first half of the race,



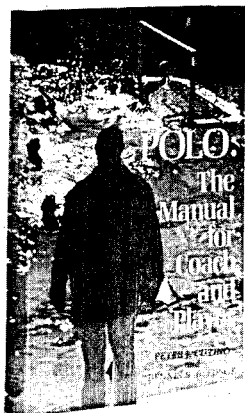
(Photo by Bruce Bollinger)

Mission's Linda Jezek was happy with her backstroke double.

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AAU NATIONALS — WOMEN *continued*

closed to third at the 150 mark but wasn't able to hold off the fast-finishing Libby Kinkead of Foxcatcher in the race for third. Kinkead touched in 2:01.42 ahead of Chun's 2:01.95.

100 Breast

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville, 1979 1:02.06

AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville 29.3 1:02.20

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville 29.01 1:01.82*

Tami Paumier, Columbia 30.14 1:02.60

Renee Laravie, Florida 29.76 1:03.66

Noel Moran, Santa Clara 30.18 1:03.78

Patty Spees, Pleasant Hill 30.11 1:03.86

Kathy Treible, Unat. 30.25 1:04.32

Torrey Blazey, Florida 30.32 1:04.74

Jeanne Childs, Longhorn 30.60 1:04.79

*American/U.S. Open Record

"I still can't believe it!"

Sound like the words of a delighted winner?

Not in this particular instance. It hadn't taken the glint of gold to bring those words of elated joy from the smiling lips of Tami Paumier.

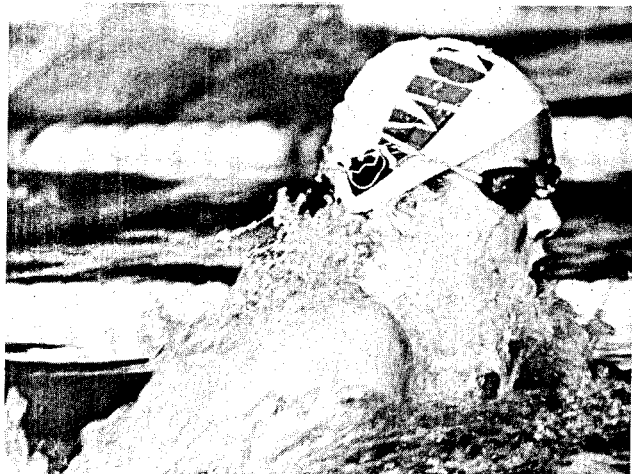
For the 15-year-old Columbia Aquatics breaststroker who had been disqualified from the prelims of this same race a year earlier and had qualified 17th in the prelims—just missing the consolation cutoff—in the 200 yard race, her 1:02.60 second-place finish couldn't help but be a victory. Her best time to date had been a 1:04.30 to top the national high school rankings as of mid-March.

The morning prelims of the 100 breast on opening day had been surprising enough for Coach Pat Smith's three-year trainee at Columbia. She qualified second for the championship finals at 1:02.90, just four-hundredths off the top-qualifying 1:02.86 of none other than the American record holder in this event, Nashville Aquatics' Tracy Caulkins.

"I wasn't expecting to go a 1:02.9 in the prelims," explained Tami, "and I just wanted to beat that in the finals."

Beat it she did . . . but it was obvious from the start of the race that no one would come close to the awesome stroking of Tracy Caulkins. The triple gold-medaling, world record-setting champion at Berlin last summer is not known to allow records to settle in the books for very long. The dust barely gets a chance to settle when Tracy's after a record—even if it's her own (she held the standard going into the meet at 1:02.06, set last January).

The 16-year-old world champion sped through the first 50 yards just above 28 seconds at 29.01, leaving the field behind, with nearest contender Renee Laravie of Florida turning at



Nashville Aquatic Club's Tracy Caulkins was impressive as usual—four national titles, five new American standards.

(Photo by Bruce Bollinger)

AAU NATIONALS — WOMEN *continued*

29.76, and Pleasant Hill's Patty Spees leading a traffic jam of the remaining finalists with her 30.11. Paumier was fourth coming out of the turn at 30.14.

In the final 50, Tracy surged home in 32.81, making her the first American woman under 1:02 with her 1:01.82, while the rest of the field wallowed in her wake. But Paumier overcame her lack of experience and years with a determined 1:02.60 finish. Laravie was third at 1:03.66.

But that record alone wasn't enough to drain the energies of Tracy Caulkins. She came back after a 25-minute breather to tackle her first-ever Nationals swim of the 500 free—and proceeded to shatter the American record by over 3½ seconds for an encore!

200 Breast

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION				
Tracy Caulkins, Nashville, 1978	30.9	1:05.6	1:40.0	2:14.07
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)				
Patty Spees, Pleasant Hill	30.97	1:05.43	1:40.06	2:15.81
Renee Laravie, Florida	31.01	1:05.38	1:40.44	2:16.18
Polly Winde, No. Baltimore	31.30	1:05.68	1:41.12	2:16.52
Tami Paumier, Columbia	30.94	1:04.99	1:40.99	2:17.65
Noel Moran, Santa Clara	31.61	1:06.73	1:41.89	2:17.80
Jackie Heeney, De Anza	31.43	1:06.26	1:41.76	2:18.07
Anne Tweedy, Santa Barbara	31.53	1:06.32	1:41.96	2:18.37
Dawn Rodighiero, Mission Viejo	n.t.	1:06.32	1:42.48	2:18.44

Patty Spees thought back for a moment then shrugged her shoulders, explaining with a laugh, "I don't remember a thing about the race... except that at one point I knew I was ahead. I still don't believe it quite yet. I've never made a foreign trip."

