

7.

Fallout



It's February 8, 1947. Fans are packed into the Carlson Gymnasium pool. Spectators line the catwalk for a chance to see their Buffs take down their in-state rivals, Colorado State.

A lot has changed since the last time CU hosted Colorado State. America had entered the war, invaded Europe, dropped an atomic bomb, and now is beginning to grapple with the emergence of a new world power in the communist nation of the Soviet Union. Even though it had changed drastically outside of the pool you wouldn't know it based on the competition being conducted. The sound of the starter's pistol, the roar of the crowd, the echoing of splashes as swimmers powered themselves through the water remained the same as before the war

As the meet approached the finish it became more and more apparent that the result would come down to one man: CU's Dick Lepman.

He had been dominant all season, by far the team's best swimmer and arguably the best freestyler in the conference. As a result, he was assigned the most important role on the team: the anchor (the final swimmer) on the freestyle relay. He had been the definition of dominant that afternoon as he won both of his individual events. But, right now Lepman was strokes behind the competition in the most important race of his life.

The Buffs had already dropped their first matchup of the season against the Rams in Fort Collins. There was no conference championship meet scheduled after this. This was it. This was the final chance for Colorado to claim a shred of prestige and to take down their rivals.

Anxiously watching on the side of the pool was the Buffs first year coach Paul Bradley. It was an unfamiliar place for him to be standing. In his three decades of life on this planet, up to his point, he was rarely if ever positioned in or near a swimming pool.

Make no mistake Bradley was a fantastic athlete, but until 1947 his passion rested in a multitude of other sports. Hailing from Sterling, Colorado he attended CU starting in 1928 and he participated in as many sports teams as he could.

During his four years at the school he played in three of the most respected sports on campus: basketball, football and track. He was most well known for football where he starred as the team's captain in 1932 as well as their best wide receiver and lineman. But, he also had a great deal of success in the other two sports.

Paul Bradley About to Catch a Football



On the basketball court he was a solid contributor. He was a backup forward and did enough to earn himself a letter in 1931. Overall he was described as a scrappy hustler on several mediocre Buff squads.

The third sport he competed in was track. Bradley utilized the legs that made him a potent offensive threat on the field to propel him to record heights on the pitch. By all accounts he did not begin participating in track until his junior year but took quickly to the high and low hurdle.

The hurdles are a uniquely challenging event in track in that they require a participant to run very fast while simultaneously timing jumps over obstacles in such a manner that they lose as little speed as possible. As might you may assume, high hurdles involve higher hurdles, but to compensate for the increased challenge the event is run over shorter distances of 50 to 110 meters. Meanwhile in low hurdling the bar is a foot shorter and the distance is increased to 200 meters.

If you are a modern fan of track you might be puzzled by the existence of this low hurdle event. Unfortunately, like the plunge for distance in swimming the low hurdles were forsaken by their sport. Deemed as too easy and not requiring enough technical skill, the event was shelved for good in 1960. With its removal from competition Don Stryon of little known Northeast Louisiana State University is and likely will forever be the record holder in the event.

It wasn't an uncommon sight to see Bradley win both the high and low hurdles. He did so on numerous occasions, but he also had a terrible habit of getting himself disqualified. In fact it was often the biggest impediment to him winning.



Bradley racing in the hurdles (1933)

In his two seasons racing he was disqualified at least three times. The first time was in a dual meet against Colorado State. He won the low hurdles easily with a time of 24.8, but was ruled out by the officials. He did the same thing a year before when he was ousted from the high hurdles after knocking over three hurdles before crossing the finish line.

His proclivity for knocking over the hurdles reared its head again in the 1932 conference meet. He stumbled through at least one hurdle and was clipped from the conference title in the low hurdles, costing the Buffs third place at the meet.

It wasn't all doom and gloom for Bradley as he did return to form to rattle off a breezy 14.7 seconds in the high hurdles. It would have tied a conference record, but it was not recognized due to the strong wind at his back which improved his time.

Bradley's hard work ultimately paid off as he was rewarded with a bid to compete in the NCAA Championship meet in Chicago. He was joined by fellow Buffs Otto Staab, John Slovek, and Meredith Jameson. Rocky Mountain News writer Howard "Ham" Berresfield offered a rather pessimistic view questioning how the track athletes from Colorado, including Bradley, would hold up under the scrutiny of tougher competition.

To have a chance at winning he noted that Bradley would have to, "*clip almost a full second of his high barrier efforts*" to beat Ohio State's George Keller.

Bradley was not able to pull off that feat. We don't know how he performed in the qualifiers, but his name was absent from the finals which saw George Saling of Iowa eke out a win against Keller by one tenth of a second. Bradley's teammates fared little better as the team didn't score a single point at the meet.

Even though the University of Colorado's Track season was complete, Bradley still had one last high stake meet remaining on his schedule. 1932 was an Olympic year with the games set to take place in Los Angeles in July. In order to qualify for the games Bradley would have to pass through a flurry of meets. The first of which was the Rocky Mountain Regional meet taking place at the University of Denver's Stadium.

Paul Bradley (1932)



At the meet he fully put his disqualification demons behind him sprinting the 110 meter high hurdles in fifteen seconds. It was time that was quick enough to advance to the semi finals round that was taking place the next week in Long Beach, California. Unfortunately, his dreams would be smashed by the financial limitations of the Denver Athletic Club. The DAC decided to only finance athletes that they believed had a chance to qualify for the Olympic Trial finals. As a consequence 8 out of the 12 qualifiers from the meet were unable to make the journey including Bradley.

