

9.

In the Depths of the Valley



1953-1954 Season

Record
5-3-1

Head Coach
Ronald "Doc" Balch



Name	Class	Event
John Ballantine	SO	Free
Clarence Barnes	SR	Free
*Harold Donnelly	SR	Breast
**Alan Fox	SR	Free
Bill Hallum	SO	Diving
Richard Hausz	JR	Breast
Mark Murray	SO	Free
Takeshi Sato	JR	Free
Wally Snow	SO	Diving
Charles Toms	JR	Free
*Jack Watson	JR	Back
Dexter Weed	SR	Diving
*Bill Yowell	JR	Back

*Letterman

**Captain

Wyoming Relays - Dec 5, 1953

Thirteen men were all that reported to Coach Balch in 1953. Of those thirteen tanksters, only six were returning from the previous year. The team's senior members were Takeshi Sato, Alan Fox, Bill Yowell, Jack Watson, Dexter Weed, and Hal Donnelly, even though Sato wasn't really present the year before.

The biggest hits to the team's strengths came in the loss of Heffelman and Venzke. Heffelman left a gaping hole in the distance freestyle, while Venzke lost the Buffs their easy victories in diving.

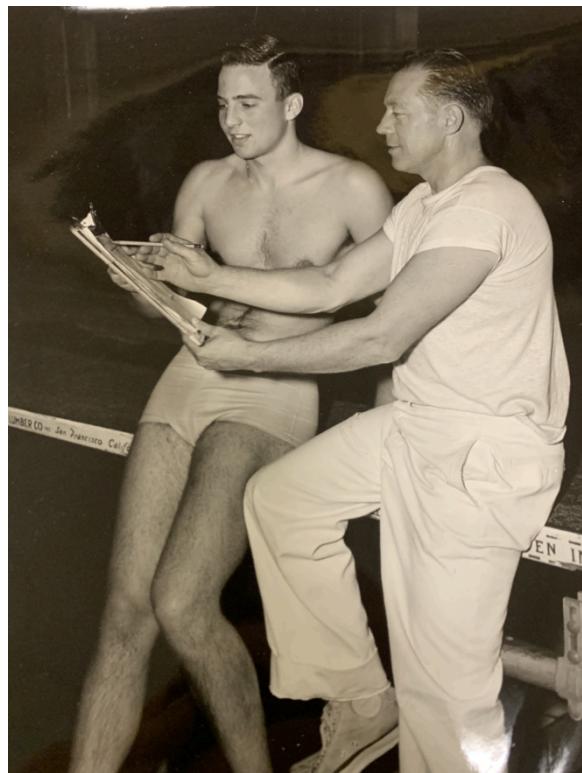
Despite these losses, CU still made a strong showing at the Wyoming relays, winning three of seven events. Denver won the other four to win the meet. Wally Snow quickly set himself apart from the other sophomores, winning the diving event over five other contestants.

However, like all Wyoming relays, it was impossible to tell how the season was going to go. It was a trial meet for coaches to test their swimmers and relay matchups. Unless you are Wyoming coach Vern Gale, who could only enter in a woeful three swimmers into the meet.

Colorado Mines 21, Colorado 72 - Jan 9, 1954

Alan Fox would be elected team captain in the winter prior to the matchup against Mines. Even though the 1954 Colorado team was below the previous year's strength, there was still fun to be had against other regional teams like Mines and Wyoming.

Colorado placed first and second in the 50 freestyle, 150 individual medley, diving, 100 freestyle, 200 backstroke, 200 breaststroke and won both relays. Donnelly mostly sat in the shadow of Bob Watson throughout his career, but with the veteran breaststroker graduating last year, the road was paved for him to emerge as the team's next breaststroke star.



Alan Fox, Coach Balch - 1954

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Mines	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	3	4		21
Colorado	6	5	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	7	72

Wyoming 23, Colorado 70 - Jan 15, 1954

Cowboy Corral. That was the title of the newspaper article covering the Wyoming Relays by Jack Russel of the Wyoming student newspaper. It was an apt word to describe the state of swimming north of the Colorado border. After the meet, a Wyoming swimmer approached Russel and claimed that the title was a bit dramatic.

Russel disagreed. In a paper he wrote on January 8th, he stated that "the story concerned the Wyoming swimming team's failure to place in a single event in their first meet. The story also reported that Wyoming managed to enter but three men into the meet."

"But you can't blame the undermanned swimming squad. You can't win without abundant material. The boys that are out there should be commended, but a

handful can't carry the whole load," Russell wrote. "What our swimming team does, although not as prominent as our performers of the football or basketball teams, is still a reflection upon our school. So why don't a few of you lads with the knack of swimming look up swimming coach Vern Gale? I'm pretty sure he'll be glad to see you."

In case you missed it in Russell's write up, Wyoming had another swimming coach at the helm. Coach Larimore's tenure on the team ended in massive controversy back in 1953.

The matter referred to a controversial scoring in diving in the Eastern Division Skyline Conference Championship. According to reports from the Denver student newspaper, Larimore was "miffed" by his star diver John Channer's low rating from the Denver judges. Larimore then allegedly ordered his swimmers to purposefully throw the 400 freestyle relay. Denver entered the final event leading by five points, but needed to finish first or second and have Wyoming win to take the conference. Wyoming proceeded to place second in the relay and Colorado State garnered enough points to beat Denver 89-88 for the title.

According to the Denver Clarion, Larimore stated "We're going to take second in the 400 meter freestyle relay and let the Aggies win." The anchor for the Cowboys was Bob Lott. He was even during the last leg of the relay with the Aggie anchor. Intentionally or not, Lott fell behind the Aggie swimmer and dropped to second. It was reported by the Rocky Mountain News that Coach Tommy Tompkin was so upset at the outcome that he refused the conference trophy.

The Denver coach, Bob Titchenal, immediately came to the defense of the judges. Titchenal stated, "one of them (Jim Hartman) was a former AAU national diving champion and he certainly knows how to judge diving, the event that precipitated all this."

Tad Wieman, athletic director at Denver, wrote a letter of protest to Dr. Duke Humphrey, president of Wyoming, Conference Commissioner Dick Romney and Wyoming athletic director Glenn Jacoby. "I have received no correspondence concerning the case,

meanwhile Larimore will be relieved. Certainly we at the University of Wyoming do not condone such action. I hope it's not true. Larimore will be relieved for his own protection."

All Larimore had to say was "I'm a coach, and I always want to win. I have no other comment to make on this other than perhaps their (Denver's) disappointment in losing might have been a factor." On March 5th, Glenn Jacoby relieved Larimore of his post as swim coach. When asked for a reason, his statement was "not for any specific reason, but just to protect the University and the swimming team and to give officials an opportunity to completely investigate the matter." He later added another comment regarding the race, stating "when any boy does his best, that's all that can be asked of him."

Jacoby then personally took the swim team to the Skyline Conference championships in Fort Collins. This meet featured teams from the western division, including Utah, Montana, Utah State and New Mexico. Jacoby saw the Aggie squad outswim the Wyoming relay by a significant margin. Jacoby ruled that the Aggie relay team was significantly more athletic and faster than the Wyoming relay team, making it difficult to imagine they could have tossed the race. Coach Larimoire was reinstated shortly after.

However, it was too much spotlight for Larimore, who would depart from the team during the offseason. His replacement was Vern Gale. 1954 would be a devastating year for Wyoming swimming. Colorado crushed the Cowboys 70-23.

Alan Fox and Charles Toms were each two time winners for Colorado. Together, they combined for first place finishes in all four freestyle events. That Friday night saw Colorado cruise to their second straight dual meet victory.

The Cowboy swimming team would never recover. 1954 is one of the only years that the Wyoming student yearbook omitted the swim team from the sports section.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	1	4	23
<i>Colorado</i>	8	8	6	4	8	8	6	8	8	8	72

Colorado St 42, Colorado 42 - Jan 30, 1954

In the first significant dual meet for both schools, the University and Aggie swimmers braced themselves for a difficult competition. Tommie Tompkins was forced to field a smaller aggregation of swimmers due to sickness and injury. Three days prior on the 27th, Aggie diver Bob Babcock hurt his ankle in practice and swimmer Al Seawall was questionable.

On the other side of the court, Coach Balch was concerned about Aggie swimmers Ken Chambers and Don Jackson. The two nearly beat Heffelman in the freestyle races in the 1953 matchup, and without Heffelman it was possible that Colorado didn't have anyone to catch them.

As if both coaches' fears came to fruition, the final score was tied at 42 all. Colorado State won six of the ten events, but Colorado had enough seconds and thirds to make the difference. In fact, Colorado was winning going into the final race. Buff swimmers ended up choking the relay allowing Tompkins' swimmers to complete the tie.

There were several races that ended in split seconds, making the meet as close as it could get. Fox, the anchor for the Buffs, narrowly defeated the Aggie squad in the 300 medley relay. In the 220 freestyle, Charles Toms of Colorado defeated Don Jackson of Colorado State by a mere half-yard. But in the 440 freestyle, Jackson returned for vengeance and defeated Toms with a significant margin.

Aggie swimmer Ernst came back from behind to beat Buff swimmer Al Donnelly in the 150 medley in the freestyle leg. The most consequential race was the 200 yard breaststroke, where Bill Ernst came from a few inches behind Donnelly to tie for second place. That single point made the difference for the meet, as Colorado led by seven in the final event rather than eight. The relay counted 7-0 for the winner to set up the tie.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	0	4	5	5	3	5	5	2	6	7	42
<i>Colorado</i>	5	5	4	4	6	4	4	7	3	0	42

Kansas 39, Colorado 45 - Feb 6, 1954

As with every season for the past five years, Colorado was off to an excellent start, but had yet to face any MVIAA teams. That hurdle came to the women's pool when the Buffs matched the Jayhawks. The meet was originally intended to be a triangular with Colorado College, but the Tigers were unable to attend.

The meet was initially skewed in favor of Kansas. The 220 freestyle was won by a Jayhawk, with junior Toms close behind. Along with his loss in the 50 freestyle, Fox lost the 100 freestyle against Dick Eflin of Kansas, who had improved significantly since the start of the season.

Donnelly, who wasn't initially even supposed to compete in the meet, opened up a flood of entries and won the 200 breaststroke and the 150 individual medley. Yowell hardly had his best race of the year, but it was still good enough to win the backstroke title. In a similar vein, Hausz won the breaststroke in a mediocre time, but Colorado clinched the victory ahead of the final relay thanks to the combined sweep of those two races. The Buffs were now 4-0 on the season and were headed into the midwest the next weekend.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Kansas</i>	0	6	6	3	3	6	1	1	6	7	39
<i>Colorado</i>	6	3	3	5	6	3	8	8	3	0	45

Colorado 31, Nebraska 53

Colorado 44, Kansas 40 - Feb 12, 1954

February 12th was a day of winning and losing for everyone. It was a triple dual meet between Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska. Colorado defeated Kansas 44-40, Kansas defeated Nebraska 43-41 and Nebraska defeated Colorado 53-31.

Calvin Bentz, a Cornhusker swimmer, set two new meet records in the 150 individual medley and the 440 freestyle. His time of 1:42.8 in the medley beat Dick Eflin's time of 1:46.4 from 1953 and his time of 5:22.3 bettered Mal Heffelman's 5:24.4 from the prior year. The other meet record came from Kansas' 400 freestyle relay time of 3:52.2, beating the 1950 time of 3:59 set by Colorado.

Colorado's biggest weakness lay in the relays. The 400 freestyle relay placed last while the 300 medley relay placed second.

Wally Snow was the biggest Buff star at the meet, winning the diving event with a score of 228.9. This marked his sixth consecutive win in the event this season. Snow was arguably the Buff's greatest athlete on the 1954 roster.



Wally Snow (CU)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	3	1	3	8	1	4	8	3	0	31
Nebraska	5	6	8	6	1	8	5	1	6	7	53

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	5	3	4	6	6	1	8	5	6	0	44
Kansas	0	6	5	3	3	8	1	4	3	7	40

Colorado 29, Iowa State 65 - Feb 13, 1954

In 1953, Mal Heffelman became the first Buff swimmer to swim with NCAA swimmers. In 1954, the reverse came to pass. Iowa State set a national NCAA record in a dual meet against Colorado.

The record was set by the 300 medley relay team of Loran Braught, MikeLaMair and Jim McKevitt. The relay accomplished the feat with a time of 2:49.2, crushing the old NCAA record of 2:50.7 set by the championship Yale team in 1952. As a given, it was a new pool, varsity, and meet record for the Cyclones.



Brought, LaMair, McKevitt, Coach Jack McGuire after setting NCAA record in 300 medley relay

It was a feat that was attempted two years ago in the same dual meet against Colorado that ultimately fell short. However, 1954 was shaping up to be the greatest season in the history of Iowa State swimming. In winter 1953, ten Cyclone swimmers traveled to the National College Swimming Coaches Association at Fort Lauderdale. They partook in

workouts, lectures, clinics and the annual East-West meet. The win over Colorado marked Iowa State's 27th consecutive MVIAA dual meet victory.