Though her memory of the race was still a blur, the anticipation of the Pan-American Games was as clear as day. And so was the smile on her face on the evening of April 13. The 17-year-old Pleasant Hill breaststroker had just given herself a birthday present a week in advance — her first national title.

Earlier that day, Patty had qualified only sixth for the 200 yard breaststroke championship final. Her 2:18.05 was well off the 2:16.35 pace of North Baltimore Aquatic Club's top qualifier, Polly Winde, 14, impressive in her first senior national competition just eight months after capturing the long course version of this event at Junior Nationals last summer.

Patty's prelim swim put her three lanes away near the side in lane seven. But an outside lane didn't bother her in the slightest. To those who tried to point out the disadvantages, she defended, "What about lane seven? It's beautiful!"

Outside lane swimmers had led the race at the 50 yard mark during the finals. Columbia's Tami Paumier, who finished second in the 100 finals two nights earlier, took the lead by three-hundredths over Spees, 30.94 to 30.97, with the rest of the field turning in 31's. While Paumier held the lead, the field tightened up in the next 50, with Spees dropping to third behind Florida's Renee Laravie.

But Spees edged into the lead by the 150 mark and didn't look back. Her 2:15.81 finish made her the only finalist under 2:16, but was still some distance away from the 2:14.07 American record of Nashville's Tracy Caulkins. Laravie finished less than four-tenths away at 2:16.18, with Winde winding up in third, slightly off her qualifying time at 2:16.52, and Paumier finishing fourth.

When asked if she missed having the opportunity to swim against record-holder Caulkins, who had opted to swim the 500 free two days earlier instead, Patty shared her mixed emotions. "I love swimming against her. I think she's got a really good attitude and that she's able to go faster than the rest of us because she really believes time is irrelevant. But I'm really happy I won and don't know if I would have if she had been in the race."

That happiness was unmistakable. "Yesterday and all last week," she recalled, "I felt I had a really good chance to win, and that's what I was shooting for." The smile on her face proved without a doubt that the arrow had found its mark.

(Photo by Bruce Bollinger)



Patty Spees of Pleasant Hill won her first-ever national title in the 200 yard breaststroke, clocking 2:15.81 for the victory.

100 Fly

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION		
Diane Johannigman, Cincinnati, Marlins	26.1	54.11
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 11)		
Jill Sterkel, Unat.	25.32	53.76*
Prelims	25.62	54.06
Joan Pennington, Longhorn	25.46	54.18
Lisa Buese, Lakeside	26.09	54.57
Diane Johannigman, Houston	26.10	54.64
Karinne Miller, Nashville	25.96	54.78
Kathy Shipman, Punahou	25.49	54.93
Mary Meagher, Lakeside	25.32	54.95
Nancy Hogshead, Florida	n.t.	55.19

*American/U.S. Open Record

The script of the 100 yard butterfly event told a tale of overcoming — at least for one happy American record holder. For Jill Sterkel, nothing could make April 11 anything but a victorious day.

Back in 1976, at 15 years of age, Jill had made the Olympic 100 meter free finals and swam in the American women's only victory at Montreal — the world record-setting 400 meter freestyle relay.

Then in the following Short Course Nationals at Canton, Ohio, she had doubled for the 100 and 200 yard free titles, touching an American record in the 100 and having already set the national mark in the 200 earlier in the year. "For a while, winning would come so easy," remembers Jill. "It was always there."

But suddenly, the No. 1 sign wasn't there any longer for Jill. In the two years that followed, she had to step at least one rung down the national ladder, and more often farther down. She barely made the World Championship team because of a late double at last summer's long course championship meet. So overall, Jill summed up her recent swimming past with the conclusion: "I haven't swum up to my potential in two years."

But at the 1979 Short Course Nationals, nothing seemed wrong with the El Monte Aquatics sprinter, who swam this meet unattached. All she did was set an American record in the 100 fly during the prelims in 54.06, splitting 25.62 at the 50 mark. Then in the evening's finals, she not only bettered that time with a blazing 53.76, but also captured her first-ever national title in the butterfly. Her best 100 fly time to date had been a 54.33, good only for third at last year's Short Course Nationals.

For Jill, in addition to some variations in training, there was one central key that had unlocked the doorway to victory. "The problem was that I never knew how to praise God when I was down, but now I've learned how He can get me back up. God helps me a great deal. I think I'm learning a lot."