In hindsight the DAC's decision did prove to have merit as Bradley's time of 15 seconds wouldn't have been enough to qualify for the finals.

The next season with more experience under his belt continued to excel in both the high and low hurdles. Unlike in 1932 he would win both events at the conference meet, beating out an impressive field in Utah.

It was the perfect high note to end his collegiate career on. After graduating he packed up his car and moved south to New Mexico. He would spend the next six years there coaching the sports he used to play: basketball, football and track at McAlister and Del Norte high schools. He was just as successful at coaching as he was playing. In his first year at McAlister he led his track team to a second place at state. In addition he racked up numerous division titles at both schools winning three in football, five in basketball titles and three more in track.

In 1939 he returned to Colorado where he coached at Aurora for one year before eventually taking the helm at his hometown school of Sterling. Finally, in 1941 Bradley returned to Boulder as an assistant football coach. Taking the job from Walter “Buck” Driskell who had departed for Wyoming, Bradley was to be paid \$2,000 for a 10 month contract. That amount sounds like an incredibly modest salary, but in today's terms it would translate to around a much more liveable \$43,000.



Paul Bradley (1941)

Bradley would spend his first season coaching the offensive and defensive lines for the Buffs. It was a rough year as the team, under the leadership of new head coach Jim Yeager, won just three games and didn't win a single road contest. These were expected growing pains and in year two of his tenure the Buffs returned to

form winning seven games and a share of the conference title with Utah.

With the team finally starting to take shape Bradley would have to leave it all behind as the United States entered the war following Pearl Harbor. In 1943 he enlisted in the Navy and served three years as a junior lieutenant in aviation.

In 1945 he returned stateside and was offered his job back as an assistant coach. It was an easy gig for Bradley the team was stuffed with talent on the line with multiple men clocking in at 200 pounds. He had, *“No worries except to decide which of the dozen of which good prospects will start”*

On January 2nd, 1947, Athletic Director Harry Carlson announced that athletics would resume in full capacity for wrestling, swimming and gymnastics. The swim team was pinned to an eight meet schedule, their second longest ever. The man tasked to lead the rebooted team was of course Paul Bradley

At this point Carlson was practically the foremost expert on hiring collegiate swim coaches within the state of Colorado. Bradley was the sixth hire that he had made for the position since he assumed his role atop Colorado athletics in 1928. That's quite a bit of turnover compared to in-state rivals Northern Colorado and Colorado State who hadn't changed head coaches of their teams since 1928.

With these six coaches a clear trend starts to emerge illustrating a common approach that Carlson took for staffing the swimming vacancy. Contrary to today where swimming knowledge and experience is an obvious requisite to coach an NCAA swim team Carlson looked for two things: Coaching experience (preferably in football) and convenience.

John H. Mason, George “Doc” Waite, and Robert Shelton all worked with the football team either as an assistant coach or as an athletic trainer and already worked in those roles when they were hired to coach swimming. Ernest Collins and Edmund Chapman had no prior coaching experience but were on campus to fill the vacancy quickly.

With all of that in mind we can see why Paul Bradley would appear to be the perfect hire to Carlson. He had an extensive track record as an outstanding athlete, was a loyal alumnus that had coached the football team for years, likely had some basic swimming training due to his service in the navy and had plenty of free time to coach the swim team during the football offseason.

Greeting Bradley was an entirely fresh squad of swimmers. None of the swimmers from either the 1942 team or the 1944-1945 war time naval teams were around. The team experienced tremendous growth and improvement since its founding in 1925, but now it was essentially back to square one.

While things may have looked bleak at face value, the Buffs were not entirely devoid of collegiate swimming experience. The aforementioned Dick Lepman had a year under his belt at one of the top swim programs west of the Mississippi at Iowa State.

Coming out of highschool Lepman was a highly heralded swimming prospect. He grew up in Glencoe, Illinois, a northern suburb of Chicago located along Lake Michigan. He attended New Trier Township High School which had one of the top swim teams in the state. They had won eleven straight conference championships before Lepman arrived in 1942.

Freshman and sophomores were barred from the varsity team so it wouldn't be until 1944 that Lepman was really allowed to shine. At the Illinois State meet he won the 100 freestyle while also anchoring the first place freestyle relay which propelled his team to undefeated season and state title. He was stellar at his senior year state meet as well, although his personal victories were not enough to allow New Trier to hold onto their title.

With a long list of high school accolades, Lepman caught the eye of Iowa State's new coach Russ Dickinson. With many schools, like Colorado still without swim teams, Lepman hopped at the chance to compete as a freshman.

On day one Lepman was the one of the Cyclones top sprint freestylers. Appearing in every single meet during the teams shortened season. His best performance of the season came in the final meet

against Nebraska in which he won both the 60 and 100 freestyle and contributed to a new conference record in the 440 freestyle relay.

After the season, Iowa State would change coaches as they welcomed back their previous coach from 1941-1944, Jack McGuire. Whom like Bradley was returning from his service in the Navy. We don't know why Lepman decided to transfer to Colorado but he probably wasn't enthusiastic about the transfer in power at the head coaching position. It's also equally possible that as a midwestern boy he yearned to experience the beauty of the Rocky Mountains to which Boulder is so near.

Dick Lepman (1949)



Regardless of the motive the Buffs swim team reaped the benefits of getting an outstanding athlete to assist in their rebuild.