Colorado's lonesome win came from Snow, who narrowly defeated Cyclone diver by less than four points on the boards.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	3	4	1	4	6	1	1	1	4	4	29
<i>Iowa State</i>	8	5	8	5	3	8	8	8	5	8	65

Swimmer Spotlight: Takeshi "Jack" Sato



Takeshi Sato was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1922. As a young student, he swam and bicycled for the teams at McKinley High. Sato also developed a passion for taking and developing his own photos. Eventually graduating high school in 1940, he made

the rounds in the Honolulu Star Bulletin in several bike races throughout the years. Most prominent was Sato making the C class in the Schubert Club sprint championships in 1936.

Sato was a personal eyewitness to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The incident inspired him to join the U.S. Army, but at the time the military was very restrictive on Japanese-Americans joining. Sato was only allowed to serve in the reserves during the duration of the war. Following the conclusion of the conflict, he was allowed to join the Army and was stationed in West Germany. There, he met his future wife, Elsabeth, a widow from the war.

Sato returned to the states in 1951 to attend the University of Colorado via the GI Bill to study chemical engineering. Joining the swim team in 1953, he swam in about a half dozen dual swim meets, with the meet against Iowa State being his last.

Sato graduated in 1955 and his degree took him to several steel factories in Indiana for the majority of

his career. He eventually settled down with his wife and raised a family. Sato passed away on September 8, 2010. [Matt, feel free to add here](#)

Colorado 48, Northern CO 36 - Feb 19, 1954

Northern Colorado had a solid team in 1954. Strong enough to win the RMC title that year, but not strong enough to beat the Buffs. Although it was close enough that had the Teachers won the final 400 freestyle relay, they would have won the meet.

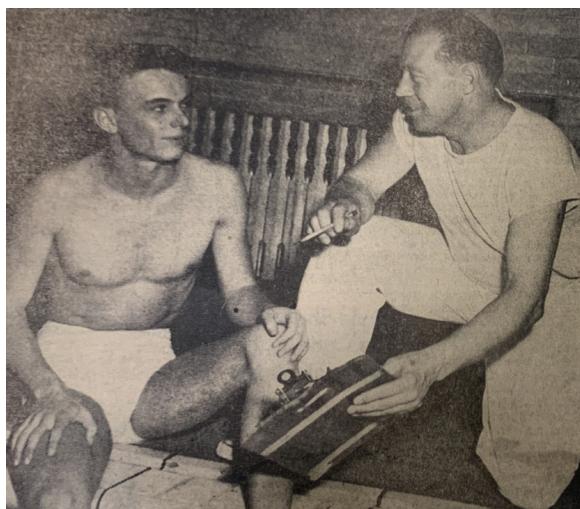
For the most part, the meet was rather uneventful. Both sides won events and relays, with Colorado making up the difference in the aggregate. However, this meet is a perfect opportunity to talk about one of the greatest success stories for the 1954 team.

The story revolves around the senior Clarence Barnes. It was Barnes' second year on the team, he joined in the 1953 season as a junior. Just four years prior when enrolled at the University in 1950, he couldn't swim at all. By the end of his senior year, he had affixed himself as the Buff's number two spot in the 100 and 50 freestyles.

Barnes enrolled in a beginner swimming class to fulfill his physical education requirement. He moved up into the intermediate class by the end of his first year. The final course requirement, swimming 100 yards without stopping, posed Barnes' largest challenge. Barnes made six attempts at the feat, failing each time. "I was beginning to think I was never going to finish that 100," remarked Barnes. But eventually, he completed the 100 and passed the class. "Time? I think the clock ran down before I floundered my way through the 100, but I made it. Getting by that hurdle seemed to increase my confidence greatly."

Next on Barnes' list was a life saving course, which he passed much more easily. By junior year, he was ready to try on the varsity suit. Coach Balch had this to say about him, "I could remember Clarence as a freshman. He couldn't swim a lick then. But any boy who has the courage to overcome that handicap like that certainly gets a shot on my team. You just don't find many boys who work that hard on their own. I was glad to have him on the squad even though he

didn't show great promise. It's not always the gifted athletes who make the greatest contribution to a squad."



Clarence Barnes and Coach Balch

"Doc is the big reason why I've learned to swim as well as I have. I'm very grateful that I've had him as a coach," Barnes commented after Balch wouldn't take the credit for his success. Balch's team plan focused mainly on developing a group of ordinary swimmers into stars capable of competing in the local Rocky Mountain competition while avoiding embarrassment in the MVIAA. Barnes's story mirrored that of Mal Heffelman, who Balch found in a corrective swimming class.

In 1953, Barnes swam in exactly one meet. He finished fourth in the 50 and 100 freestyle against Colorado Mines, which was insufficient to make the final standings. By 1954, Barnes swam in every dual meet and the conference. For the most part, Alan Fox held the podium finishes in the 50 and 100 freestyle, but Barnes beat Fox against Colorado State and twice again in practice.

At one point, Barnes struggled to complete a 100 freestyle without stopping. Now down to his last competitions his senior year, he swam the leadoff 100 freestyle in the 400 freestyle relay to secure the Buff's win in the meet. Not bad for someone who was learning to paddle three years ago.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	5	5	5	8	5	4	4	5	7	48
Northern CO	5	4	4	4	1	4	5	5	4	0	36

Nebraska 49, Colorado 35 - Feb 27, 1954

Nebraska's 5-5 dual meet record in 1954 was deceptively mediocre. The Cornhuskers could have easily finished 8-2 if it weren't for defeats in the final 400 freestyle relay in three of the meets. Of those three races, all were lost by less than a few feet. Coach Hollie Lepley was in charge of a small, but powerful team.

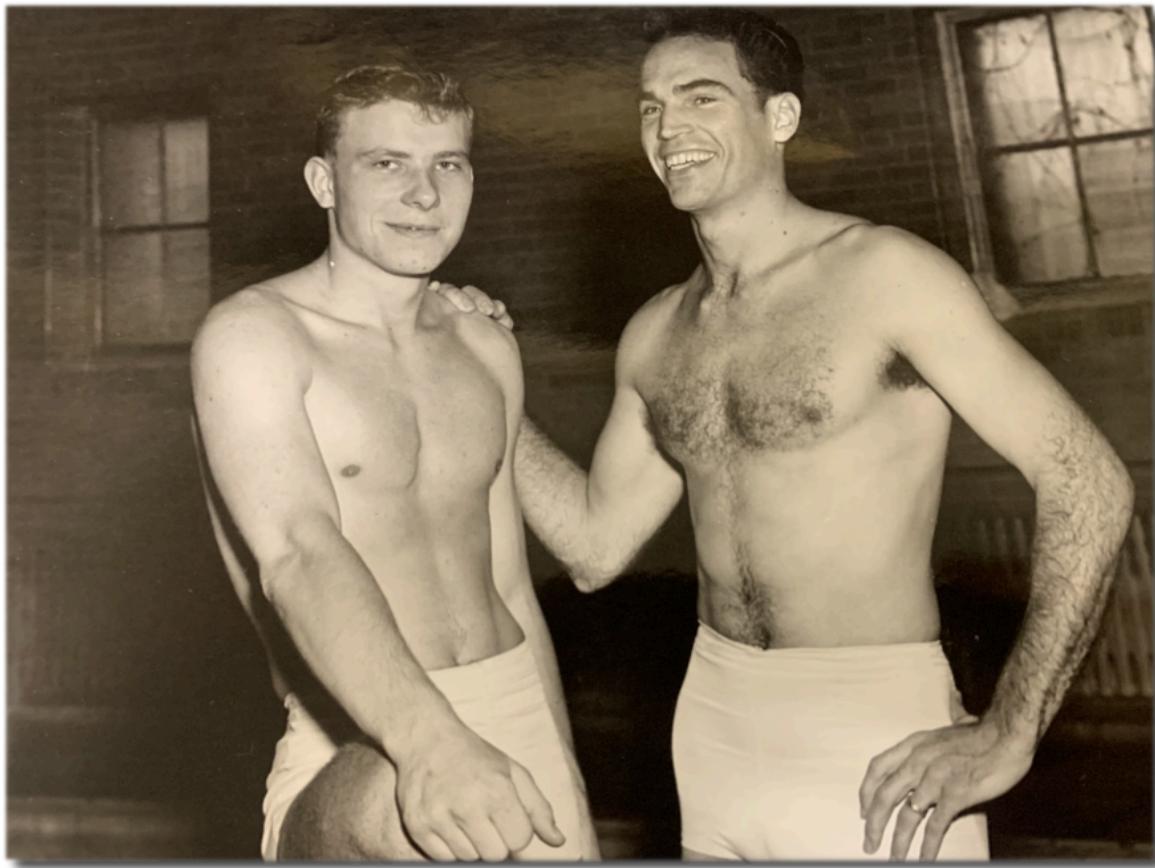
While it wasn't the closest score, it was boosted by Calvin Bentz Jr., a top Cornhusker swimmer. Tireless Cal finished first in three events, contributing fifteen points for Nebraska, enough to win the meet. In the 1954 season, Bentz personally scored 109 of Nebraska's 406 ½ points in dual meets.

Bentz was the standout star that Colorado sorely lacked. While Alan Fox and Wally Snow were reliable athletes in the sprint freestyle and diving, the rest of the Colorado team was mostly a set of hodgepodge swimmers who had serious doubts of making finals at the conference.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Nebraska	5	8	4	6	1	4	5	3	6	7	49
Colorado	0	1	5	3	8	5	4	6	3	0	35

MVIAA Championships - Mar 12 - 13, 1954



Bill Hallum, Wally Snow, Colorado Divers

1954 was perhaps the most controversial conference championship in the history of the MVIAA/Big 8. The meet was held in Ames, Iowa, and the Cyclones were hoping to turn things around and win on their home turf. The last time the meet was held in Ames was also the last time Iowa State won it all.

The controversy immediately began with the first race of the meet, the 1500 meter freestyle. Graham Johnston, now a senior Sooner, set an NCAA record in the race with a mark of 18:35.9. The record comes with a small asterisk, as the race was completed in a 20 yard pool instead of the usual 25. By the 1950s, 20 yard pools were becoming increasingly phased out in favor of 25 yard pools.

Coming in with a surprising sixth place was Charles Toms for Colorado. Toms had quietly put up a

productive first season. While he wasn't on the team as a sophomore, he provided a valuable piece in the mid distance freestyle events throughout the year. Tom finished second in his heat, only 1.2 seconds behind the Nebraska swimmer Gradwohl, who Toms had previously beaten in the 440 freestyle two weeks prior.

While the controversy hadn't come to light yet, Oklahoma's commanding lead over the conference would come back to haunt them.

If you assumed that Alan Fox was next on the list to final for Colorado, then you would be mistaken. His prelim time of 30.6 in the 60 freestyle placed him 5th overall. However, due to either a misprint or scratch, he did not participate in finals. The next man to score points was of course Toms in the 220 freestyle. Once

again he swam in a stacked finals heat with Graham Johnston and Sooner swimmer Peter Duncan. Toms would go on to place fifth in the 440 freestyle, the highest any Buff placed in the entire meet.

In a twist, Johnston fell short of Cyclone swimmer Jim McEvitt. It was Johnston's first loss in a conference meet. Perhaps it was an ominous sign of what was to come.



Charles Toms (CU)

Sophomore Wally Snow was high point of the meet for Colorado. He placed third in the one meter and fifth in the one meter. No other Colorado swimmer scored more than two points. For Snow, it was essentially a perfect season. He was undefeated in every dual meet and finished the conference with full honors. There were promising things ahead for collegiate diving in Boulder.

Colorado's biggest failure lay in the relay events. For the third consecutive year, the Buffs placed last in the 400 freestyle relay. It was a decision that cost Colorado massively, as it was the race that yielded the most points at the conference.

When the dust settled at the end of the two day meet, Oklahoma stood atop the MVIAA podium. It was the Sooner's fourth conference title in five years. A total of four national collegiate and ten conference records were shattered.

Cyclone swimmer Jim McEvitt was the only triple winner of the meet, taking the 120 individual medley, 100 freestyle and 220 yard freestyle. It was also the first meet that zero Colorado, Nebraska or Kansas swimmers won an event. All events were won by either Iowa State or Oklahoma.

However, controversy struck about a week later, when a scholastic check was done on all conference swimmers. The discovery would shock the MVIAA. It was discovered that Oklahoma star Graham Johnston was only passing in 23 out of the required 24 credits. Johnston was forced to forfeit his NCAA and MVIAA records and Oklahoma as a team was completely disqualified from the meet. Iowa State was automatically named the team champion.

The Cyclone's 1954 conference title should come with a heavy asterisk. Despite the ineligibility of a single swimmer, the entire Oklahoma team was disqualified. Had only Johnston himself been disqualified, Oklahoma would have still won the conference. The Sooners defeated Iowa State by 35 points, with Johnston accounting for 19. He also didn't swim in any relays. While not a perfect representation of how the remaining points would have been allocated, it's fairly certain that it would not have made a difference in the standings.