Another of the event's comeback stories came from Central Jersey's Wendy Boglioli. The 100 fly champion from Long Course Nationals in 1977 had given birth to her first child, Bon-

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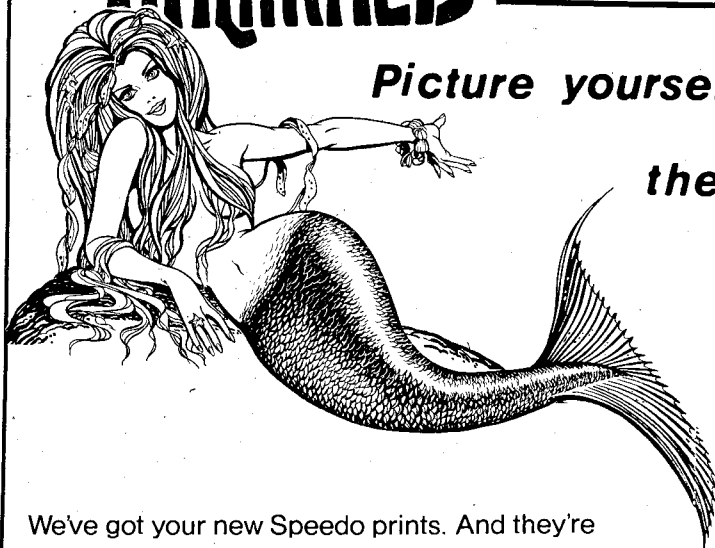
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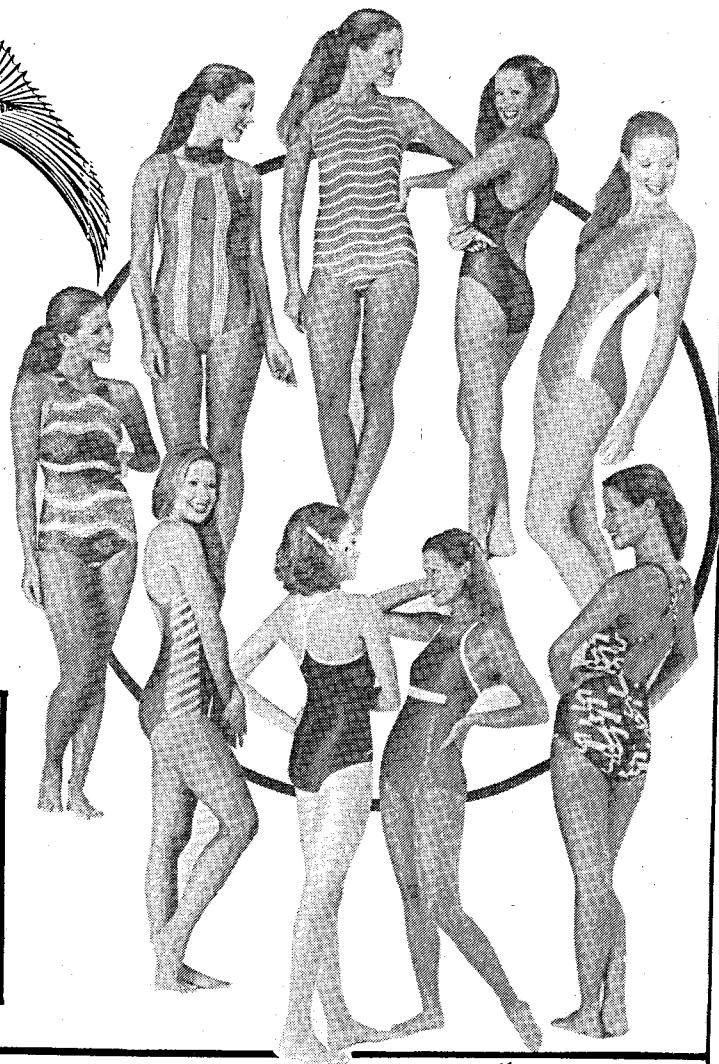
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nie Lee, shortly after the long course championships just a year later. But Wendy was drawn back to the swimming world like a magnet. "The girls are swimming such fast times!" she said, explaining her source of motivation in returning to competition.

Though she has not entered full training yet, "Mom" was able to qualify for the finals in a tie for eighth at 55.82 with Lakeside's Mary T. Meagher. Wendy opted to swim in the consolations rather than enter a swim-off. Her consolation swim of 56.06 gave her 14th place in the event, though she was just three-hundredths away from the 12th-fastest finisher.

In the finals, Sterkel led all the way and blistered into the wall at 53.76, ahead of Longhorn's Joan Pennington, 54.18. Lakeside's 15-year-old Lisa Buese, well back in the field at the 50, caught and passed several swimmers en route to bronze honors for her 54.57.

200 Fly

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Nancy Hogshead, Amberjax, 1978	26.3	55.3	1:24.9	1:55.74
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)				
Mary Meagher, Lakeside	27.11	56.87	1:26.67	1:56.58
Karinne Miller, Nashville	27.20	57.27	1:27.72	1:58.03
Stephanie Elkins, Florida	26.47	55.98	1:26.94	1:58.41
Nancy Hogshead, Florida	26.71	56.44	1:26.90	1:58.76
Cynthia Woodhead, Riverside	27.25	57.80	1:28.69	1:58.88
Linda Thompson, Ariz. Des. Fox	27.26	57.40	1:27.97	1:58.96
Diane Johannigman, Houston	26.87	57.31	1:28.51	2:01.46
Lisa Buese, Lakeside	27.20	57.71	1:29.35	2:01.63

After two nights of competition, the Nationals' list of gold medalists looked like an excerpt from the *Who's Who* of current top-notch American women swimmers. The star-studded, world record-caliber cast of experienced veterans included triple winner Tracy Caulkins, Linda Jezek, Olympian Jill Sterkel and Cynthia Woodhead.