Around Lepman Colorado assembled a pretty respectable team. Joining him in the freestyle events were Frank Eastman and Keith Gilmore. Eastman was a freshman from Oklahoma City and Gilmore was a senior from Ontario, Oregon. Despite the age gap both shared a common bond that many men on the team this season had: they had both been enlisted in the Navy.

In the stroke events Colorado was well stocked with another Illinois native Clarence Herbst holding down the breaststroke and Dick Ready stroking on his back. Rounding out the main bunch was Richard "Summer" Downing who would emerge as a legitimate threat on the boards. Despite the odds against them the Buffs swim team had risen and appeared well positioned to return to their past form.

1946-1947 Season

Record

6-2

Head Coach

Paul Bradley

Team Roster

Phyllis 'John'	Bruce Bowers
Alderman	
Gordon Bradt	William Cady
Summer Downing	Frank Eastman
Dave Ebaugh	Lawrence Flower
Keith Gilmore	Clarence Herbst
Dick Lepman	Bernard Michael
Robert Powloski	Dick Ready
Frank Zaitz	



Northern CO 8, Colorado 66 - Jan 18, 1947

Before the war, the Bears swim team was in shambles. They had enjoyed several respectable seasons in the 1930s before sinking into irrelevance. Due to a lack of opponents and student participation, they had to shutter the team in 1939. They returned the following year but were never the same. In a weak conference that only had a mediocre Mines team and a small Colorado College squad they failed to find any success.

With the program already spiraling they were dealt an even more serious blow when it was announced that the man in charge since its inception, Coach Hank Brown, was out and in his place was Don "Punch" Merriman.

Merriman assumed the role in the summer of 1946 along with an assistant position as the football team's backfield coach. Punch was an alumni of Northern Colorado having played fullback there from 1933-1936. It's likely he got his unique nickname during that period. Perhaps owing to his ability to punch through a defensive line or maybe it was due to a proclivity to throw punches? Unfortunately, we will never know.

Whatever the case, Merriman would have to learn how to roll with the punches in his first season at the helm. Unlike Bradley, he was not gifted with any star talents. We can only infer the makeup of the team from the sparse meet results that exist from the season, but there really isn't much to note.

In their meet against Colorado State they had just one place finisher: Leach. In a closer loss to Wyoming, they fared a little bit better, losing by 26 mainly due to more second place finishes and a win in the breaststroke by Edwards.

Unnamed UNC Diver (1947)



Both of those meets took place after their clash with the Buffs. It is possible that Edwards and Leach participated against Colorado but if they did it had little impact as the Bears were clobbered 66-8.

While no results or recaps exist, the score indicates without a doubt that no Bears swimmer finished first or second in any event. With a score so low, the majority of their points likely came as the result of just participating in the relays.

For the Buffs, it was a historic win following their break away from the water. The margin of victory of 58 made it the largest win in team history. The previous record was a 51 point win against a downtrodden 1929 Wyoming team.

Colorado 54, Wyoming 21 - Jan 25, 1947

The following weekend, Colorado continued to exceed expectations by crushing Wyoming with a 32 point win.

For a lot of teams that would be a blowout loss, but for the Cowboys a 30 point loss to CU was a major coup. The strong showing was orchestrated by the Cowboys new coach Francis "The Music Man" Stroup. After years of turnover, Stroup was the fourth coach in four seasons for Wyoming; the school finally appeared to have found their man.

Stroup, like most Wyomingites, was not native to the state. For the first half of his life, his roots were firmly planted in the Lone Star state. In the late 1920s, he attended North Texas University located in Denton, just outside of Dallas. While there, his life was consumed with sports. He earned letters in track, basketball and football while majoring in Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

He also swam while on campus, and was an excellent driver and backstroker. However, he never earned a letter in the sport. That is because North Texas did not have a formal swim team sponsored by the school. Instead, they had an incredibly unique organization called the "Hobo swimming club." Hobo is an antiquated slang or slur used to describe unhoused people, the implication here being that the swim team lacked a true place to call home without support from the school. Interestingly, the club traces its origins back

to the same year Colorado received a varsity swim team.

Francis Stroup (1931)



After he graduated, he worked several other teaching jobs, but remained in the Denton area and often returned to alma mater to assist in coaching the aforementioned swim club.

One evening in 1939, Stroup decided to attend a movie stage show on campus. During that show Professor Floyd Graham announced a contest for lyrics to his recently composed school fight song. Coming from a family of musicians Stroup decided to toss his hat in the ring.

A few weeks later, his lyrics were performed with the other contest entrants. When the band finished playing Stroup's rendition Graham was heard to have remarked, "*Can't you just imagine the band marching down the field playing that?*" Several months passed before the final verdict was made on the fight sign, but there was never any doubt that Stroup's rendition would be selected.

To this day his lyrics for "Fight, North Texas" are the schools official fighting anthem played at all athletic events.

A few years later, Stroup was forced to leave Texas as he was yet another young man swept up into combat during World War II. When he returned home, he went searching for new pastures. His travels lead him to Wyoming where he accepted a job as the PE teacher and swim coach.

Upon arriving in Laramie, Stroup found another school that lacked a proper fight song. In honor of the University's 60th year, he decided to create his own. Using lyrics from the already popular tune Ragtime Cowboy Joe, he unveiled the new fight song as part of a larger varsity show. Like his past work, it was an immediate hit and remains in use to this day.

One thing is for sure, when Stroup took over the team he had his swimmers singing a different tune. No longer did they have to tolerate beatdowns, they could stand their ground and fight.

Despite the changing culture, the Cowboys remained outmatched in terms of talent and would have to pick their battles preying on Colorado's weaknesses.