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>KU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>CU</i>
<i>1500 Meters.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>60 Free.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Back.....</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>220 Free.....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>200 Breast.....</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>1 Meter Dive.....</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>400 Free Relay.....</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>100 Free.....</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>440 Free.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>100 Back.....</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>

<i>100 Breast.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>120 Indv. Medley.....</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>300 Medley Relay.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>20</i>

Swimmer Spotlight: Hal Donnelly



The only other notable Buff swim from the meet was Hal Donnelly's sixth place finish in the 120 individual medley. The race was Donnelly's retirement sendoff.

After graduating with a degree in civil engineering, he was drafted into the Navy.

Hal spent time on the west coast in San Diego and Long Beach hoping to make the 1956 Olympic team in butterfly. He earned a spot as an alternate.

After a two year hiatus with the Navy, he returned to Colorado and eventually settled down. Hal joined the Alumni C club and became one of the program's longest tenured members. He served on the board for 20 years.

Hal passed away on Friday, Sept. 4, 2020 at the age of 89.

Kimberly Orr, the club's director today, remarked "Hal was an active and engaged Alumni C Club Board Member, serving the C Club Board of Advisors for over 50 years. I had the opportunity to visit him recently where he recanted what membership and service to C Club meant to him. He regaled stores about the good old days, serving with Frank Bernardi, Bill Harris, and many others. Hal will be deeply missed by many, especially the Alumni C Club Board of Advisors."



CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1954

1954-1955 Season

Record
3-5-1

Head Coach
Howard "Doc" Waite

Assistant Coach
Loring Hutchinson



Name	Class	Event
Federico Chocano	JR	Sprints
Bruce Clinton	SO	Back
John Degenhardt	JR	Diving
Hugh Curtis	--	--
Mike DesJardins	--	--
Dirk DeVries	SO	Sprints
Gordon Greenley	SO	Distances
Bill Hallum*	JR	Diving
Park L. Hay	SO	Breast
Jerry Loar	SO	Individual Medley
Bill Pribble	SO	Free
Bob Reed	SO	Distances
Jim Schlittenhardt	SO	Breast
Larry Smith	SO	Distances
Wally Snow***	JR	Diving
Bill Yowell***	SR	Back

*Letterman

**Captain

Wyoming Relays - Dec 4, 1954

It is late in the evening on December the 4th, 1954. Wally Snow stands atop a diving board in Laramie, Wyoming. He is about to obtain Colorado's only victory in the Wyoming Relays, which have been going on for several hours since warm ups ended at 7:30.

Coach Balch's outlook for the 1954 team was poor. He had just fourteen men at his disposal, of which three were veterans of the 1953 season. "Smiling" Doc Balch was entering his seventh season as the Colorado swim coach, the longest in team history. Since he began his position in 1949, he had never been blessed with a surplus of swimming talent. Nevertheless, a bountiful supply of wit and good nature made him one of the most cherished coaches to ever work for the University.

Joining Coach Balch this year was novelist and outdoorsman Loring Hutchinson. While he didn't take the position until late January, Hutchinson had the honor of becoming the first assistant coach in team history. Hutchinson hailed from Estes Park and moved to Boulder to join the University faculty. He obtained two degrees from Northern Colorado. While there he taught physical education and coached the varsity swim team from 1948-1949. The UNC swim job was one of the most challenging in the state, with a dearth of talent he won just one meet to eight losses including brutal defeats at the hands of the Buffs.

After his time at Northern Colorado Hutchinson returned to Estes Park and held a lifeguard/swimming instructor position in the local boy scout program. The Estes Park Chamber of Commerce even saw Hutchinson appear before them in 1952 to discuss the reopening of Riverside Swimming Pool, which was shut down in 1946 due to a polio scare. The Boy Scouts needed some kind of aquatic facility after all.

"Hutch" was known for being an outdoorsman. His second grader son, Bobby, sketched his dad for the local newspaper, depicting him in incredibly accurate detail while riding a horse.



Loring Hutchinson (illustration)

Hutch was exactly the man Coach Balch needed to inject some countryside into his basement dwelling team.

Colorado 54, Wyoming 39 - Jan 15, 1955

First on the list of usual targets for Colorado was their annual thumping of the Wyoming Cowboys. Wyoming was on its fourth coach in as many years, this time with John Townsend running the show. The star of the Cowboy swim team was All American John Radford.

Lined up to swim against Radford were Buff swimmers Larry Smith, Bob Reed and Dirk DeVries. All three were sophomores and brand new to the varsity environment. DeVries had swam for Harvard High in North Hollywood as a freestyler. Pre-season, he was listed as Colorado's best sophomore prospect. Smith filled in the gap on the other end of the freestyle spectrum, swimming mid distance at East Cleveland High. Reed wasn't listed in the catalog of prospects, but hailed from Wichita East High.

All three swimmers failed to catch Townsend, who ran away with first place in both the 220 and 100 freestyles.

Wally Snow, poised for yet another MVP campaign, won the diving competition, with junior Bill Hallum following closely behind. Hallum was an outstanding

prep diver at Denver East High and slashed a productive stat line during his tenure there. Snow and Hallum had the potential to deliver a one-two punch that might, in certain cases, shift the tide of dual meets.

The rest of the meet followed usual protocol, with Colorado taking the relays and amassing a fifteen point lead by the final race.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	6	4	5	3	8	3	4	5	8	8	54
<i>Wyoming</i>	3	5	4	6	1	6	5	4	1	4	39

Northern CO 46, Colorado 38 - Jan 21, 1955

Unbeknownst to Coach Balch and his swimmers, Colorado's first engagement with Northern Colorado would be one for the history books.

The first mark in history came from DeVries, who in his second varsity ever dual meet, shattered a thirteen year old Colorado varsity record. If you've been keeping track of the records, you'll know that the 50 freestyle is the sole pre-war mark that remained in the CU swimming record books. The record was held by Harold Daniels in the infamous Weber State meet of 1942. DeVries lowered the team record from 25 seconds to 24.7 seconds.

DeVries followed up his historic 50 freestyle with another record breaking swim in the century race. His 100 freestyle time of 55.8 seconds broke the old record of 56 seconds flat by Mal Heffelman in 1952. Wally Snow continued his tear, winning his twelfth straight diving event in dual meets.

However, the tide of the meet had turned decisively against the Buff swimmers. Despite remarkable performances by several outstanding Colorado swimmers, the meet score stood at 38-39 prior to the final relay, with Colorado down one point. A victory in the relay would clinch the dual meet for whoever placed first.

The first two Bear swimmers took a commanding lead right away. By the time the anchor of the

Colorado relay team hit the water, DeVries had a massive twelve yards to make up. The Buff sophomore trimmed the margin to just five yards, but the deficit was too large to overcome. Coach Bill Cresswell and his Northern Colorado swimmers celebrated on the deck of the women's pool. It was the first time in franchise history that swimmers from Northern Colorado had ever defeated Colorado in a dual competition.

During a nearly 30 year period between 1928 and 1954, Colorado uncorked a 21-0-1 record against Northern Colorado in dual meets. During that stretch, Colorado amassed 1212 points to Northern Colorado's 514, averaging a 25 margin of victory in every meet. The closest the Bears ever came to breaking the seal was back in February 1936 when they tied Colorado at 42 points apiece.

Could it be considered a curse that Colorado's first loss to the Bears came at the same meet where a notorious record was broken? Perhaps. Or was it a coincidence? The Cache La Poudre yearbook describes the 1955 Bear team as "long be remembered as the best that has ever, as yet, represented Colorado State." In a way, the yearbook is right, as both teams would walk away with something to remember.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	5	4	4	6	1	4	6	3	6	7	46
<i>Colorado</i>	0	5	5	3	8	5	3	6	3	0	38

Nebraska 42, Colorado 42 - Jan 22, 1955

The core of Balch's 1955 team was centered around a powerful arrangement of individual swimmers. These swimmers performed well in the individual races, yet their times lacked strength as a combined relay force. This weakness was once again exploited by the Cornhusker swimmers in the mid afternoon of January the 22nd.

The Cornhusker 400 freestyle relay, composed of Kenagy, Hill, Tagney and Peterson, pulled the Cornhuskers from seven points arrears to tie 42-42

with Colorado. Their time of 3:56.7 was the fastest swim against the Buffs thus far in 1955.

There have been plenty of success stories from swimmers like DeVries and Snow so far this season, but the meet against Nebraska saw Jerry Loar and Larry Smith make the rounds in first place finishes. Loar placed first in the 150 individual medley with a time of 1:54.4 to shatter the 1950 varsity record set by Bob Bond at 1:47.0. Loar continued his tear with another victory in the 200 breaststroke.



Jerry Loar (CU)

Smith followed Loar's lead in the 220 and 440 freestyles, finishing first in each. Smith, the math major from East Cleveland High, was adding himself into the list of top Buff swimmers for the 1955 season.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Nebraska	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	7	42
Colorado	1	5	5	5	6	5	4	5	5	1	42

Mines 22, Colorado 70 - Feb 5, 1955

It was described by newspapers that the CU swimmers "make like fish" when Mines drowned 70-22 to the Buff team. For the first time all season, Colorado swimmers placed first in every single event.



Parks Hay (CU) 1955

While the Mines team attempted to mitigate the damage, Balch's swimmers outperformed them in all events. DeVries was the meet's star, winning the 220, 100, and anchoring the 400 freestyle relay.

Not sure what else to say about this meet

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Mines	2	3	3	1	0	1	4	4	1	3	22
Colorado	8	6	6	8	8	8	5	5	8	8	70

Colorado 38, Colorado St 46 - Feb 11, 1955

In a fate becoming familiar to Colorado swimmers of the 1955 team, the meet decision was dropped to the Aggies by losses in the relay events.

After an opening loss in the 300 medley relay, Buff swimmers composed of Smith, DeVries, Loar and Snow proceeded to win the next four out of five individual races. Smith copped the 220 freestyle, Loar the 150 individual medley, Snow the diving and DeVries in the 100 freestyle. DeVries nearly took first in the 50 freestyle, but tied with Aggie swimmer Pete Stocker at 25.5

While Yowell dropped a loss to Allen of Colorado State in the 200 backstroke, Loar and Smith wrapped

up the individual events with two victories in the 200 breaststroke and 440 freestyles. It was a rather outstanding performance for individual swims. However, Colorado's talent was top heavy and fell off quickly down the podium. For every Buff swimmer who took first, the Aggies typically followed up with second and third places in the aggregate. So when the Aggie team won the 400 freestyle relay, it was more than enough to put up an eight point margin over Colorado.

As tradition with every victorious dual meet, Colorado State swimmers threw their coach, Tommie Tompkins, into the pool. Tompkins was in his 29th year as team coach for Colorado State.



Coach "Tommie" Tompkins' Annual Bath (1955)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	5	4	5	6	5	3	5	5	0	38
Colorado St	5	4	5	4	3	4	6	4	4	7	46

Colorado 26, Iowa State 58 - Feb 12, 1955

It's mid afternoon on February the 12th, 1955, and the women's gymnasium is filled to capacity to watch the competition between Colorado and Iowa State. Awaiting the Cyclone swimmers was an exhausted Colorado team who were just coming off a loss to Colorado State the day prior.

The Cyclone team was technically the defending champion of the MVIAA and was described as

"perhaps the greatest" Iowa State team to ever take the field by coach Jack McGuire. While there have been some stellar teams in the past, like in 1951, fans would argue the merits of the Cyclone swimmers placed the 1955 team into the history books. Iowa State opened their season against Michigan and Michigan State, both of which resulted in Cyclone losses. However, in a return meet to Michigan State, McGuire's swimmers overtook the Sparty's 54-39 in a televised event.

Coach Balch was keenly aware of the challenges that faced him, and did his best to stack the cards in his favor. However, Iowa State managed to win the first four races of the meet, including the 150 individual medley where Jim McKevitt set a new pool record. The previous record was held by Clark Mitchel of Oklahoma back in 1953. The record was lowered from 1:41.4 to 1:32.9.

As the Iowa State swimmers counted their pennies, Snow managed to squeeze into first place ahead of Cyclone swimmer Jim DeYoung to cap Colorado's first victory of the meet. DeVries followed suit with a new varsity record in the 100 free, finishing just two feet ahead of Maurie McMullen. He lowered his own record of 55.8 set against Northern Colorado down to 55.3.

Not to be outdone by records, Iowa State copped another pool record in the 200 backstroke with Loran Braught swimming the race in 2:20.1. The prior record was 2:21.3 set by Lee Anderson in 1953. The final record of the meet was set by Loar in the 200 breaststroke, who lowered his own varsity and pool record of 2:42.8 down to 2:39.6. Loar won by just a yard ahead of LaMair and maintained that lead for the duration of the race.

Both Iowa State relay races set new conference records, led by All American star Jim McKevitt.

While the result of the meet wasn't a surprise to anyone watching, Balch felt his swimmers put up a "better than expected showing" against the Iowans. A newspaper would later write that the meet was one of the finest exhibitions ever staged in Boulder.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Iowa St</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>

Colorado 53, Kansas 31 - Feb 18, 1955

The final away meets of the season were conducted in MVIAA country, with back to back meets against Kansas and Oklahoma. First on the list was Kansas, who Colorado swimmers whipped to a score of 53-31. Colorado swimmers and divers won every single event except for the 400 freestyle relay. Swimmers DeVries, Loar, Smith, Snow and Yowell were individual stars for the Buff team.