But on the third evening, a couple of newcomers met the challenge of experience with a long jump up the steps of the awards stand, grabbing a bouquet of red roses as they went. Minutes before 17-year-old Patty Spees captured her first-ever national title in the 200 breast, she watched a girl three years younger charm some vets with 200 yards of sparkling butterfly — the golden variety.

Lakeside Swim Club coach, Denny Pursley, watched from poolside as Mary T. Meagher drew a hug from her teammate, eighth finisher Lisa Buese, on her way to the No. 1 spot. "She swam like a pro," beamed Pursley of his modest young champion. "It was just a matter of keeping her composure, which she did. She swam a beautiful race, especially since she's so inexperienced."

Inexperienced is right. One short year earlier, while Nancy Hogshead was busy swimming to Senior National glory in the 200 yard fly with her 1:55.74 American record, Mary T. was concentrating on preparation for the Junior Nationals, where she captured both fly events, touching at 2:02.80 in the 200. Then when long course season drew to a close, Mary T. took a stab at Senior Nationals and drew a sixth in the 100 fly consolation finals, while only qualifying 20th in the 200.

So far at East Los Angeles, Mary T.'s senior short course debut had begun as she slipped into the championship finals after matching qualifying times with Central Jersey's 24-year-old Wendy Boglioli. The elder swimmer had opted against a swim-off, enabling Mary T. to join the morning's seven leading 100 flyers. Against that field, Mary T. had scooped up one notch for seventh place in the championship final.

In contrast, when the 200 fly eliminations had concluded, the modest brunette found herself second fastest after swimming a 1:58.36, under her pre-Nationals best-ever 1:59. In the morning swim, her coach later recalled that she had had problems in the first 50 with rushing her stroke, thus losing her hold on the water. That evening she hoped to smooth it out and have more to come home in. She would have her work cut out for her, with



(Photo by Bruce Bollinger)

The specialty of Lakeside's Mary T. Meagher was the 200 fly.

the morning's fastest qualifier at 1:57.98, defending champion Nancy Hogshead.

In the championship race that night, Hogshead appeared on track for another title when her 56.44 100 turn bettered her morning split of 56.53. In addition, Hogshead's Florida Aquatics' teammate Stephanie Elkins was even farther in front at 55.98, with Meagher showing third at 56.87, ahead of Nashville's Karinne Miller, 57.27.

But while Hogshead and Elkins split 30.46 and 30.96 for the next 50 yards, Meagher churned a 29.40 to lead going into the final quarter of the race. Then, as the two Florida girls split 31's and were caught and passed by a fast-closing 30.31 final 50 by Miller, Meagher sped home in 29.91 to the tune of a 1:56.58 gold medal.

In the interview room, surrounded by a close-packed group of aggressive questioners, Mary T. Meagher shyly summed up her feelings: "I didn't really expect to win. I was even surprised about qualifying."

200 Individual Medley

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville, 1978	26.26	56.90	1:31.67	1:59.33
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)				
Tracy Caulkins, Nashville	25.16	55.49	1:29.95	1:57.86*
Joan Pennington, Longhorn	25.62	56.15	1:32.52	2:02.01
Anne Tweedy, Santa Barbara	26.47	58.38	1:34.63	2:02.76
Gayle Hegel, Jersey Wahoos	27.71	58.25	1:34.51	2:03.10
Jan Ujevich, Pittsburgh	26.68	58.84	1:34.84	2:03.88
Lori Armbruster, Cinci. Marlins	27.70	58.80	1:35.20	2:04.22
Michele Kurtzman, No. Baltimore	26.79	59.53	1:36.73	2:04.99
Diane Johnson, Conquistador	27.71	59.41	1:35.86	2:05.00

*American/U.S. Open Record

The chapter labeled "ironic surprises" from the book on the 1979 AAU Short Course National Championships gained some last-day additions at the conclusion of the women's 200 IM preliminaries at the East L.A. College pool.

For the particulars, take a look at the list of championship finalists who competed in the same race a year earlier. Relegated to the consolation portion of this year's evening finals were 19-year-olds Renee Laravie of Florida, Mission Viejo's Linda Jezek and Longhorn's Dian Girard.

But an even more surprising performance came from Girard's teammate, Joan Pennington. Had Dian swum 32-hundredths of a second faster in the prelims, she would have knocked her Texas teammate out of the championship finals. What makes