Wyoming's biggest advantage was on the boards where they had a true elderstatement in the 25 year old Harold Rollins. As a freshman, he was the one of the only bright spots for a miserably bad 1942 Cowboys team. After serving in the Navy Air Corps, he returned to school alongside his 28 year old brother, Carl. Together they were a fearsome duo for the football team.

Using his years of experience over Colorado diver Downing, Rollins snagged the victory. It was a tough lesson for Downing in his first collegiate meet. At East High School things came easy to him. He was an unbeatable diving ace, whose skills on the plank assisted in the Angels winning the Denver High School Championship his senior year. The adversity would continue for Downing in his rookie season as he struggled to find consistency, but by the end of the season his hard work would pay dividends.

Downing Diving in HS (1946)



The only other win for the Cowboys came in the 150 backstroke as Dick Ready did not live up to his name as he was caught napping against Wyoming's Van Nest.



Racing in Half Acre Pool, 1947

The Buffs ran away with the freestyle events. Before the war, the duo of Vandapool/Merrifield were the salt and pepper of freestyle. They both had different skill sets, but together were unbeatable. In 1947, there was a new dominant pairing in Lepman and Eastman.

Lepman, like Merrifield, would serve as the team's top sprinter while Eastman would assume the role of a discount Vandapool as the distance specialist. Following that formula, Lepman won the 50 and 100 freestyle and Eastman won the 220 freestyle and 440 freestyle. They both assisted in sweeping the relays as the Buffs once again prevailed over the Cowboys.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Colorado	6	6	8	4	6	4	8	6	6	54
Wyoming	0	3	1	5	3	5	1	3	0	21

Denver 15, Colorado 60 - Jan 29, 1947

The University of Denver swim team is inextricably linked to the CU swim team. The Pioneers were the first in-state collegiate competition for the inaugural Buffs team in 1925. Led by a brash and confident Coach Johnson, Denver might have beaten the Buffs if not for a string of disastrous injuries before and during the meet.

Since that meeting two decades prior, the two programs diverged. During that time, while the Buffs asserted themselves as a swimming power along the front range, the Pioneers struggled to even field a team. After a decade-long absence an extremely small squad was fielded sporadically throughout the 1930s before disappearing entirely following the 1937 season.

The common denominator in a swim team failing to gain long term traction at DU was the lack of an on campus swimming pool. It is a problem that the Colorado School of Mine could relate all to well. However, while Mines was able to generally secure local swimming venues, the Pioneers had a much more challenging task securing space for practice and meets in the limited and popular downtown pools.

The simple solution would be to build a new on campus pool, but a pool was not the only athletic facility that the University of Denver had neglected for decades. They lagged far behind their university peers as they lacked any sort of on campus gymnasium. There were calls for improvement of the athletic facilities before the war, but those demands turned from a whisper to a roar following the conclusion of the conflict.

Chet Nelson of the Rocky Mountain News best summed up the furious desire for an indoor athletic facility in his aptly named 1947 article titled: Needed: A Fieldhouse.

"You sit in the dentist chair and the man in white says, 'We need a Fieldhouse'. Around the barber shop the talk goes: 'What D.U. should do the first thing is build an indoor arena'. Big Citizen and little citizen, old grad and eager youth, doctor, lawyer, baker and bartender - they yearn for the day when Denver, as a city, has adequate facilities for a modern athletic program. And they wonder about the development plans at the University of Denver."

The University of Denver community's prayers were answered later that year as the school announced that they would be adding a new fieldhouse largely due to a clever cost cutting solution.

The plan was remarkably simple: rather than build a brand new fieldhouse from the ground up, they could just buy an already existing structure from the United

States military. Across the country there were hundreds of temporary hangers and training facilities that no longer had any use.

The scheme was dreamt up and volunteered by Max Cook, an aviation editor for the Scripps-Howards Newspapers who got the ball rolling by acquiring a Zeppelin hangar. The University administration loved Cook's idea and ran with it, looking for other structures that might fit their needs. Eventually, they opted to not use Cook's hanger but instead to purchase a drill house from the Farragut, Idaho Naval base. The building was selected because of its more extensive facilities.

The structure would make up part of the Fieldhouse which would be located across from the football stadium. It would house a 14,000 seat basketball arena in addition to 20 classrooms and a swimming pool. In the fall of 1947, ground was broken on the facilities and it was hoped that construction would be completed in just five months for the cost of \$500,000.

Although half a million dollars was no small price, equivalent to around 7 million today, it was surprisingly similar to what it cost CU to build the men's gymnasium two decades prior. In 1925, for a much smaller project, budget overruns and a strike ballooned the cost to nearly \$400,000 which also equates to around 7 million in modern terms.

Artists Rendering of Denver Fieldhouse (1947)



In a classic case of which came first: the pool or the swim team, the Pioneers decided to christen a new team a year before construction began on the Fieldhouse. The DU athletic department likely anticipated the addition of the pool in the near future and decided to get a squad off the ground sooner rather than later.

Similar to Colorado's hire of Bradley, DU opted to fill the position internally as they pegged the assistant coach for the football and baseball team Paul McClung

to lead the charge. As it would so happen, the connection between Coach Bradley and McClung ran much deeper. Both had been star players on the gridiron for CU. In fact McClung was a player that Bradley had coached. During the war, both men also served in the Navy, with McClung lucky to escape with his life following an explosion of a depth charge that occurred while his submarine was on patrol duty in the Atlantic.