The outlook for the 1955 Kansas team was pessimistic. Just a year prior, the Jayhawks placed second in the MVIAA behind Iowa State. The team had lost several top swimmers due to academic ineligibility and their top diver Norman Gates was out for the season with an injury. Although Gates couldn't compete he acted as de facto assistant coach for the divers at meets. It would take a miracle to replicate a 1954 finish at the conference this year.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Kansas</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>31</i>

Colorado 36, Oklahoma 54 - Feb 19, 1955

Following the crushing defeat of Kansas, the Colorado swim team trekked to Norman, Oklahoma to face the dreaded Sooner swim team. Coach Balch already knew this meet would have a similar result to that of Iowa State one week prior. What Balch did not yet know was that the Oklahoma team had plans to set a new American short course record.

Since the 150 medley relay is not an official race in dual meets, the new American short course record was set in a time trial following the conclusion of the swim meet. The old record of 1:16.7 was lowered to 1:15.7 and was set by the Sooner relay of Lin Meiring, Jim

McKinney and Tom Kohoe following the conclusion of the swim meet.

The remaining events fell to Oklahoma, including the diving. For the first time all season, Snow placed second in the diving at 187 points, falling short to Tom Gilbert of Oklahoma with a score of 226.6.

The only asterisk of the meet came in the 200 breaststroke, where Sooner swimmer Roger Coppock was disqualified. Jerry Loar and Bill Pribble placed first and second, respectively, accounting for Colorado's best event in the meet. The three swimmers each had a perfect start, all three of them knifed the water at the exact same time. About halfway down the pool on the first lap, Coppock took a quick glance behind him to see where Loar and Pribble were. He couldn't find them. The Sooner swimmer for some baffling reason, rolled over onto his side and baffled slowly to the end of the pool. Furthermore to this illegal move, he placed just one hand on the fall, which is also illegal.

However, just as Coppock was gingerly placing his hand on the wall, the two Colorado swimmers emerged from the water going back on the second lap. They had each completed the entire first lap completely underwater! Coppock could only stare in bewilderment at what would later be dubbed the "Frogmen." Even though Coppock was disqualified for being cocky, Loar's winning time of 2:38.8 would have been difficult for him to beat.

The Sooner team was tuning up for the conference team, and after their breezy win over Colorado, they set an American record and swam a few time trials. 1955 was shaping up to be yet another clash between Iowa State and Oklahoma for the title. Oklahoma had six Olympic stars from the 1952 South Africa team. "Ernest DeJong, junior champion in that country, Peter Duncan, winner of the freestyle event in the 1954 British Empire Games, Julian Disan, Graham Johnston, Lin Meiring and Melvyn van Helsingin."

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>54</i>

Colorado 30, Northern CO 54 - Feb 23, 1955

Colorado's dual meet campaign went out with a whimper, with a defeat to Northern Colorado even more embarrassing than that in January. While there aren't too many details surrounding this meet, the results followed a similar pattern to that of other losses Colorado endured.

Colorado did not fare as well in the 220 freestyle, 50 freestyle, diving, and 200 breaststroke events as the Buffs scored ten fewer points in those events than they did at the January meet.



Denver Post Illustration (February 23, 1955)

It's possible that Balch was just resting his guys in preparation for the conference meet in ten days, but it's hard to say for certain. A duel meet with Northern Colorado was meaningless in the grand scheme of things, and the Bears had shown they were more than capable of defeating Colorado.

Following the meet, each team headed off in completely different directions. Colorado set their sights on Lincoln, Nebraska with low hopes of a good performance at the MVIAA. Northern Colorado would go on to win their second straight RMC championship in Gunter Hall Pool.



UNC Team Captain Rosling Admiring RMC Trophy (1955)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	1	3	5	5	1	5	5	0		30
Northern CO	5	8	6	4	4	4	8	4	4	7	54

MVIAA Championships - Mar 4 - 5, 1955



Coach Balch, Larry Smith, Dirk DeVries

Sixty swimmers, representing five different schools, attended the 1955 MVIAA championships. Of the twelve events, nine had conference records shattered and even a handful of NCAA records were threatened.

The opening race saw Graham Johnston swim his usual record breaking 1500 meter freestyle, completing the event in 18:49.9. This time was 38 seconds faster than his 1952 Helsinki Olympics time, but still fell short of the NCAA record at the time. In the following race, DeVries, now a varsity record holder, placed fourth in the 50 freestyle and put Colorado on the board.

Next on the blocks for Colorado was Larry Smith, who placed sixth in the 220 freestyle. Nevertheless, Jerry Loar posted an incredible 2:36.1 Colorado varsity record in the 200 breaststroke. He fell only

three seconds behind Iowa State's Bob Best, who set a new conference record at 2:33.2.

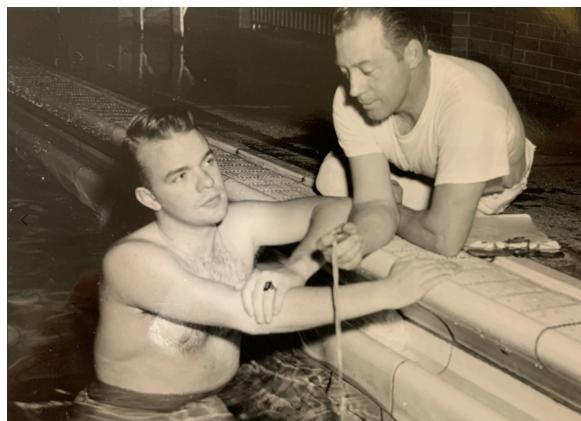
Not to be beaten, Wally Snow followed up with his own second place finish in the diving with a score of 334.5. The Buffs even finished out the Friday session with a respectable third place finish in the 400 freestyle relay. While Saturday wasn't as productive for Colorado, Balch's team was still poised to finish ahead of Nebraska and Kansas.

The next Buff swimmer to score was Larry Smith in the 440 freestyle with another sixth place mark. The event was completed after the 200 butterfly, a brand new event to the conference meet in replacement of the 100 breaststroke. Snow wrapped up the individual races for Colorado with a third place finish in the three meter diving, earning the title as the Buff MVP of the meet.

The conference title was claimed by Oklahoma for the fourth time in six years. There would be no ineligibility fiasco to save Iowa State. The best Cyclone swimmer of the meet was Jim McEvitt, who came within six tenths of the NCAA record in the 150 individual medley.

Colorado placed third for the second time in three years. It was a massive success for Balch and his team who were reeling off an essentially last place finish the year prior in 1954. The sensation can be attributed to Wally Snow in the diving and the modest production of the relay teams, which snapped their cold streak from the regular season.

The meet was also a farewell to Bill Yowell, the team's only senior and co-captain. He was the leadoff man in the 300 medley relay. Yowell had put up impressive numbers over the years, operating at the team's backup backstroker. With the departure of Jack Watson after the 1954 season, Yowell had a clear playing field as the team's star backstroker. Yowell would go on to study Law at Northwestern University. (source linkedin).



Bill Yowell (CU), 1955

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>KU</i>
<i>1500 Meters.....</i>	17	4	x	1	x
<i>50 Free.....</i>	9	10	3	x	x
<i>200 Back.....</i>	15	4	x	2	1
<i>220 Free.....</i>	9	10	1	2	x
<i>200 Breast.....</i>	1	14	5	2	x
<i>1 Meter Dive.....</i>	14	2	6	x	x
<i>400 Free Relay.....</i>	12	14	8	6	4

<i>100 Back.....</i>	15	4	x	2	1
<i>200 Fly.....</i>	4	15	x	x	2
<i>100 Free.....</i>	6	15	x	1	x
<i>440 Free.....</i>	17	4	1	x	x
<i>150 Indv. Medley.....</i>	5	16	x	x	1
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive.....</i>	14	3	4	1	x
<i>300 Medley Relay.....</i>	12	9	5	7	3
<i>Total.....</i>	150	124	33	22	12

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1955

1955-1956 Season

Record
3-5-1

Head Coach
Howard "Doc" Waite

Assistant Coach
Dick Klass



Name	Height	Weight	Class	Event
Bruce Allen	6-3	185	SO	Back
Federico Chocano	5-9	156	SR	Sprints
Mike Des Jardins	6-0	160	JR	Breast
Gordon Greenley*	5-11	135	JR	Distances
Bill Hallum*	6-0	155	SR	Diving
Ray Hatch*	6-2	190	SO	Distances
Bill Haze	6-1	170	JR	Sprints
John Knudson	5-10	180	JR	Distances
Jerry Loar*	6-2	170	JR	Breast
Bill Pribble	6-2	200	JR	Distances
Harlow Rothert	5-9	175	SO	Sprints
Charles Shom	5-7	175	SO	Breast
Wally Snow**	6-0	170	SR	Diving
Geoffrey York	5-11	180	SO	Breast

*Letterman

Wyoming Relays - Dec 3, 1955

The outlook for the 1956 team was poor. Of the team's fourteen swimmers and divers, there were zero promising sophomores added to the roster. Jerry Loar and Wally Snow were the only athletes who were expected to final in any events at the conference. "Lack of manpower and talent will force [Balch] to draw heavily upon his plentiful supply of wit and good humor."

Replacing assistant coach Hutchinson was Dick Kloos. *I cannot find anything on Kloos. (Klaas?)*

The Wyoming relays of December, 1955 were as typical as ever. The usual crowd of front range teams made their way to the Half Acre Pool for some old fashioned atypical relays. As expected, Denver took home their fifth win in a row with Colorado a distant sixteen points behind. However, unlike Colorado or Denver, the Wyoming team finished the meet with a shock. The Cowboys had finished a mere three points behind Denver for a second place finish.

The near victory came as a pleasant surprise for the new coaches, who expected a fourth place finish. "Diver Langwell swam as an alternate in the 150 medley relay in the fastest time of his career, while Nunn, Radford and Cole all broke their own personal records, Radford in the 200 and Nunn and Cole in the 100."

While Wyoming had beaten Colorado in the relay meet before, it was a foreboding sign of what lay ahead on the horizon for the 1956 CU swim team. The Buffs only won a single event, the synchronized one meter diving competition with Snow and Hallum.

Colorado St 42, Colorado 42 - Jan 13, 1956

The first starting pistol of the 1956 season fired off at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 16th in Claire Small. The swimmers of the first relay were Bruce Allen, Jerry Loar and Harlow Rothert. In contrast to Loar, both Allen and Rothert were incoming sophomores to the team.

Rothert hailed from Palo Alto, California where he lettered four times at Palo Alto High. As a 200 and

100 freestyle, Balch would utilize Rothert as the anchorman in many key relays throughout the season. Allen was a local from Pueblo and was majoring in mechanical engineering. After a brief stint in the Navy between 1950 and 1954, Allen filled in the crucially needed backstroke role on the '56 roster. At the time of his first race in Claire, he was married and had two kids, Phyllis and Bruce.

Next on the slate was Gordon "Baldy" Greenley in the 220 freestyle. While Greenley wasn't bald, perhaps the nickname came from his razor sharp finish against Aggie swimmer Alan Sharpe. The two finished at exactly 2:31.7.

Following the freestyle, Colorado proceeded to win the next three events in a row. Diver Snow, along with buff swimmers Haze and Loar, all took home a win. New to the list of events this year was the 200 yard individual medley. This event replaced the 150 equivalent with the addition of breaststroke. Prior to 1955, the 150 individual medley was backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. However the breaststroke leg of the race wasn't the breaststroke you're thinking of, rather a stroke that more closely resembled modern butterfly. By late 1955, breaststroke was gradually being converted into butterfly as the new underwater recovery stroke emerged into the breaststroke we know today. As the first time for the event, Loar automatically set a new varsity and pool record with a time of 2:29.5.

However, even at the intermission, a plethora of second and third places kept the Aggies within seven. The second half of the meet was more mish mash for Colorado. The next Buff swimmer to win an event was Greenley in the 440 freestyle. It was just Greenley's second time winning the event, with a time two seconds slower than his prior victory against Northern Colorado in 1955.

Unlike the pool record he set an hour prior, Loar's pool record in the 200 breaststroke bettered an old time previously set by Loar himself. Still up seven points going into the last relay, all Colorado had to do was win the event to clinch the meet. In spite of the hopes from Balch, it was an expectation he likely didn't have. The last time a 400 freestyle relay had bested an Aggie team was back in 1953. Aggie Coach

Tommie Tompkins chose his squad well, as the team of Sharpe, Hindman and Allen won the event to force a tie.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>42</i>

Wyoming 48, Colorado 36 - Jan 14, 1956

Colorado's first swimming duel against Wyoming occurred back in February, 1926. Now on the eve of the 30th anniversary of that event, the Cowboys looked poised to undertake the biggest upset in front range swimming history.

During that thirty year span, the Cowboys and Buffs competed against each other no fewer than twenty eight times. As most readers are probably aware by now, Colorado won every single one of those meets, out-scoring Wyoming by a cumulative 1478 to 631 points.