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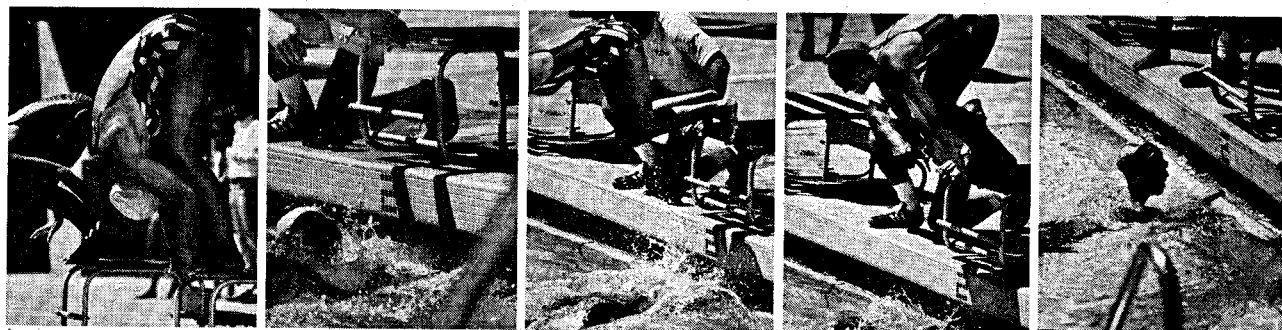
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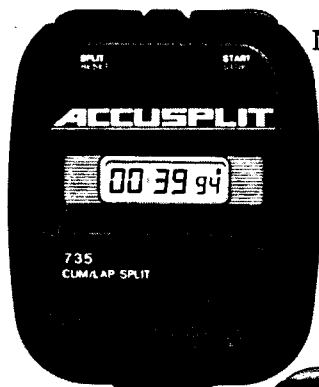
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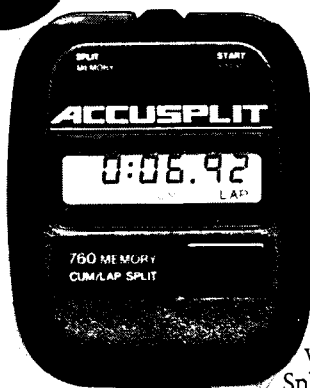
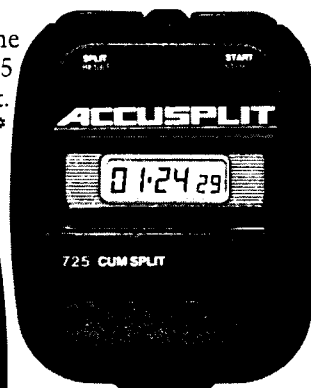
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this so surprising is that Pennington just barely lost a championship title to her former Nashville teammate, Tracy Caulkins, only a year ago. Since that time, the two have fought off all challengers—whether national or international—with their indelible one-two domination of 200 yards or meters of individual medley.

But what was no surprise at all, of course, was the fact that Nashville's Tracy Caulkins headed the field of qualifiers. Every individual event she had touched thus far in the meet was still glistening in gold, with the memory of former American record times left far behind, a shattered thing of the past. When the defending champion's 2:01.91 prelim placed her over a second in front of the field, probably no one doubted Tracy's capacity to chop that time into firewood to charge her up for a challenge of her own 1:59.33 American record.

Her nearest follower from the prelims at 2:02.96 was Santa Barbara's Anne Tweedy, who had already distinguished herself in the IM on the second day when she had seconded Tracy in the 400 finals. She had also proved herself a leading 200 IM'er after finishing third behind Caulkins and Pennington in last summer's Nationals.

By the time Caulkins, Tweedy and Pennington joined five other hopefuls for the championship swim, they had already heard an inspiring challenge issued from the prelims. Renee Laravie swam the fastest time of the day when she split 24.11, 52.21 and 1:25.01 en route to her 2:01.69 finish. So impressive was her swim that only one person would top her in the race that followed.

But when Tracy Caulkins topped her, she did it with style. She was way out in front of her former record's fly split of 26.26 when she came out of the fly leg with a 25.16 turn. The rest of the field already trailed by a length—all, that is, except for Pennington. Joan chased after Tracy at 25.62, and while the rest of the field continued to lose ground, Pennington did her best to keep pace with Tracy's 55.49 with her 56.15. But no one could come near Caulkins' 34.46 breast leg. In the final 50, Anne Tweedy nearly matched Tracy's 27.91 leg with her 28.13, gaining much—but not quite enough—ground to catch Pennington, who split a 29.49 free leg.

Caulkins' 1:57.86 devastated her previous mark (1:59.33),

not to mention the remaining finalists, who were led by Pennington's 2:02.01 and Tweedy's 2:02.76.

400 Individual Medley

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville, 1978 56.7 2:01.6 3:14.5 4:11.38

1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)

Tracy Caulkins, Nashville	55.22	1:58.52	3:11.10	4:08.09*
Anne Tweedy, Santa Barbara	57.42	2:04.46	3:18.36	4:15.81
Nancy Hogshead, Florida	56.99	2:02.02	3:19.92	4:18.74
Dian Girard, Longhorn	59.48	2:04.39	3:21.13	4:20.74
Dawn Rodighiero, Mission Viejo	59.02	2:07.64	3:20.57	4:20.90
Gayle Hegel, Jersey Wahoos	1:00.07	2:07.42	3:23.30	4:23.00
Jodie Alexander, De Anza	59.45	2:07.76	3:25.80	4:24.28
Janet Buchan, Tacoma	1:00.53	2:07.15	3:23.87	4:24.64