Paul McClung (1942)



After the war, both returned to state to coach college football and were on opposing sidelines as the Buffs played the Pioneers in the fall of 1946. The game would ultimately end in a 13-13 tie following a 40 yard field goal miss by Colorado. Now a few months later, the two mens' paths would cross yet again in Boulder at the Carlson Pool.

Although their backgrounds were the same and both had to manage fresh units, the result was not nearly as close as their previous football game. For the entirety of the meet, Paul's swimmers never McClung to a lead as the Buffs battered their in-state foes. They refused to surrender any points beyond one second place finish in the breaststroke and some scattered third places.

1947 DU Swim Team



Colorado followed an identical playbook as they did against Wyoming as Eastman and Lepman swept the freestyles and Herbst captured the breaststroke. This time after a defeat against the Cowboys, Alderman returned to the top of the podium in the backstroke with an unremarkable 2:13.

While it may not have been the result McClung had hoped for, the most important thing was that the team was back in operation and competing in formal meets again. Although he would abandon the team after just one year for greener pastures as the head baseball coach at DU, greater things were on the horizon for the Pioneers.

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>Total</i>
<i>Denver</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>60</i>

Colorado 33, Nebraska 48 - Feb 1, 1947

It had been many moons since the Buffs had made the treacherous journey across state lines to the Nebraskan cornfields. They had met just two times before. In their first encounter Colorado had ambushed Nebraska in their home pool scoring a 16 point win.

Not a soul from that Colorado team remained to recount the splendor of that upset. But the same was not true for the Cornhuskers. Les Oldfield, but a freshman at the time, had watched helplessly on the sidelines as the visiting Buffs stormed into their house and had emerged victorious in 1940.

The following year, Oldfield helped his Huskers return the favor with a 19 point drubbing in Boulder. Oldfield was spectacular in his main event, the 150 yard backstroke. He ripped off a time of 1:52.6, drastically faster than the Buffs backstroke record at the time of 1:56.7 established by Ralph Christy in 1934.

Les Oldfield Backstroking (1942)



By Oldfield's personal standards, that performance was actually slow. His best time of the season that year was a Big 8 conference record 1:45.5.

Now six years older and hardened by his time in combat, he returned to his school to compete in the sport he loved. Although time may have started to weather his once blazing speed, Oldfield was not going to allow Buffs history to repeat.

Joining Oldfield in his mission to stop the Buffs was budding superstar Marvin Grimm. Many of the swimmers that we have discussed throughout this book so far have been regional stars. Although exceptional talents in the state of Colorado or the Mountain West region, very few were ever in the upper echelon of talent at a national level. That is not the case for Grimm.

Grimm was a local boy through and through, growing up near Lincoln in the small neighboring town of Wilber, Nebraska. As a young man, his immense talent was readily apparent. In 1942 he was the preeminent swimmer at the Wilber City Championships winning the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and getting second in the 50 breast and 50 backstroke.

Like many other young men, his swimming career took the back burner to World War II. Grimm joined the Navy where he was promoted to a radio operator aboard a ship stationed in the Pacific, because he, "he really knows his radio".



Grimm in the Navy (1945)

Grimm's primary responsibility as a radio operator was not combat related. He received news via radio from all over the world, decoded it, and typed out five copies to

distribute as a newspaper to the rest of the crew. It was a critical assignment as this amateur newspaper was the only means for the shipman to stay up to date with global events.

In addition to his radio skills, Grimm was probably selected for the job due to his fantastic speaking skills. In highschool, he earned praise at a dramatic reading competition with his three minute speech, "Interpretive Oratory, The Cry of Youth." While on board, Grimm, a devout Christian, put his skills to use. In the summer of 1945, after being at sea for 33 months, he volunteered to deliver a Sunday Sermon that started as follows,

"I am not a preacher. I am here on request not because I want to be. I feel that someone should accept the responsibility and step forward to weld us closer together and lead us closer to god."

He went on to discuss the difficulties of maintaining morality during wartime and the necessity of the higher cause that they were all a part of. Regardless of your religious beliefs, it was a powerful speech that illustrated the budding intellect and leadership that Grimm already possessed despite his youth.

A few months after that Sunday sermon, the atomic bombs known as Little Boy and Fat Man were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The result of those bombings was devastating, claiming the lives of over 200,000 people. Japanese leadership was forced to surrender less than a month after these attacks on September 2, 1945. The announcement of the surrender officially brought World War II to a close and meant that in the coming months Grimm and his fellow soldiers would return to shore and to their old lives.

Back in Nebraska, Grimm followed in his fathers and grandfathers footsteps by earning a degree of a Master Mason at Lodge no 64 before enrolling at the nearby University of Nebraska.

He exploded on the scene with an impressive performance in the schools winter intramural swim contest. Entered as an independent, not affiliated with any fraternity, Grimm stole the show by winning and breaking the record times in the 50, 100 and 220 freestyle. The previous times that Grimm beat had been standing for over a decade - since 1931. Supervising the

meet was new coach Hollie Lepley who was undoubtedly ecstatic for finding a generational talent.

With Grimm and the veteran Oldfield, the Huskers already had a fairly imposing squad. Added to the mix was Roger Moore, an all-conference caliber diver, Conrad King a strong backstroker, and Dean Porter specializing in distance freestyle events.

Unfortunately for the Huskers, their first contest back in action was against a loaded University of Minnesota swim team. The Gopher splashers had a long history of success, regularly scoring points at the NCAA championships before the war. During wartime, as other programs were shuttered their team remained active and they reaped the benefits securing third place in 1943. It was the best finish by Minnesota up to that point and is tied with 1961 as the Gophers' best nationals performance.