However, the year isn't 1926 anymore. It isn't 1929 or 1940 or 1953. The days of defeating Wyoming even in low performance years were rapidly vanishing. This was all thanks to the new men at the helm of the Cowboy team. One man hopefully every reader is familiar with. Hugh Berger was back in the world of swimming, this time north of the Colorado border.

Berger was co coaching the Cowboy team with Dave Glander, a former All American Oklahoma diver and later a star at Washington State. Glander, who learned to swim and dive at the age of five, was no stranger to the springboard. His dad, Glander Sr., coached for the American Olympic team and was doing track for Idaho by 1956. "After graduation in '50, he competed in the Southwestern AAU championships and was sent back to the National AAU to compete against the nation's top divers."

In '53, Glander qualified for NCAA's for Washington State. He finished sixth in the nation and was elected to the All America team. The biggest hurdle he faced

with Berger was finding talent to train into the team. "We can't train them until they show up," he stated.

After graduating from the University of Colorado, Berger worked with a seismograph crew and then taught and coached at Howe Military Academy in Indiana for two years. He made his return to the front range seeking a masters degree in physical education and decided to complete it at the University of Wyoming. Berger was quickly contacted by the faculty to help with the struggling swim team. His goal for his first season as coach? Depth.

Berger ran a zealous recruiting campaign. "If you know you have swimming ability you should be in trunks, not in the audience." After two weeks of practice in early October, Berger was already thinking about winning the conference. Berger stated, "I'm aiming for a season where the crowd isn't in the audience."

On the swimming side of things, newspapers began taking note of star swimmer John Radford. The 21 year old freestyle was propelling the team to potentially their best season since 1949. Originally from Palo Alto, Radford enrolled in Wyoming as a history major in 1955 after strong urging from his mother, who lived in Rock Springs.

Both Glander and Berger were hoping to upset the Buffs after a recent victory over the powerful Fort Carson team. A week prior on January 8th, the pre-season prophecy foretold by Berger came to fruition. Fort Carson's defeat marked Wyoming's first dual meet victory in six long years.

On Saturday the 14th, the starting guns fired off. Colorado won the first relay by a relatively slow 3:17.0 team. John Radford followed up with a crushing 2:17.9 in the 220 freestyle, a time fourteen seconds faster than Greenley's race against Colorado State. Firing back was Bill Haze, who dropped an equally impressive 25.2 in the 50 free, nearly a second faster than the week prior.

Loar continued his record breaking spree with a new varsity and pool record in the 200 individual medley. While the previous record was only a week old and held by Loar himself, it was more than enough to

beat the other Cowboy swimmers. Just before the intermission, Snow and Hallum completed the one two punch in the diving to put Colorado up by eleven points at half.

Wyoming's secret ace up their sleeves was the power of the two Jims: Jim Dillon and Jim Chapin. Dillon won the 100 freestyle while Chapin won the 200 backstroke to bring Wyoming up by three points with three events remaining.

Knowing the meet was on the line, Loar ripped a 2:37.9 in the 200 breaststroke for a new pool record. The old record of 2:37.9 was set the prior Friday night meet with Colorado State by Loar himself.



Loar (CU) receiving congratulatory handshake after breaking pool record in 200 breaststroke

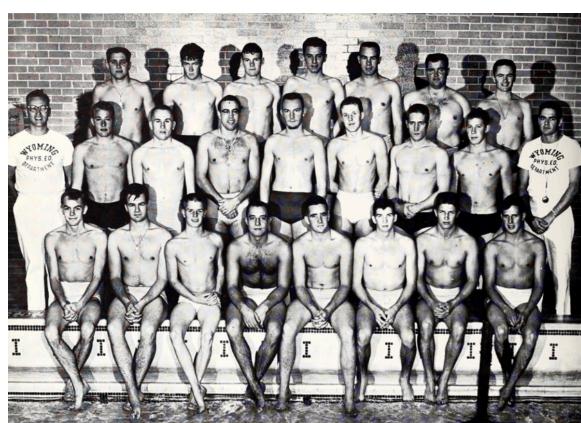
At the conclusion of the last individual race, the score stood at 41-36. Whoever won the 400 freestyle relay would win the meet for their school. For Wyoming, it was Dillon, Norris, Cole and Radford behind the blocks. This was almost the identical team that defeated Fort Carson the preceding meet. Their time of 3:50.1 was faster than anything Colorado had put up in the 400 freestyle relay in 1956, 1955 and 1954.

It was Wyoming's first triumph over Colorado in the history of each team's collegiate franchise. The crushing blow came less than a year after Colorado

dropped their first franchise loss to Northern Colorado.

An argument could be made that the reason for Colorado's lack of championships post war was due to the conference shift away from the front range teams. But despite facing tougher competition in Iowa and Oklahoma, Colorado fared well against the local teams and had the Buffs remained in the Big Seven, could have hypothetically won at least half a dozen additional championships. However, this argument falls apart beginning in 1955 and 1956, as for the first time since the mid 1930s, the Buffs faced much stiffer competition from front range teams. Only time could tell where this trend would take the Colorado swim & dive team.

Sure, Colorado had exceptional athletes like Loar and Wally to keep the records falling. But the team's depth was essentially non-existent. The 1956 team consisted of just fourteen members, essentially the same number of swimmers as Colorado teams from the 1920s and 1930s. Compare those numbers to Wyoming's 1956 team. Just two years prior in 1954, the team was embroiled in a massive controversy and the yearbook excluded mentioning the team. Now two coaches later, the team consisted of at least two dozen swimmers and divers.



1956 Wyoming Swimming & Diving Team

There would need to be double the effort put into recruiting if Balch planned on pushing the needle for his team.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>36</i>

Colorado 31, Iowa St 53 - Jan 20, 1956

Iowa State was by far favored to win the meet prior to Friday. A few days earlier on Monday the 16th, the Cyclones were held to a tie by a stacked Michigan team. "Coach Roland Balch does not have the power of recent years and points to Wally Snow, his ace diver, as his No. 1 threat against the Cyclones."

In 1954, Iowa State attempted and succeeded at setting a new NCAA record in the 300 medley relay in the duel against Colorado. The next year in 1955, they fell far short of setting a record again. Now in 1956, Iowa State had just recently lost their 300 medley relay NCAA record to Michigan and Coach Jack McGuire set out to retake some national records.

That Cyclone medley relay finished the race in 2:45.6, enough to qualify as the national collegiate and American record in the event. That time was roughly three seconds faster than the record established by Michigan earlier in the week. However, referee Clark Munger saw fit to disqualify the Cyclone team due to the anchor man leaving too early.

Unfettered, Cyclone swimmers proceeded to win the next three swimming races. Even Wally Snow was taken by surprise with a second place finish in the diving behind state swimmer Dale Wassmith. It was Snow's second duel meet loss in three years. Jerry Loar was the only highlight for Colorado, winning the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:29.1 and setting a new meet record. The only double winner of the afternoon was Cyclone swimmer Jack Ryder in the 220 and 440 freestyles.

The end of the competition marked Iowa State's thirty fourth straight win in MVIAA swim meets. The outcome was quite foreseeable for Colorado, as the Buffs were now 0-8 against the Iowa Aggies all time.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Iowa State</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>53</i>

Colorado 35, Nebraska 49 - Jan 21, 1956

Next on the docket for Colorado's 1956 road trip was a matchup against their MVIAA rival, the Nebraska Huskers. Jerry Loar was once again the highlight of the meet, setting a new Coliseum pool record in the 200 individual medley. His time of 2:25.3 bettered the previous record set by Husker swimmer Tom Houchen on December 15, 1955 against Grinnell.

Colorado won every individual freestyle event of the meet. Bill Haze was a two time winner in the 50 and 100 freestyles while Gordon Greenley secured the 220 and 440 freestyles. With Loar winning the 200 breaststroke in 2:33.7, Colorado had won a majority of the events.

However, there were two things that killed the Buff's chances of coming close to Nebraska. The first was the diving matchup, which was projected to be close. Snow faced off against Gene Cotter, who placed second in the 1953 MVIAA championships. Cotter placed nearly twenty points ahead of Snow, who now had two back to back losses in his event.

The other catastrophic outcome of the meet was Colorado failing to win a single relay. So far on the season, the Buff relay teams were 0-3 in the 400 freestyle relay and 3-0 in the 300 medley relay. The Husker relay predictably won the 400, but put up a somewhat surprising upset in the 300. The time of 3:14.6 was faster than any Colorado time on the season.

It was shaping up to be a desperate season for Balch. So far, only one of two relays had any chance of placing first and there were only four swimmers who could win events: Loar, Greenley, Snow and Haze.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>49</i>

Northern CO 40, Colorado 44 - Feb 3, 1956

The beginning of the meet against Northern Colorado looked bleak. After winning the 300 medley relay, Bear swimmer Bill Parks swam past Greeley in the 220 freestyle with a quick time of 2:29.8. While Haze, Loar and Snow picked up wins in the next three events, by the end of the 200 backstroke Northern Colorado had a 35-24 lead. With only three events remaining, the Buffs would need to win out in order to prevent a Bear victory.

The lone bright spot of the meet so far was Loar in the 200 individual medley. He set a new varsity and pool record in the race with a time of 2:27.2. Although it was a new race on the year, he had managed to better his time in three duel meets thus far.

Colorado won the 440 freestyle from an unusual suspect, Harlow Rothert. The Palo Altan won with a mark of 5:47.3, a time twelve seconds slower than his teammate Greeley who placed second. Loar's first place in the 440 freestyle brought the Buffs to within three points.

The 400 freestyle relay was composed of the potent quartet of Haze, Rothert, Greenley and Loar while the Bear team was swam by Bill Parks, Jerry Kingsmore, Don Machs and Jim Taylor. The first two legs of the relay saw Bear swimmers pull ahead. By the time Greenley hit the water, he was two full body lengths behind. However, in a terrific display of swimming, Greenley caught Bear swimmer Machs, who was recently recovering from the flu. The final leg of the relay saw Loar and Taylor battle it out stroke for stroke. Loar had the 200 breaststroke and the relay in back to back events. He coasted the breaststroke with a time ten seconds slower than his usual to save some energy for the relay. Still, Loar was behind by about a yard with one lap left to go. With a final spurt of energy, he brought himself back into the race and touched the wall at the same time as Taylor. When the timers hit their stopwatches, the times showed the Buff relay had beaten the Bears by a fraction of a section. Such a margin secured the Buffs their first victory of the season.

Northern Colorado was down two men for the competition: Rob Marsh and Bruce Ransom. Marsh was out with the flu while Ransom was at the funeral of his father in law. Had they been present, it's possible the result of the meet could have been reversed.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>5 5 4 4 3 6 8 1 4 0</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0 4 5 5 6 3 1 8 5 7</i>	<i>44</i>

Kansas 41, Colorado 43 - Feb 4, 1956

Not much has been talked about junior swimmer Bill Pribble. He was from Duluth, Minnesota where he played golf, swimming and mostly football. Pribble was the center for Austin Central High where he earned two letters in the sport. In swimming, Pribble acted as the team's photographer. In spring 1953, he snapped a photo of the Austinian senior swimmer David Nelson swimming a pool record in the individual medley. Unfortunately, that photo, titled "Sparkling Water," has been lost to the sands of time. It was used in the 1953 school yearbook and was given a special award in the 1953 National High School Photographic Contest.

Now at CU, Pribble applied his athletic talents into a business finance degree. He joined the swim team in 1955 and swam in every single meet of the season. Against Kansas, both he and Loar were signed up in the individual medley and breaststroke events. In an upset, Jayhawk swimmer Chuck Edwards beat CU ace Loar in the medley, setting a new pool record in the process. Pribble finished a respectable third place behind Loar.

With Haze, Greenley and Snow picking up victories in various events, things were going extremely well for Colorado. While the KU team won the 300 medley relay, they did not field a strong team and most of their swimmers were below replacement level. In the 200 breaststroke, Pribble placed third behind Loar and a Jayhawker swimmer. This seemingly insignificant third place by Pribble actually clinched the victory for Colorado. For the

first time all season, the outcome of the meet didn't depend on the result of the final 400 freestyle relay.

As a result, Balch reshuffled his relay around and let his exhausted top swimmers rest, allowing Kansas to win the relay. It was Colorado's second victory in just two days.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Kansas</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>43</i>

Northern Colorado Invite - Feb 11, 1956

For the first time, Colorado attended an invitational meet in Greeley. Hosted by Northern Colorado, Denver, Wyoming, Mines and even the fledgling Air Force Academy team attended.

The meet was a two day event, with the 1500 meter freestyle finals and the remaining prelim events taking place Friday night. Saturday was reserved for finals. Rothert placed third in the 1500, behind Denver swimmer Bryan Stuart and Northern Colorado swimmer Bill Parks. Stuart set a new pool record with a time of 20:59.8. Loar set a pool record of his own in the 200 breaststroke. "...2:34.4, topping the record set by Jerry Hola of Fort Carson here last week. Loar had held the mark before Hola's performance."