*American/U.S. Open Record

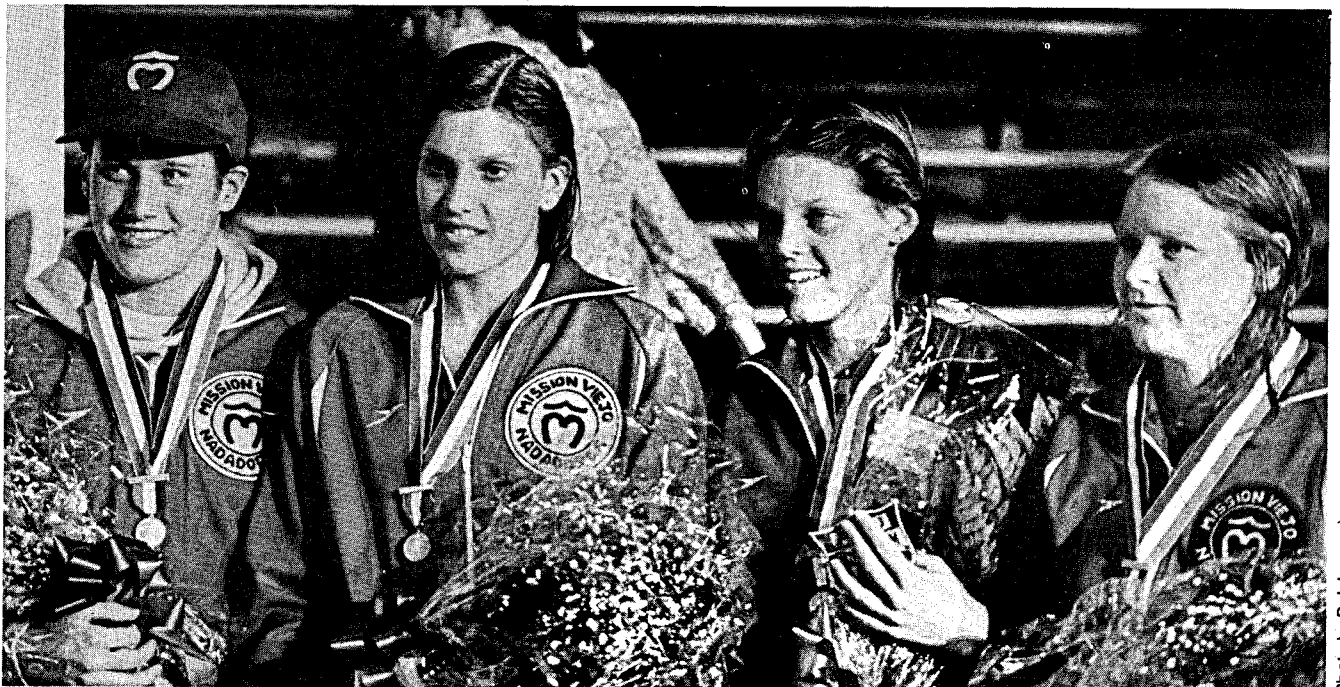
Probably very few people at the East Los Angeles pool expected to see anyone but Tracy Caulkins capture the 400 IM title on the second night of competition. After all, she not only stood in a class by herself when it came to her long course world record in the event, but had also qualified three seconds ahead of anyone in the field in the short course prelims that morning.

Additionally, she had already shown she was in top shape by significant time drops en route to an American record double in the 100 breast and 500 free the night before.

But what might have surprised a few people was how fast she actually did swim to capture the event. Her incredible 4:08.09 was seven seconds ahead of her qualifying time (4:15.46) and over three seconds faster than her 4:11.38 American record pace a year ago. And to let you in on a secret, Tracy even surprised herself!

"A couple of weeks ago, I wasn't thinking about a 4:08. I guess I was thinking about 4:10," she admitted with a grinning shake of her short, still-damp curls. "When Mr. Talbot (head coach at Nashville Aquatic Club) said 4:07 or 4:08, I went, 'Oh, yeah!' But it gave me something to drive for. When I have a time in mind that I want to do, that helps me get psyched up."

Tracy's "psyche" was obvious during the championship finals. She was already a second ahead of nearest contender Nancy Hogshead of Florida Aquatics, 27.00, and Santa Barbara's Anne Tweedy, 27.12, with her 25.99 after just 50 yards of



(Photo by Bob Ingram)

Mission Viejo impressively broke the three-year-old American and U.S. Open 800 free relay record set by the USA national

48 Swimming World/May

team before the Montreal Olympics in a 7:15.14 via Jennifer Hooker, Marybeth Linzmeier, Michelle Amen and Valerie Lee.

AAU NATIONALS — WOMEN continued

butterfly. She widened the gap to nearly two seconds by the 100, and to 3½ seconds following the backstroke.

On the breaststroke, while Tweedy caught and passed Hogshead, Caulkins pulled still farther into a class by herself with a 1:12.58 split in her premiere stroke. In a later analysis of the race, Don Talbot described this as the only portion of her race in which he felt Tracy swam below her potential.

"In preparing for this event, we tried to work on backstroke, then work the breast and free into the IM. She swam a good

back, but her breast was only a 1:12. We were looking for a 1:09. That's something to work on."

Still, the closing 56.99 seconds of freestyle sent Tracy's former record reeling from the books as she painted her untouchable 4:08.09 into the portrait of swimming history.

Half a pool's distance behind, Anne Tweedy knocked 2½ seconds off her qualifying time, as her 4:15.81 gave her No. 2 honors—and a ticket to the Pan-American Games—ahead of Nancy Hogshead, 4:18.74.

