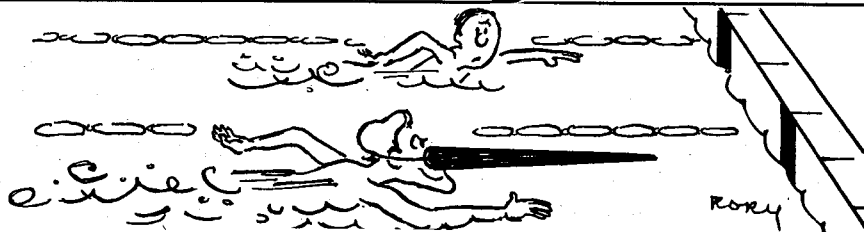


The Finishing Touch



"What is your opinion of the new bikini suit introduced at the AIAW Championships last March in Pittsburgh, Pa.?"

RICK CURL
Head Coach, Curl Swim Club

"If the swimmers think it makes them go faster, then it's good. Until some scientific research can be done on it, then the only advantage is psychological. It's certainly tight enough to be a fast suit. They didn't allow it at this meet (AAU Junior Nationals), but if it's allowed, I'd like some of my girls to try it."

STEVE LEE
Hind-Wells, Inc.

"Our basic philosophy in designing the suit was to sit down with national and world class swimmers and ask them how they would design a swim suit. There were three basic stresses which reflected the design of the suit: 1) the bust size and hip size do not always match; 2) problems with the length of the suit (not long or short enough or straps cutting into the shoulder); 3) complete freedom to feel water throughout the body. We tried to design a suit to meet these needs. We added a center seam and center darts to give more contour and help the suit lie flat. On the question of hydrodynamics, the bottom piece in this women's suit has a draw string just like the guys' suits, and guys have no problems with their suits. The top will lie flat and help press down to give a slim appearance.

"Why should women be hampered by wearing a full body suit? The feel of the water will force a lot of girls to trim down. And there's still the option of wearing the one-piece suit."

GIL WESTWELL
Arena, U.S.A.

"From the standpoint of the two-piece suit alone, we are open minded. We have research people developing new items at all times

and we've had a two-piece suit ready for over a year now, but we've kept it in mothballs, so to speak. I was at the AIAW Championships in Pittsburgh and the comments I heard from the girls about the suit ranged the whole spectrum. The thing is a lot of girls are a little vain and a bit self-conscious and for them, the two piece is too revealing. I think one of



the girls summed it up quite well when she said, 'It belongs on the beach.'

"From the standpoint of a swimwear distributor, we are going to sit back, wait and see. If the suit gets FINA approval, we'll put forth our best effort to come out with a competitive version."

JOAN PENNINGTON
Longhorn Aquatic Swim Team

"I tried it on and it does feel good, but it's just so tacky-looking. It'll take awhile to catch on."

POKEY WATSON RICHARDSON
Women's Coach, USC

"It looks a little funny, but if it is indeed faster, it should be worn. Sue Hinderaker wore it in the 400 free relay at AIAWs and said it feels pretty comfortable, but it didn't necessarily make her feel any faster. She swam the same time we expected her to swim."

SCOTT SPANN
Longhorn Aquatic Swim Team

"It would be nice to have that as the common attire. I haven't seen it yet, but I saw a picture of it and I was sorry I didn't get to see the suit at Nationals. I would like to see girls walking around the pool in them. It might take your mind off the swimming a little. That could be either good or bad."

MARY T. MEAGHER
Lakeside Swim Club

"I'd feel too self-conscious in it."

GUY BARNICOAT
Vice President
National AAU Age Group Competitive Swimming Committee

"At Junior Nationals, I announced that it would be illegal to wear the suit. You can't in the foggiest notion stretch things to say it abides by rules for a one-piece suit. Hind-Wells can make a presentation before the swimming rules committee as far as approval to wear the suit in national competition. But on the international level, they will have to approach FINA for a ruling on it. I'm personally opposed to the suit because I don't think it has good flow lines as compared to the one-piece suit. I need to be shown that from a hydrodynamic approach, it's a good suit."

LINDA JEZEK
Stanford/Mission Viejo Nadadores

"I have no objection to the idea of wearing a two-piece suit if all the other girls are going to wear them. But I feel very self-conscious." ■