The other Colorado swimmers to qualify for finals were Haze, Greenley, Rothert and Snow. Denver was favored to win the meet.

However, at some point during the meet, Snow suffered some kind of ankle injury, preventing him from partaking in finals. As a result, Haze, Greenley and Loar were forced to carry the team to an on par 43 points. Colorado finished behind Denver and the host team, but ahead of Wyoming and outperformed the air cadets and miners.

This meet marked Colorado's first encounter swimming against the Air Force Academy.

Nebraska 27, Colorado 57 - Feb 18, 1956

So far on the season, Colorado's largest margin of victory was just four points against Northern Colorado. The rematch against Nebraska in the women's pool in the early afternoon of the 18th came as such a shock that even Coach Balch found it surprising.

The Cornhuskers were in the midst of their travel weekend to Colorado. The previous day, they unsuccessfully matched against Colorado State, falling to them 45-39 by losing the last relay of the meet.

The CU swimmers were determined by a lot, and "went all the way down the line." Everyone played their part to avenge the loss they experienced prior in the season. Greenley, Rothert, Haze and Loar went on a spree in the first three individual races. As Snow was out with an ankle injury, senior diver Bill Hallum stepped up to the play and executed a clean first place in the diving.

Loar, ever consistent and ever improving, set a new pool record in the 200 breaststroke, beating his own time by nearly two seconds. Colorado's sole individual loss against Nebraska came in the 200 backstroke, a race that Buff swimmers were still vying for a victory in.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>57</i>

Ft Carson 59, Colorado 25 - Feb 25, 1956

Matt I'm skipping over this one for now. Feel free to fill in.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Fort Carson</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>		<i>25</i>

Oklahoma 62, Colorado 22 - Mar 7, 1956

In 1956, Oklahoma was predicted to go head to head against Iowa State for the conference title once again. The team was headed by Coach Matt Mann, often called the “Father of U.S. swimming” and was the coach of the 1952 American Olympic swim team. Mann was hired back in September, 1955 after coaching at the University of Michigan for thirty years. During his tenure with the Spartans, he headed the swim team to thirteen NCAA titles, eight of them in a row. Of his thirteen national titles, six were official and even unofficial, as the NCAA did not recognize team champions until 1937. By 1954, he was the most decorated collegiate swim coach in the country. His record of thirteen unofficial national titles still stands today.

Now at seventy years old, he moved to central Oklahoma to coach the Sooners. Joining him was Graham Johnston, who had used up all his swimming eligibility and became Mann’s coaching assistant. Mann replaced Bruce Drake, the former Oklahoma basketball coach and was assigned swimming duties based on a managerial basis. For unknown reasons, Drake was given a four month leave of absence. Since Mann was leaving Michigan due to mandatory retirement rules, he filled the perfect leadership role for a red hot Sooner swimmer team.

Mann was dead set on winning the 1956 MVIAA conference. “First of all, the name is Matt, not Mr. Matt or Mr. Mann. I’ve worked 30 years to get to Matt, so call me Matt,” he stated. “I haven’t seen the entire team work, but I have seen a few of the boys and I think this boy Farrell has the ability. I hope he has the urge.”

Coach Matt was right about Farrell when the team traveled to Boulder for the last meet of the season. Farrell set a new pool record in the 50 freestyle, his time of 23.2 bettering the old record of 23.9 by fellow Sooner swimmer Gerard DeJong. It would be far from the only record set at the meet.

Starting from the beginning, the Oklahoma 300 medley relay team composed of Lin Meiring, Julien Dyason and Jim Crow set a new pool record of 2:57.3. The old time of 3:00.1 had been held by Iowa State since 1955. Following the relay, Tom Kehoe set another pool record for Oklahoma in the 220

freestyle. His time of 2:14.5 bettered the old record of 2:15.9 held by assistant coach Graham Johnston back in 1953.

The next pool record to fall was Lin Meiring in the 200 backstroke with a sizzling time of 2:15.1. The old record was 2:20.1 held by Loren Braught of Iowa State in 1955. Peter Duncan followed in the footsteps of his teammate Kehoe by crushing another one of Johnston’s records in the 440 freestyle. His time of 4:55.4 was four seconds faster than Johnston’s 4:59.0 from 1953. The last Oklahoma record came from the relay team of Kehoe, Rowland, Farrell and Duncan, nearly all of whom had just set records earlier in the meet. They squeaked by Iowa State’s old 1955 400 freestyle relay record of 3:31.8 with a time of 3:31.7.

It was arguably the worst loss of the year for Colorado. On top of setting six new pool records, the Sooner team also set a new MVIAA conference record in the 400 freestyle relay, though new marks are only recognized at the conference meet. Jerry Loar had the only uplifting race in the meet. In the 200 breaststroke, he set a new varsity record with a time of 2:31.1, beating his own record of 2:33.7. It was Colorado’s only victory out of the ten races swam that day.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	5	8	8	6	6	8	5	5	4	7	62
<i>Colorado</i>	0	1	1	3	3	1	4	4	5	0	22

MVIAA Championships - Mar 9 - 10, 1956



Jerry Loar, 1956

Oklahoma entered the championship as favorites to win. Only Iowa State had any chance of catching and defeating the Sooners. The Cyclones had similar top end talent, just look at their American NCAA record holding relays. However they lacked the depth in a conference to make up the points. However even with a lack of depth, Iowa State still dropped a 56-28 decision to Oklahoma earlier in the season. Coach Matt's swimmers were also on a high after winning previous games during the season, such as Texas 58-26, Southern Methodist 60-24, 59-25 versus Colorado, and 62-22 against Kansas. It was the strongest Oklahoma team in recent memory and some were calling it the best season in the school's history.

For the first time in conference history, the championship was held in Colorado. It was the first time since 1942 that swimming had seen a conference in Boulder. As for the Buff team, they were predicted to finish third in their usual battle with Nebraska and Kansas, although Nebraska was slightly favored.

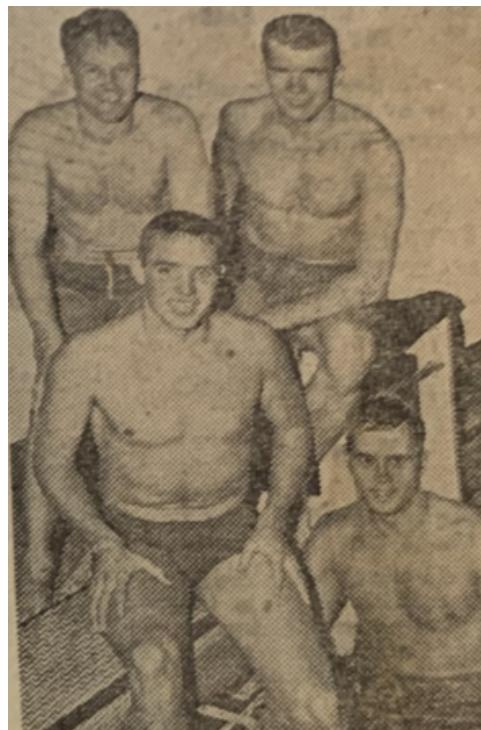
It's hard to say exactly which team was better in 1956. Nebraska had beaten Colorado earlier in the season, but the Buffs came back with a vengeance and crushed the Cornhuskers when they trekked to Boulder.

The first event of the day was the 1500 meter freestyle. In Claire Small Pool, that meant no fewer than sixty five laps, forty six feet and two inches. The event was won by Peter Duncan and Rock Rowland of Oklahoma who placed first and second respectively. Following far behind was Harlow Rothert, who placed third but with a time over two minutes slower than Duncan's. The winning time of 21:04.4 was the slowest in the history of the event since its induction in 1949 and the first time since 1951 that a man other than Graham Johnston took the gold medal in the race.

Next up was Bill Haze, Federico Chocano and John Knudson in the 50 freestyle. Although only Haze finaled, Chocano and Knudson qualified for the second heat to compete for sixth place. None of them succeeded and Dick Hill of Nebraska won the heat to earn sixth place. Haze finished fourth. Tom Kehoe of Oklahoma won the event for the second year in a row.

Next to final was Gordon Greenley in the 220 freestyle, placing fifth overall. Peter Duncan set a new conference and pool record in the event. His time of 2:09.8 bettered the old conference record of 2:11.3 set by McKevitt of Iowa State in 1955 and the old pool record of 2:14.5 set by Tom Kehoe of Oklahoma only a week prior.

Between losing Wally Snow earlier in the season and the three meter diving being cut from the list of events, Colorado's prospects of cashing in points for diving were severely limited. Only Bill Hallum managed to qualify for finals after five dives with 194.6 points for sixth place. Wrapping up the day was a lackluster fourth place in the 400 freestyle relay. The 400 freestyle relay was the absolute highlight of the meet as Iowa State and Oklahoma duked it out. On the Cyclones' side was the American and National record relay team in the 20 yard pool. Oklahoma didn't have a nationally recognized 400 freestyle relay team, but they still held a sparkling 3:29.0 in a 25 yard pool. Cyclone swimming ace Jim McKevitt swam an incredible third lap and Sandy Stwart, the anchorman, won by about a body length over the Sooner relay team. The time was 3:29.5, more than seven seconds under the previous record held by the State team all the way back from 1952.



Iowa State 400 Free Relay (Lucas, Valleau, Stewart, McKevitt)

After the intermission, there were two tight battles. Oklahoma and Iowa State were battling it out for the championship while Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas fought for the scraps of third place. Colorado held on to a narrow one point margin over the Cornhuskers as they cautiously prepared for the second half.

Jerry Loar has seen a lot of coverage in this novel. He has won nearly every event he has participated in and he's set north of a dozen pool and varsity records this season in the individual medley and breaststroke events. That trend continued in the championship, as he became the first Buff swimmer since Stan Black of 1951 to win a conference event. It came in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:31.8. Not only was this time enough to place first, but he crushed the old conference record of 2:33.2 set by Bob Best of Iowa State back in 1955.



Jerry Loar (CU)

The next Buffs to final were Knudson and Chocano again in the consolidation heat. Neither managed to beat Nebraska swimmer Kenagy as he locked in sixth place for the Cornhuskers. Greenely followed up with a sixth place finish in the 440 freestyle, narrowly defeating Crow from Oklahoma and his own teammate Rothert.

Loar managed to place fourth in his secondary event, the 200 individual medley. Dale Lucas from Iowa State had the exclusive privilege of setting the first conference record for the new event with a time of 2:21.2.

Finally, Bill Hallum wrapped things up for the individual events for Colorado. He scored 367.7 points in eleven dives to place fifth in the one meter diving. It was a true shame that Snow was out for the meet, as it's almost certain he would have placed in the top three. Cotter of Nebraska won the diving event on the last dive, coming back to defeat Iowa State swimmer Dale Wassmuth by seven points.



Gene Cotter (UNL)

An abysmal fifth place in the 300 medley relay allowed Colorado to choke the podium finish over to Nebraska, who finished fourth. The final score had Colorado behind the Cornhuskers by just a single point, 32-31. Oklahoma won the conference, their fourth in five years. Cyclone swimmer Jim McKevitt was dethroned twice by Oklahoma swimmers, in the 100 freestyle by Jeff Farrell and the 220 freestyle by Peter Duncan.

In total, four South African Oklahoma swimmers, Peter Duncan, Lin Meiring, Ernie DeJong and Julian Dyason accounted for nine first place finishes. Iowa State only won two events, despite being favored to have top end talent. Even their crack 300 medley relay team was defeated by the Sooner squad. While Coach Balch and his Buff swimmers felt the sting of losing by one point to Nebraska, it paled in comparison to Coach McGuire's loss to Oklahoma. The State swimmers were projected to go toe to toe with the Sooners, instead they dropped two relays to and finished a distant twenty eight points behind.

Peter Duncan would go on to swim in the Melbourne 1956 Olympics, representing South Africa with his former teammate Graham Johnston. "He's got a fighting heart," Coach Matt remarked about Duncan. However, when asked if he would head the 1956 American team, Matt stated that he felt a man should

only go once and that the honor should spread around. "There are plenty of outstanding coaches in the country that could do the job."