400 Medley Relay

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Nashville, 1978	56.73	1:58.04 (1:02.31)	2:52.19 (54.15)	3:42.54 (50.35)
(Pennington, T. Caulkins, Miller, A. Caulkins)				
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 12)				
Nashville	59.38	1:59.53 (1:00.15)	2:53.86 (54.33)	3:44.01 (50.15)
(A. Caulkins, T. Caulkins, Miller, Cross)				
Pleasant Hill	57.49	2:00.61 (1:03.12)	2:56.34 (55.73)	3:46.01 (49.67)
(Hoefflich, Spees, Smiarowski, Gehan)				
Florida	58.34	2:02.18 (1:03.84)	2:56.72 (54.54)	3:46.20 (49.48)
(Breedy, Laravie, Hogshead, Elkins)				
Santa Clara	58.34	2:01.94 (1:03.60)	2:58.18 (56.24)	3:47.98 (49.80)
(Hill, Moran, Grimley, Asplund)				
Longhorn	58.38	2:02.70 (1:04.32)	2:58.58 (55.88)	3:48.28 (49.70)
(Girard, Childs, Ruggles, Pennington)				
Mission Viejo "B"	56.45	2:00.60 (1:04.15)	2:57.83 (57.23)	3:49.41 (51.58)
(Vandeweghe, Havaas, Lee, Amen)				
Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins	56.54	2:02.28 (1:05.74)	3:00.58 (58.30)	3:51.57 (50.99)
(K. Carlisle, Armbruster, S. Carlisle, Gallagher)				
Pleasant Hill "B"	58.93	2:03.84 (1:04.91)	3:00.70 (56.86)	3:51.63 (50.93)
(Gavin, Tuttle, Ardell, Fiene)				

400 Freestyle Relay

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD/AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION

Nashville, 1978	49.58	1:39.95 (50.37)	2:31.20 (51.25)	3:20.69 (49.49)
(T. Caulkins, A. Caulkins, Phillips, Pennington)				
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 14)				
Nashville	49.03*	1:40.37 (51.34)	2:30.28 (49.91)	3:20.51* (50.23)
(T. Caulkins, Phillips, A. Caulkins, Cross)				
Florida	49.95	1:42.39 (52.44)	n.t. (n.t.)	3:23.27 (n.t.)
(Elkins, Hogshead, Laravie, Allen)				
Pleasant Hill	50.73	1:41.36 (50.63)	2:32.52 (51.16)	3:23.41 (50.89)
(Gehan, Fiene, Linke, Hoefflich)				
Mission Viejo	51.09	1:42.07 (50.98)	2:33.37 (51.30)	3:24.11 (50.74)
(Hooker, Amen, Beasecker, Linzmeier)				
Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins	51.54	1:41.85 (50.31)	2:32.57 (50.72)	3:25.56 (52.99)
(K. Carlisle, Armbruster, Gallagher, S. Carlisle)				
Santa Clara	51.29	1:43.14 (51.85)	2:35.12 (51.96)	3:25.81 (50.69)
(Spalding, Blue, Raymond, Asplund)				
Santa Barbara	50.95	1:42.19 (51.24)	2:34.39 (52.20)	3:26.33 (51.94)
(Tweedy, Houghton, Lindstrom, Johannsen)				
Mission Viejo "B"	51.91	1:43.98 (52.07)	2:36.18 (52.20)	3:26.91 (50.73)
(Vandeweghe, Jezek, Lee, Williams)				

*American/U.S. Open Record

800 Freestyle Relay

AMERICAN/U.S. OPEN RECORD

USA National Team, 1976	1:48.29	3:36.14 (1:47.85)	5:25.50 (1:49.36)	7:15.64 (1:50.14)
(Sterkel, Peyton, Hooker, Babashoff)				
AAU DEFENDING CHAMPION				
Nashville	1:48.62	3:40.86 (1:52.24)	5:31.83 (1:50.97)	7:17.62 (1:45.79)
(Pennington, Phillips, A. Caulkins, T. Caulkins)				
1979 AAU FINALISTS (April 13)				
Mission Viejo	1:47.44	3:38.55 (1:51.11)	5:28.34 (1:49.79)	7:15.14* (1:46.80)
(Linzmeier, Amen, Lee, Hooker)				
Nashville	1:45.38	3:38.78 (1:50.40)	5:25.68 (1:49.90)	7:16.21 (1:50.53)
(T. Caulkins, A. Caulkins, Cross, Phillips)				
Florida	1:49.41	3:40.95 (1:51.54)	5:32.73 (1:51.78)	7:21.59 (1:48.86)
(Elkins, Hogshead, Borgh, Laravie)				
Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins	1:50.56	3:39.43 (1:48.87)	5:28.62 (1:49.19)	7:23.76 (1:55.14)
(Armbruster, K. Carlisle, Gallagher, Ellis)				
Santa Barbara	1:48.64	3:40.75 (1:52.11)	5:31.11 (1:50.36)	7:23.94 (1:52.83)
(Tweedy, Lindstrom, Houghton, Johannsen)				
Pleasant Hill	1:53.75	3:43.24 (1:49.49)	5:34.37 (1:51.13)	7:24.64 (1:50.27)
(Davidson, Gehan, Linke, Hoefflich)				
Central Jersey	1:50.71	3:42.17 (1:51.46)	5:37.39 (1:55.22)	7:25.38 (1:47.99)
(Weinkofsky, Boglioli, Andres, Wallace)				
De Anza	1:51.35	3:43.22 (1:51.87)	5:34.76 (1:51.54)	7:25.95 (1:51.19)
(Scovel, McFarland, Hansen, Alexander)				

*American/U.S. Open Record

400 Medley Relay

"On paper I didn't think we could do it, so I'm really happy about the win." That was Coach Don Talbot's pleased summation of the top time his Nashville foursome had just posted in winning the 400 medley relay.