Even as teams reassembled around the country with superior talent, Minnesota still remained at an advantage as they did not have to go through the difficulty of fielding a team with completely new swimmers and coaches.

They were coached by the legendary Niels Thorpe who was born in Denmark but emigrated to the United States at the onset of the first world war. He had been in charge of the Minnesota swim team since it was founded in 1920.

Coach Thorpe and Son (Bill)



On paper, this year's team was especially intimidating as it featured four former national high school champions. The crown jewel of which in Thorpe's eyes was likely his son Bill Thorpe who swam distance freestyle. However, the real wonderkid was freshman breastroker Mel Ivonon who entered college with a national record 1:02.8 in the 100 breastroke.

The Gophers expectations were through the roof as they kicked off their 1947 campaign on a roadtrip to the farming states of Iowa and Nebraska. Both meets were supposed to be easy tune ups before the grind of the Big 10 Conference schedule. Their first stop was in Ames to face the Cyclones. Little did they know they were walking directly into a trap.

The trap in question was a person: Roger Watts. Known in Iowa circles for his highschool titles at North Des Moines in the 220 freestyle and a half mile run in track, hardly anyone knew of him outside of the states borders.

That all changed at this meet. In his first collegiate competition ever Watts propelled Iowa State to a stunning 43-41 upset against Minnesota. He did so in dazzling fashion setting the pool record in the 220 with a 2:13.9 while also claiming titles in the 100 and 440 freestyle.

It was a powerful performance, from a true freshman no less, that snatched away the headlines from the impressive results of the Minnesota swimmers. Three Gophers broke team records including Ivonon, who set the national freshman record in the breaststroke.

Regardless, it was all a footnote to the coming out party of Roger Watts. A swimmer that would dominate the conference for years to come and would soon become a recurring foe to the Colorado swim team.

Facing Nebraska a few days later, Minnesota would not let themselves make the same mistakes by underestimating another midwestern foe. Even missing their top diver Evert Tornfelt, who had suffered a concussion after banging his head against the bottom of the pool against Iowa State, the Gophers eviscerated the Huskers in their home pool by 31 points.

Grimm attempted to do his best Watts impersonation, winning the 100 freestyle and finishing second in the 50 freestyle. But it wasn't enough to get close to Minnesota as he was the only Husker to get first place in any event.

The loss boosted the Buffs' anticipation for stealing another road win in Nebraska. Sure, the Huskers had a lot of talent but they had proven that they were still far from being in the elite company of teams like Minnesota or Iowa State.

Prospects of the Buffs winning became even brighter as the meet got under way as an eager Husker disqualified their medley relay with an early departure. Eastman kept the team's momentum going by winning his fourth consecutive 220 freestyle against Nebraska's Porter.

That hot start though proved to be nothing more than a temporary mirage as the floor quickly gave out beneath them. Despite the team's best efforts, Colorado would not win another event the rest of the meet.

The Buffs ace Lepman was simply no match for the more talented Grimm. While Lepman was swimming royalty within the state of Colorado, he was a mere peasant in comparison to the speed that Grimm brought to the pool. In both the 50 and 100 freestyle Grimm breezed past him with times that a University of Colorado swimmer would not hit for decades.



Marvin Grimm (1947)

On the boards was reliable Summer Downing, who went as cold as winter, falling to third place behind Nebraska's Moore and Case. Even Herbst was unable to upend his Husker opponent in the breaststroker

UNL's Roger Moore Diving (1947)



In a changeup, the Buffs top backstroker was Ready and not Alderman. Even with the change both were still outpaced by Old man Oldfield. Despite the loss, it was a significant personnel adjustment for the Buffs who had struggled to find someone to hold down the event. While they would continue to get mixed results the rest of the season, it was now Ready's event to lose.

For Oldfield, the win in the backstroke was monumental. It proved that even at his older age and after a long down time he still had what it took to win.

The Huskers season from that point onwards was fairly mixed. Despite having Grimm to power them, they resided within a zone somewhere between a good and great team. They lost both of their duel meets against Iowa State and they were no match for the elite Big Ten teams they faced in Iowa and Minnesota. But they beat the rest of their below average conference mates. The result was an iffy 5-4 season that saw them register a distant second place at the conference meet to Watt and the Cyclones.

Without a true peer to challenge him, Grimm finished the season undefeated in the sprint freestyles events. Coach Lepley decided that Grimm should fly to the NCAA championship meet hosted at the University of Washington to see if he was the best swimmer in the nation. Departing on a completely different flight to the Pacific Northwest was his midwestern counterpart, Watts.

At the NCAA's, Grimm proved once and for all that he belonged amongst the elites. Although he did not make it back to finals in the 100 freestyle, he did earn a spot in the top heat of the 50 freestyle. His exact time from the meet doesn't exist, but we know that the event was won by Michigan's Richard Weinburg in 23.3 seconds. As for Grimm, he finished a few spots behind Weinburg, just barely missed the podium with the fourth best time in the nation.

Even though fourth place doesn't come with the glory of a medal, it did yield Nebraska two points. Those two points would be the only points scored by a Husker at NCAA's for two decades. More importantly, those two points allowed Nebraska to claim the title of the 13th best college swim team in the country, just ahead of their in-conference rival Iowa State who was only able to extract a single point from Watt's fifth place result.