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>KU</i>
<i>1500 Meters</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>50 Free</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Back</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>220 Free</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Fly</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>400 Free Relay</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>100 Back</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>200 Breast</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>100 Free</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>440 Free</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Indv. Medley</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>300 Medley Relay</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>25</i>

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1956

	Wyoming Relays		Wyoming U.		Iowa State	Nebraska	Colo. State	Kansas U.	College Invit'l	Nebraska	Ft. Carson	Oklahoma	Big Seven Conf	Years Participated
Bruce Allen*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
Frederico Chocano*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	55-56
Gordon Greenley*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	55-56
William Hallum*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	54-56
Raymond Hatch	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
William Haze*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
John Knudson	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
Gerald Loar*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	55-56
William Pribble	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	55-56
Harlow Rothert*	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
Charles Shom*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
Wallace Snow*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	54-56
Geoffrey York	X	X	X	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	56

*Letterman

1956-1957 Season

Record

5-5-1

Head Coach

Howard "Doc" Waite



Name	Height	Weight	Class	Event
Bob Adelstein	5-6	170	JR	Free
Bruce Allen*	6-4	180	JR	Back
Paul Anderson#	5-9	148	SO	Diving
Arron Bokin	6-0	175	JR	Back
Al Braeseke	6-0	175	SO	Breast
Phil Glasgow	5-10	152	SO	Free
Gordon Greenley**	5-11	135	SR	Distance
Ray Hatch	6-2	190	JR	Distance
Ken Helms	5-10	165	SO	Diving
Pete Hughes%	5-11	180	JR	Free
John Knudson	5-10	175	SR	Distance
Jay Mills	5-7	155	SO	Free
Jim Ogilvie	5-9	145	SO	Diving
Bill Pribble	6-2	200	SR	Distance
Jim Sheff	5-10	155	SO	Distance
Chuck Shom	5-7	170	JR	Breast
Don Welsh	5-11	155	SO	Back
Jeff York	5-11	180	JR	Breast

*Letterman

#will be eligible spring semester

%lettered in 1952

Wyoming Relays - Dec 1, 1956

The outlook for the 1957 rendition of the swim team was only marginally better than the outlook in 1956. Most critical was the absence of the breaststroke star Jerry Loar. His scholastic difficulties cost him his eligibility as a collegiate swimmer. The only two lettermen returning from 1956 was senior Gordon Greenley and junior Bruce Allen. Graduation took away three lettermen and transfers two from the prior season.

Denver was poised to take their sixth relay meet in a row. Wyoming coaches "Dave Glander and Hugh Berger feel that the Pokes' greatest strength will lie in what constituted their weakest events last year, the 300 yard medley and the 400 distance medley." Both Denver and Wyoming had retained much of their 1956 core talent. Bernie Wagner, backstroker, Perry Jones, breaststroker, Jim Will, expert butterfly and medley ace Brian Stuart made up the elite Denver relay team. On Wyoming's side was elite freestyler John Radford and backstroker Dick Miller, along with a solid group of strong swimmers. Most notable in that solid group was Dertinger, who transferred from Colorado Mines and was expected to pick up points in the short axis events.



Chuck Shom, Jay Mills and Coach Balch (1957)

Of the six swimming events, three had their records broken by Wyoming and two by Denver. No events were won by a Colorado relay, the closest was a second place team in the 150 yard butterfly relay. Additionally, no Colorado divers placed in the springboard event. Overall, the Buffs placed tied for

third place with Colorado State. Wyoming won their own relay meet for the first time since 1950. The win was a statement against the Denver team, who had won 35 consecutive meets since 1952. It was not a promising look for Balch's team as they looked to square off against Wyoming in the spring semester.

Colorado 20, Wyoming 66 - Jan 12, 1957

The first competition of the year between the 'Pokes and the Buffs was expected to be close. While Wyoming were fresh off a win in the Wyoming relays, they were only figured to hold a slight margin in a dual meet format. Wyoming coaches Dave Glander and Hugh Berger were relying on elite swims from their conference freestyle champion John Radford and ace backstroker Dick Miller.

Balch relied more on the depth of his team. While the 1957 team had grown by around 25%, most of the team were new and inexperienced sophomores. The senior divers of the 1956 team, Wally Snow and Bill Hallum, had been replaced by a duo of sophomore divers: Jim Ogilvie and Ken Helmes. Both "Kenny" Helms and Jim Ogilvie attended East High in Denver, each active in gymnastics and diving. Ogilvie won the state championship in swimming for East High in 1954 and 1955, eventually graduating as valedictorian of his class.

The Colorado 400 medley relay team was the first to line up against the Cowboys. The 400 medley relay was a brand new event for collegiate swimming. The 300 medley relay had been gradually phased out across the country beginning in 1952. In 1953, the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) modified the rules of breaststroke so that swimmers had to pull at or below the surface. Prior to this rule change, swimmers had utilized an above water recovery in breaststroke and saw remarkable results. This rule change in 1953 essentially established the new stroke of butterfly. While frog kick wasn't eliminated from butterfly until 1970, the rule stated that kicks could be vertical as long as the legs move synchronously.

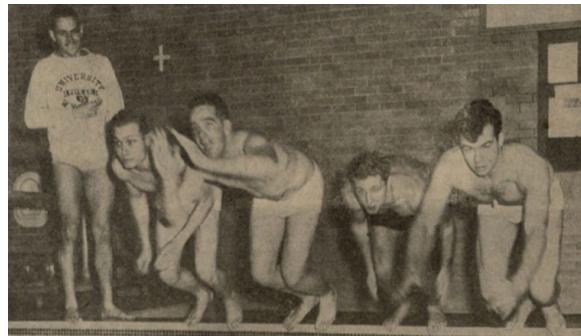
During the NCAA swimming and diving championships last year, around sixty top American swimming coaches debated about what to do about

breaststroke and butterfly, if anything. After the discussion, Bob Kiputh, coach for Yale and the Olympic team stated that he recommended two options. His preferred option was to leave breaststroke the way it is. If changes were deemed necessary, he argued that it should be butterfly that is changed, not breaststroke, by eliminating any propulsive action underwater. Another coach expressed, "Everybody has a different idea, but we agreed on one thing, to do nothing until after the Olympic Games in Australia early next December."

The 1956 Melbourne Olympics saw the first iteration of what is considered "modern" butterfly, with above water recovery and synchronized kicking. Team Japan had perfected the new rule change in breaststroke. Two Japanese swimmers finished first and second in the breaststroke event by swimming almost the entire race underwater. 20 year old Furukawa crushed the world record in the 200 breaststroke utilizing hit underwater technique. He breathed only once in the first 50 meters and utilized a technique of two to three strokes underwater and then a snap breath. Just hours after the conclusion of the race, FINA released updated rules stating that effective December 7, 1956, both breaststroke and butterfly must be swum at the surface of the water. Mario Egri of Argentina, the president of FINA, announced that there can be no arm or leg propulsion until the swimmer has broken the surface of the water. Since swimmers usually took several strokes before surfacing prior to this ruling, "the outcome will be that we shall undoubtedly see more stylish breast stroking, but times will suffer."

The 1957 season saw the formal addition of butterfly into the medley relay in all collegiate swimming with a rule change from the NCAA following the FINA ruling. Underwater breaststroke and butterfly faced extinction, with the AAU as the only other national organization still to utilize the old method.

Also changing this year was the 200 butterfly replacing the individual medley in dual meets. Wyoming capitalized on both of these changes, winning both the 400 medley relay and the 200 butterfly.



Wyoming Swimmers From Left to Right: Dick Miller, John Radford, Bob Neithold, Bill Nunn

The new Cowboy swimmer Bob Neithold set a new varsity and pool record for Wyoming while Lowell Dertinger set the record for the first 200 butterfly set in the history of the team. By the time diving had concluded, Colorado was already down 33-10. Whatever preseason hopes Balch had for Helms and Ogilvie were dashed when Gene Langwell of Wyoming won the diving with a score of 181.40 points.

Ace freestyler John Radford set a new pool record in the 440 freestyle 5:22.2, while Dertinger followed up with a school and pool record in the 200 breaststroke at 2:44.1. When the dust settled, it was a resounding victory for Wyoming, who took home a blue ribbon in every single event.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	1	1	4	4	1	4	4	1	0	20
Wyoming	7	8	8	5	5	8	5	5	8	7	66

Colorado 49, Colorado St 37 - Jan 18, 1957

For the first time in many years, Coach Tommie Tompkins fielded a team that was on life support. There were a handful of top end swimmers to catch first place in events, but Colorado had the depth to sustain the damage. Greenley, now in his final season as a Buff, executed a classic swim in his signature event. His winning time of 2:29.1 was the fastest in his career yet.

The Aggies proceeded to win the next four events in a row. However, after the 100 freestyle, Colorado was

still up 28-24 thanks to a bountiful supply of second and third place finishes. Aaron Bodin, a junior backstroker from Manhattan, New York, won a surprising victory in the 200 backstroke. After not making the podium against Wyoming the week prior, his time of 2:37.0 was Colorado's first victory in the event since 1955. Another unlikely win came from Jim Sheff, who cooked up a mark of 5:46.0 in the 440 freestyle. Sheff was also a graduate of East High and was inducted into their hall of fame for his 1955 swimming season in 2007.



Aaron Bodin, Ray Hatch, Don Welsh (1957)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	7	8	4	4	4	1	8	8	5	0	49
Colorado St	0	1	5	5	5	8	1	1	4	7	37

Mexico 58, Colorado 28 - Jan 19, 1957

For the first time in team history, Colorado dualed against an international university. On January 19, 1957, the Buffs squared off against the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, or UNAM. The

swim team at UNAM was headed by Professor Manuel Hérera. Also present was Professor Ernesto Alvarez, the director of athletics for the college of law at UNAM. Alvarez was already in Colorado via a U.S. Department of State scholarship studying health and physical education programs in Northern Colorado.

The UNAM swim team was on a tour for a week in Colorado and had already dualed other University teams. UNAM lost to Denver earlier in the week on Wednesday and beat Northern Colorado 51 to 38 on Friday. The whole tour was part of a program for international friendship between the U.S. and Mexico. After the competition against Northern Colorado, Hérera presented medals to the president of UNC and four other faculty members in good will and brotherhood for the hospitality UNAM swimmers received from UNC. UNAM pennants in blue and gold were also presented to medal recipients.

The following day, the UNAM team journeyed to Boulder to face the Buffs. Balch's team was very outmatched, with UNAM winning eight of the ten events. The only Colorado swimmers to finish first was Greenley in the 220 freestyle and Bodin in the 200 backstroke. Greenley lowered his all time best in the 220 freestyle for the second week in a row, finishing in 2:27.5. Additionally, Bodin won the 200 backstroke for the second week in a row; his time against UNAM was 6.6 seconds quicker than his mark against Colorado State.

It would be far from the only time that Colorado would play UNAM. Hérera and Balch planned to schedule future meets in both Boulder and Mexico city in the future. The whole tour was part of a larger plan to get Mexico in the bid for the 1964 Olympics. Alvarez would later state "We believe we have a good chance to get the Olympics in 1964 and we are going to do everything possible to become the Olympics host. We have one of the finest athletic plants in the world at our magnificent new University of Mexico campus."

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
-------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	-------

<i>Mexico</i>	7 3 8 8 6 5 1 5 8 7	58
<i>Colorado</i>	0 6 1 1 3 4 8 4 1 0	28

Colorado 43, Northern Colorado 43 - Feb 1, 1957

Matt, I cannot find a single newspaper article on this meet. Feel free to write in this one, it can be a lighter summary. Just based on the box score, we essentially forced a tie by winning the last relay

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	7 8 4 1 1 3 1 8 3 7	43
<i>Northern CO</i>	0 1 5 8 8 6 8 1 6 0	43

Iowa St 54, Colorado 32 - Feb 2, 1957

Beginning at 2:00 P.M. the following afternoon, Iowa State arrived at Claire Small Pool to compete against Colorado. Coach Jack McGuire and his Cyclone swimmers had yet to have a homestand yet, with all of their swimming matches occurring on the road. Iowa State had already faced Nebraska and Denver earlier in the week and had Michigan slated for their next competition.

Naturally, the Cyclones were exhausted from their long road trip, so a final score of only twenty two points ahead of Colorado was expected. For the most part, Colorado swimmers were able to hold their own in the individual events. Greenley and Bodin swept the 220 freestyle and Jay Mills placed first in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:54.6, Colorado's first victory in the event all season. The other notable swimmer from the meet was John Knudson, who placed second in the 100 freestyle. Knudson was the oldest member of the 1957 team, at 30 years old. He graduated from Curtis High School in 1945 as captain of the swim team and served in the Coast Guard from 1945 to 1946 and 1951 to 1954.



"Knute" Attended Wagner College and Rider College intermittently between 1946 and 1950. By February 1955, he had enrolled in the University of Colorado and was swimming for Coach

Balch by February 1956. Due to his credits from his prior colleges, he was expected to graduate in June 1957, and had limited time left on the CU swim team.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	<i>Total</i>
<i>Iowa St</i>	7 1 8 3 8 5 5 1 8 7	54
<i>Colorado</i>	0 8 1 6 1 4 4 8 1 0	32

Nebraska 33, Colorado 53

Utah 42, Colorado 44 - Feb 9, 1957

Keeping in the spirit of facing new teams this year, 1957 saw Colorado swim against the University of Utah for the first time since 1928. That 1928 matchup was the Rocky Mountain Conference Championships held in Provo, Utah and saw the Utes place well above the fledgling Colorado team. A lot had changed since then, mostly for the worse for Utah. Similar to other Colorado teams, what killed momentum for building a competitive team was a lack of pool availability for the Utes. The Utah Daily Chronicle wrote "This is one of the intercollegiate athletic teams that gets little attention for its efforts. Swimming conditions in Utah have never been outstanding and the present team is having difficulty finding a place to workout."