Amy Caulkins' leadoff backstroke leg was followed by an incredible 1:00.15 breaststroke split by her sister, Tracy, to give Nashville the lead after 200 yards. The nearest any other breastroker could come to Caulkins was a 1:03!

After Karinne Miller chipped in her 54.33 fly leg—fastest of the event—Nashville's 2:53.86 gave them masterful control over the other top-seeded relay teams. They were nearly 2½ seconds ahead of nearest contender Pleasant Hill, and to make the situation tougher for the California team, a 54.54 split by Florida's Nancy Hogshead meant Pleasant Hill would really have a run for the money to capture second. Though Stephanie Elkins split a 49.48 final 100, Missy Gehan's 49.67 was enough to keep Pleasant Hill in front at the touch, showing 3:46.01 to Florida's 3:46.20.

Other top freestyle splits came from the Longhorns' Joan Pennington at 49.70 and Santa Clara's Kelly Asplund, 49.80. Meanwhile, the 50.15 split of Andrea Cross gave Nashville a 3:44.01 for the championship title.

The fastest backstroke split from the competition came, not surprisingly, from Mission Viejo's American record holder, Linda Jezek. The surprise for Mission's "A" relay came, though, when a referee informed them that they had been disqualified by an early jump during the final exchange of their swim. The disappointed Nadadore foursome had to give up the second-place honors that their 3:45.77 would have achieved. Already second in the team race to Florida Aquatic Swim Team's women, the 34-point cut was a costly one for Mission.

Mission's Tauna Vandeweghe, leading off Mission's "B" relay, showed the second-fastest backstroke leadoff, 56.45, just in front of Kim Carlisle's 56.54 for the Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins.

400 Free Relay

Nashville's sensational Tracy Caulkins said she wanted to get her 400 freestyle relay team off to a good start. ▶

So she jumped into the East Los Angeles 25 yard pool and proceeded to set an American record of 49.03 for 100 yards freestyle.

Her teammates seemed to like the trend she started so Macie Phillips, Amy Caulkins and Andrea Cross followed to set still another American record—3:20.51 for the 400 yard freestyle relay.

Nashville was never threatened.

The Tennesseans were a second ahead of Pleasant Hill, Calif., at 200 yards, two seconds in front at 300 (Pleasant Hill still in pursuit) and won by nearly three seconds over a fast-finishing Florida team (3:23.27). Pleasant Hill dropped to third (3:23.41).

After Tracy's American standard of 49.03, Phillips followed with a 51.34, Amy Caulkins threw in a fast 49.91 and Cross anchored in 50.23.

The two Caulkins sisters had the best splits of the top eight teams, and Florida's Stephanie Elkins pitched in with a fine 49.95 relay leadoff.

Several girls churned the course in 50 seconds, led by Lori Armbruster of Cincinnati Pepsi Marlins, who swam a 50.31.

Top splitter of them all was Riverside's Sippy Woodhead. She anchored in 48.53. A few events earlier that evening, Sippy set the American record in the 100 free

individual event, only to have it topped in the relay by Caulkins.

800 Free Relay

It takes quite a team to defeat a record three years old set by a combination of four of the top female 200 freestylers in the nation who were primed for the upcoming Olympic competition after qualifying in the Olympic Trials. But that's just what several relay teams had set their sights on doing in the 800 yard freestyle relay. And amazingly, one of them was able to pull it off.

Mark Schubert's Mission Viejo team of Marybeth Linzmeier, Michelle Amen, Valerie Lee and Jennifer Hooker came to the top-seeded final after having witnessed Nashville's valiant effort in the second-fastest seeded heat to defend their title — and possibly better a record in the process. Tracy Caulkins had led off the Tennessee quartet's effort in 1:45.38—the fastest split swum all day long in relay competition, lead-off or otherwise. Her sister, Amy, then Andrea Cross and Macie Phillips had followed with 1:49's and 1:50's to the tune of a 7:16.21 which broke their own championship and American Club record by nearly 1½ seconds.

But Mission Viejo faced—and met—the challenge issued by Nashville with

flying colors of the red-white-and-blue record variety. Linzmeier opened up the top-seeded finalists with a 1:47.44, the second-fastest relay lead-off to be registered all day. Next came Amen's 1:51.11 then Valerie Lee's 1:49.79, so that at the 600 mark, though Mission had held the lead in their heat, they found themselves 2.66 seconds away from Nashville's swim moments earlier and 2.84 seconds off the USA national team's 600 split.

Enter Jennifer Hooker. The 17-year-old had participated on that same USA national team three years earlier and split a 1:49.36 No. 3 leg following Jill Sterkel and Kim Peyton and before Shirley Babashoff's anchor left the record deeply imbedded in the bottom of the pool for a long wait to be unearthed.

Disregarding all rationalizations as to why she *couldn't* do it, Jennifer Hooker dredged through 200 yards of water and came up with golden treasure. Her 1:46.80, by far the fastest non-lead-off split swum in the event, gave the quartet a combined effort of 7:15.14, shaving six-tenths of a second away from the previous American standard.

Other outstanding non-opening splits included 200 free American record holder Sippy Woodhead's 1:47.86 anchor for Riverside Aquatics. ■



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