Iowa State may have had the superior season and brought home yet another conference title, but at the end of the day Grimm and the Huskers had the last laugh.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Colorado	6	5	4	1	3	4	3	3	4	33
Nebraska	0	4	5	8	6	5	6	6	8	48

Colorado	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR			
Eastman	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	8
Lepman	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	7
Ready	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Zaitz	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Herbst	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Ebaugh	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Gilmore	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Downing	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Alderman	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bowers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	6	5	4	1	3	4	3	3	4	33

Wyoming	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR			
Grimm	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	2	12
Porter	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	8
Moore	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Oldfield	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5

King	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Case	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Campbell	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
Burr	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Draper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Greenburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	0	4	5	8	6	5	6	6	8	48

Colorado 38, Colorado St 46 - Feb 8, 1947

At the onset of World War II, the Rams swim team was in a state of turmoil. They had lost their identity as a freestyle factory and regular conference contender. Gutted by the draft, they fielded their least competitive team since the early days of Coach Tompkins. The team was so depleted of talent that they refused to swim against Weber State in 1942 out of fear of inflicting even more embarrassment on the team.

In short terms, Colorado State was like a malfunctioning computer that desperately needed a reboot. The war provided that hard reset for the Rams. When Coach Tompkins reopened the team for business, he was pleasantly surprised by what he saw. Like the Buffs, Tompkins had received a blessing via the transfer portal in Jay Gruenfeld.

Coach Tompkins (1947)



Like Lepman, Gruenfeld was born in the suburbs of the Windy City. While he did not have nearly as esteemed of a highschool swimming career, he demonstrated enough talent to end up on the University of Illinois's team. The Fighting Illini were hardly one of the premier squads in the country, as they struggled to be respectable in the most competitive swimming conference: The Big Ten.

As strange as it might sound, the NCAA did not always award a team championship in swimming. For the first thirteen national championship meets, the results were solely meant to determine individual champions. During that time, “unofficial” champions were crowned based on their athletes' points totals. Once the change was made to officially recognize a team champion in 1937, the Big Ten teams had dominated the standings.

In the eleven NCAA meets from 1937-1947 a Big Ten school took home the title nine times. Michigan won five of those, while Ohio State took home four of their own. During that span Iowa, Northwestern, Minnesota and Michigan State all had top 5 finishes. With all these teams excelling, the Illini were relegated to the lower rungs of the conference.

Gruenfeld arrived at the University of Illinois via train at the mere age of 16. On his trip there, *“They came to Kankakee, the train stopped and people got on and said that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and by the time that I got to the fraternity house some of the guys had already packed their bags and had gone off to enlist.”*

Unlike those other men, Gruenfeld did not immediately withdraw, instead opting to continue his education while being involved in ROTC. He swam for the freshman team in 1942, before joining the varsity team the next season.

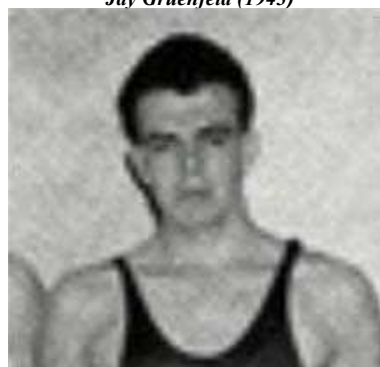
The 1943 Illini team was in a perilous state; it was hamstrung by the draft and a hoard of ineligibilities. It was barely hanging on at all. Only five of the eight lettermen that began the season were available in February. Things were so bad that they had to field their smallest team in history with just ten men and not a single diver against their vaunted rivals Northwestern.

Coach Ed Manely believed that what remained of his team was a shell of its former self, *“It used to be a madhouse around here during afternoon practice, but today there is no spirit in the boys. They don’t have their hearts in swimming”*

Before the Northwestern meet even started, they had already conceded eight points to the Wildcats due their lack of swimmers. With such a hill to climb, the result

was going to be predictably poor. The team's woes spelled opportunity for Gruenfeld. With options scarce, the unheralded sophomore found himself in the mix to be the team’s primary backstroke. The only thing that stood in his way was fellow sophomore Keith Kerr.

Jay Gruenfeld (1943)



At the start of the season, Kerr and Gruenfeld were neck and neck in the backstroke. However, that all changed when a friend suggested to Kerr that he should go shake the hand of the Alma Mater statue. The evening before the Northwestern meet he, *“made the lonely trek out to the auditorium and clambered up the pedestal and clasped the alma mater and whispered bring me luck.”*

Whether it was magic or placebo, the statue granted his wish. That meet he edged out Gruenfeld by four inches, and he followed that up with another win against Purdue with a first place and a personal best 1:43.9.



Alma Mater Statue (2014)

It was no doubt disappointing for Gruenfeld to watch his teammate surpass him, but he had more pressing matters on his plate. At the conclusion of the season on April 15th, 1943, he was finally pulled into service.

Gruenfeld was fairly unique among his peers as he was incredibly eager for combat. He spent fourteen weeks in basic training in Spartanburg, North Carolina before getting his chance to see battle in New Zealand, and then Papua New Guinea.

While in the Pacific working primarily as a patrolman, he recounts having witnessed many horrendous and tragic scenes. From fields full of scattered corpses to thirteen Japanese soldiers taking their own lives in caves rather than surrender.