Coach Don Reddish was directing operations for the 1957 team, and he had put together one of the finest swim teams in recent history for Utah. The two stars for the team were the breaststroker Mike Wallace and the sophomore freestyler Darwin Killpack. Wallace was a record setter, but ironically couldn't float in the water. He held the unofficial conference title in the 200 breaststroke, but he remarked that, "I can't float. I just sink to the bottom of the pool!" Both Killpack and Wallace average around 3000 yards of swimming every practice.

Coach Reddish embarked his team on a journey to the front range of Colorado on February 6 to compete against Colorado State, Colorado, Nebraska and Denver. At the time of their departure, the Utes had yet to lose an event on the season, having placed first in every event against both Idaho State and Utah State. Reddish was candid about his position though, stating, "the dreaming will come to an end this week.

We are meeting some of the best in Colorado A&M, Nebraska, Colorado and Denver. However, this is the kind of experience the kids need and it just might get them in shape to be strong enough for the Skyline Meet..."

Even with limited expectations, it came as a huge upset when the Utes swept over Colorado State. It wasn't a good look for Coach Tompkins in Fort Collins and the Aggie team continued to slip into mediocrity.

In Boulder, the meet was held as a triangular between Nebraska, Utah and Colorado. The quartet of Allen, Braeseke, Mills and Bodin opened the meet up with a bang in the 400 medley relay, setting a new Colorado varsity record with a time of 4:25.8. The 200 freestyle saw Greenley fall to Killpack, who won the race with a time seven seconds faster than Greenley's personal best. Jim Sheff wasn't far behind and the opening two races saw Colorado pull ahead with a heavy lead.



Jay Mills, Aaron Bodin, Bruce Allen (1957)

Glasgow fell just short of Nebraska's Jerry Farrell in the 50 freestyle and the Buffs were fairly uncompetitive in the 200 butterfly. The diving saw Paul Anderson finish in a distant second place with 168.1 points to Gene Cotter's (UNL) 228.1 points. The next Buff to win an event was Bodin in the 200 backstroke, his third victory in the event on the season. In the 440 freestyle, Greenley and Sheff once again fell just short of Killpack. However, a second place by Braeseke in the 200 breaststroke and a second place in the 400 freestyle relay put six second

place finishes on the board for Colorado. The Utes may have won six of ten events, but Colorado was able to squeak ahead of Utah by two points with their depth department. Combined with a quality win over Nebraska, the Buffs now had three wins on the season.

Colorado 39, Kansas St 47 - Feb 15, 1957

1957 saw Kansas State's introduction into the MVIAA swimming world. The Royal Purple were under the command of Coach Bill Thrall for their first varsity swim season since 1948. Thrall was instrumental in getting the team back to varsity level swimming. The sport was dropped after the 1948 season but revived interest in the sport convinced athletic officials at the university to reinstate the sport for 1957.

The competition was part of Colorado's big road trip for the season, with a match against Kansas taking place the following day on the 16th. The Wildcat team was fairly mediocre for being in their first year. They had lost to Nebraska and Kansas earlier in the season but then picked up a win against Fort Hays State.

Chalk it up to a travel hangover or first season magic, on paper Colorado should have won this meet. K-State won the 400 medley relay with a time of 4:29.9, over four seconds slower than the Buff swim a week prior. Sure, Greenley and Sheff placed first and second in both the 220 and 440 freestyles, but both of the relays should not have fallen to the Wildcats. K-State's 400 freestyle relay was won with a time of 4:01.6, a time nearly six seconds slower than Colorado's showing against Northern Colorado. Had Colorado won just one of the relays, the outcome would have been flipped in Colorado's favor.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	0	8	1	3	6	1	6	8	6	0	39
<i>Kansas St</i>	7	1	8	6	3	8	3	1	3	7	47

Colorado 47, Kansas 39 - Feb 16, 1957

Coach Balch had no plans to incur two losses on the road in Kansas. By then, it was Colorado's fifth consecutive victory over Kansas, and both teams now had three weeks to prepare for the conference meet for their usual battle for third place. [Matt feel free to add here](#)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	7	6	1	4	6	1	8	8	6	0	47
Kansas	0	3	8	5	3	8	1	1	3	7	39

Northern Colorado Invite - Feb 22-23, 1957

Compared to other Colorado teams in the mid 1950s, Denver stood alone. Among the new records set by Pioneers over the two day invitational were the 400 freestyle and the 400 medley relay. The 1500 meter and the 220 and 440 yard freestyles were all won by Belshe, Denver's freestyle aficionado. Of those events, the 440 and 1500 were new pool records.

Tragically, Colorado did not place first in any event. The closest anyone came was Anderson in the diving and Greenley in the 440 freestyle, both of whom placed second. Another notable swim came in the 400 freestyle relay with a Buff team placing second. Both the Air Force Academy and Northern Colorado placed above Colorado with the Buffs finding themselves at the bottom of the standings.

Denver's domination across the front range has gone fairly quiet in the summaries of this book, as Colorado had yet to duel Denver in recent memory. The last dual meet to take place between the two universities was over ten years ago in February, 1947. For emerging victorious in the meet, Denver was presented with a champion trophy by Colleen Estes, a sophomore at Northern Colorado.



Colleen Estes (1957)

Estes was the great great granddaughter of Joel Estes, the man who discovered Estes Park. She would go on to graduate from Northern Colorado in 1959 with a degree in elementary education. While she didn't have much involvement in swimming, she was part of the Northern Colorado student council and athletic administration. She presented coach Tom Murphy and his Pioneer swimmers with their second straight Northern Colorado Invitational citation. At the end of 1957, Denver swimming had spent the past four years with the following record; won 33 meets and tied one; won 30 straight dual meets; won 3 Wyoming Relay titles; won two Northern Colorado Invite titles; won four straight Eastern Division titles; won four straight Skyline Conference Championships and held 11 of 14 Skyline Conference records.

Mines 9, Colorado 71 - Feb 26, 1957

In 1957, just seven men composed the Mines swim team. Coach Chris Tolas had lost four key members from his 1956 squad that were irreplaceable to keeping the team afloat. After scratching the 400

medley relay, Mines found themselves down to an astounding 34-4 margin after the diving intermission. Greenley, Bodin, Pribble and Anderson had each won an event and scores of secondary Buff swimmers were able to produce some quality swims. Despite the essentially non-existent competition, there were still some hard swims, especially from Sheff who posted a season best 440 freestyle time of 5:29.1

The final score was a lopsided 71-9, a new unofficial varsity record for Colorado. The 62-point victory margin broke the previous record of 58 points set over Northern Colorado in 1947 and was the biggest margin of victory for Buff swimmers to date.

Year	Opponent	Score	Margin
1957	Mines	72-9	62
1947	Northern Colorado	66-8	58
1951	Wyoming*	66-9	57
1942	Wyoming*	70-14	56
1929	Wyoming	59-8	51

*away game

In terms of Weighted Blowout Plus (wBlowout+), the Northern Colorado victory is arguably more impressive, as there were only nine events in dual meets in 1947 compared to ten in 1957. However at the same time, wBlowout+ takes into account era adjustments. The Northern Colorado team was starting from scratch off their first meet from the war, whereas the Mines team was not. Whatever your opinion is, the Mines dual meet deserves its spot in history for Colorado swimming.

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Mines</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>71</i>

Colorado 37, Air Force 49 - Mar 2, 1957

Matt, this is another one I'm going to leave behind for you if that's alright. I can't find anything on the Lowry Pool or the AFA team. Just based on the box score, we blew the meet by losing the last relay

Meet Line Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Air Force</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>47</i>

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/591893693/?match=1&terms=big%20seven%20swimming>

-fun note

MVIAA Championships - Mar 7 - 9, 1957



Bill Pribble, Gordon Greenley, John Knudson, Phil Glasgow

Both Oklahoma and Iowa State were expected to start in a dead heat for first place in the 1957 championships. Colorado and Nebraska were also ranked evenly to compete for third while Kansas and Nebraska were ranked to fight it out for last place. A classic fight for three different spots in the championship, the first of its kind for the MVIAA.

The first Buff to strike was on Thursday night in the 1500 meter freestyle. Greenley had been extremely successful in the distance events all season, and his hard work had paid off with a second place finish in the 1500. Greenley's time of 21:38.4 was almost identical to that of Mal Heffelman in the 1953 NCAA championships. Sheff, Hatch and Knudson also participated in the event, but did not qualify. Jay Mills was next to score for Colorado, accumulating two points in the new 200 butterfly event while Pribble did not score. Aaron Bodin was the sole

Colorado sign up in the 50 freestyle and did not qualify for finals. Similarly, Bruce Allen was the only Buff entrant in the 200 backstroke, but the junior managed a clutch fourth place against strong Oklahoma and Iowa State swimmers.

The 220 freestyle was a stacked event for Colorado, with Greenley, Sheff and Hatch all swimming in prelims. Greenley and Sheff had spent the entire season exchanging spots for the top swimmer on the team. In the end, it was Greenley who prevailed and placed four while Sheff snuck his way into sixth place in finals. Coach Balch was continuing to track his swimmer's progress as the 100 breaststroke came up. Al Braeseke and Jeffrey York, the only participants for Colorado, scraped together four points in finals. Paul Anderson, who had a productive season on the boards, scored a single point for

Colorado in the one meter with Jim Ogilvie falling short of the optional dives.

The 200 individual medley did not have as many sign ups, half of all participants would qualify for finals. Of those half, only Aaron Bodin made the top six, but with a shocking second place behind Dick Thatcher of Oklahoma. Keep in mind that the individual medley had been scrapped from dual meets this season in favor of the 200 butterfly, so there were no expectations for such a quality finish. Colorado ended Friday afternoon with a distressing last place finish in the 400 freestyle relay. Still, Coach Balch counted up his team scores and found himself only two points behind Nebraska, 26-28. They were not out of the fight yet.

On the other end of the podium was Oklahoma, who was up by a crushing 86-50 points over Iowa State. Dick Thatcher was the only two time winner Friday night who captured the 200 butterfly and 200 individual medley for Oklahoma. The old MVIAA conference record was also broken by an Oklahoman swimmer. Bob Leonhardt swam the 50 freestyle in 22.9, beating the previous record of 23.0 seconds set by Bob Brown of Iowa State in 1952. The only non-Oklahoman swimmers to win an event Friday was Cyclone swimmer Ron Minarik in the 100 breaststroke and Bill Tagney of Nebraska in the diving.

Day two on Saturday opened up with Bill Pribble and Jay Mills placing in the bottom of finals in the 100 butterfly. Bodin did not place. The 100 freestyle was an empty finals heat for Colorado, making it the second sprint freestyle event without any Buffs. Al Braeseke placed fourth in the 200 breaststroke followed by Aaron Bodin and Bruce Allen finaling in the 100 backstroke. Next up was the 440 freestyle, and it was Colorado's time to shine. Greenley placed second and Sheff fourth, making it the most fruitful event of the entire meet for Colorado. Rick Rowland of Oklahoma collected his third win of the meet as Oklahoma continued to pull away from Iowa State.

The last notable swim of the meet was the 400 medley relay team. They placed fourth, one spot above Nebraska's relay to pull ahead of the Cornhuskers by three points. The final clutch relay

finish put Colorado in third place overall, ahead of Kansas State, Kansas and Nebraska. It was a huge upset for the Buffs, who were essentially a .500 team all season.

While Nebraska was licking their wounds, Oklahoma sat atop a peak next to no other MVIAA team. Throughout 1949 to 1956, the swim rivalry between Iowa State and Oklahoma had been intense. Oklahoma had won more meets during that time frame, but the Sooners were disqualified in 1954 and beaten in 1951. All other years had seen quick swims and fierce competition from the Cyclones as they fought to try and swim like the glory years of the 1930s and 1940s. That changed in 1957 though. Oklahoma had more than doubled the score of Iowa State. The chapter of fierce rivalry between the two schools had finally come to a close.

It's a fitting end, as this meet was the final chapter on the MVIAA, or Big Seven. In the following months, Oklahoma State would join the conference and form the legendary Big Eight Conference. Even though Oklahoma State didn't have a swim team right away, this chapter on swimming history has made its final note.

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>KU</i>	<i>KSU</i>
<i>1500 Meters.....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Fly.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>50 Free.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>200 Back.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>220 Free.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>100 Breast.....</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>1 Meter Diving.....</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Indv. Medley...</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>400 Free Relay.....</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>100 Fly.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>100 Free.....</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Breast.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>100 Back.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>440 Free.....</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>400 Medley Relay...</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>

*cannot get the final team scores to line up

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1957

	Wyoming Relays	Wyoming	Colorado A&M	Mexico U.	Colo. State	Iowa St	Utah U.	Nebraska U.	Kans. St.	Kansas U.	College Invit.	Colo. Mines	U.S.A.F.A.	Conference Meet	Years of Participation
Bruce Allen*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56-67
Paul Anderson*	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
Aaron Bodin*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
Albert Braeske*	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
Philip Glasgow*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
Gordon Greenley*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
Raymond Hatch	X	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56-57
Kenneth Helms	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0	57
John Knudson*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56-57
Jay Mills*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
James Ogilvie	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	57
William Pribble*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	55-57
James Sheff*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	57
Charles Shom	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56-57
Geoffrey York*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56-57

* - Letterman