Interestingly, Gruenfeld noted that the most scared he ever wasn't during one of these incidents, rather it was during a trek through the wilderness to recover an injured soldier. He was making his way through the brush when, *"All of a sudden a big animal hit his leg and then another one hit the other side and there were squeals. I had walked into a herd of wild pigs. And they had just frozen there until I was right there in the middle of them. And I did not yell - I screamed! And I had about a half a mile to go through there and I was all feared out."*

He wrote in extensive detail about these experiences and more in his excellent and very unique memoir titled *Commissioned in Battle*. His time in active combat was cut short after incurring five wounds during the Ipo Dam offensive in May of 1945. Six months later, the war was over and Gruenfeld returned to life in Illinois with a new perspective and a litany of stories.

He returned to the Illini swim team, but with a fully stocked roster he found himself on the bottom of the backstroke depth chart behind the likes of Dave Jensen and William Keller. The only meet that we know he saw action in was the final regular season matchup against Iowa. He placed third in the 150 backstroke finishing behind Iowa's Dick Main and his teammate Tony Konstant.

Gruenfeld spent the summer in Champagne relaxing and playing intramural softball with his fraternity. He flashed some sneaky pop smashing a homerun in a game against the Gym Annex 2 team. He also participated in a Water Carnival hosted at Urbana Park where he followed Philip Andrew's underwater escape act with a demonstration of how to swim backstroke.

That fall, Gruenfeld decided to move out west to Fort Collins to pursue his passion in forestry at Colorado State. The change in environment had the two fold advantage of bringing him closer to nature while also elevating him from a swimming pauper in the talent rich Big Ten to swimming icon in Colorado.

Gruenfeld wasn't the only weapon that Coach Tompkins had at his disposal. He also had an all conference freestyler Jim McCaskill and strong breastroker in Woody Hite. The trio formed an imposing core that strangely mirrored the makeup of the Buffs' top three in Lepman, Eastman and Herbst.

Coach Tompkins & his Star Trio



The question of which group was truly superior would be tested in Fort Collins on a day that featured three different minor sport competitions between Colorado and Colorado State.

The Rams ran away with the medley relay to kick off the meet. At the behest of Coach Bradley, the Buffs basically conceded the relay to the Rams utilizing Ready, Ebaugh and Zaitz. It was part of a bold strategy to save CU's top swimmers for their individual events.

The strategy bore nothing but rotten fruit for Eastman as he saw the previously undefeated streak snapped by

McCaskill in the 220 freestyle. Later in the meet, he took another loss to McCaskill in the 440 freestyle leaving him without a first place finish to his name for the first time that season.

Swimmers Competing at Farmers Pool (1947)



Lepman, meanwhile, performed on par with his standards beating out Colorado State's Abshire in the 50 freestyle before beating him again in the 100 freestyle with a season best time of 58.1 seconds.

The wheels really came off the wagon during diving. In a tight contest, the Rams Hall won the event with 92.26 points ahead of his teammate Remington 91.36. Downing finished third with 87.5 points, his season low. The event wasn't without its fair share of controversy, as the Buffs believed that some of the scoring decisions were the result of some good old fashioned hometown favoritism by the judges.

CSU's Diver, Hall



Colorado's performance didn't improve at all in the two stroke events. Gruenfeld, a registered weapon inside and out of the water, claimed another victim in the water as he gunned down Ready in the backstroke to the tune of a 1:54.9. Meanwhile Herbst was bested in the breaststroke for a second straight time falling to the Rams Hite.

In the end, despite salvaging a win in the freestyle relay, the Buffs were categorically outclassed. It appeared that outside of Lepman Colorado didn't have the same firepower as the Rams.

When asked by reporters about the frustrating loss and whether the biased diving judging was a significant factor Coach Bradley responded, "*Post Mortems don't win meets.*"

The message was clear: the Buffs were not going to linger on what went wrong at the meet and play the blame game. There was no way that they could rewrite the past, the only thing that they could do is control how they performed in the future.

Meet Box Score

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

Colorado	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR			
Lepman	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	1.75	11.75
Eastman	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Gilmore	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1.75	4.75
Ready	x	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Herbst	x	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Bowers	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1.75	2.75
Zaitz	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.75	1.75
Flower	0	x	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Downing	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Michael	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	1
Alderman	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0
Powloski	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	0	0
Total	0	3	8	1	6	7	3	3	7	38

Colorado St	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR			
McCaskill	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	10
Gruenfield	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	8

<i>Hite</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<i>Hall</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Abshire</i>	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	5
<i>Roehl</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
<i>Remington</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Edwards</i>	2	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	1	3
<i>Burns</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
<i>Monninger</i>	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Brisby</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	6	6	1	8	3	6	6	6	4	46

Denver 22, Colorado 61 - Feb 14, 1947

In desperate need of a bounceback win, the Buffs made the short trip to Denver to take on the Pioneers once again. For the past two meets, Colorado had been beaten down by two stronger opponents in hostile environments. That would not be the case for the third and final meet in their road schedule.

While the Pioneers were starting to make marginal strides in their first season back, they were nowhere prepared for a Colorado team that brought its absolute A-game to the meet. There must have been something in the water at the Denver Public Bathhouse that day or maybe the Buffs just needed to take out their frustrations. Whatever the case, the team swam on a level that had not been previously seen that season.

Dick Lepman was a monster in the water, shredding the opposition in record times. In the 100 freestyle he knocked several full seconds off his previous best mark to arrive at a team record 54.5 second time. It was an outstanding performance markedly better than the 58 second time from a week prior and far faster than one hit wonder Allan Rogers record of 57.3.

His real momentous feat came before that in the 50 freestyle as Lepman roared through the water at a pace of 24.2 seconds nearly a whole second faster than Harold Daniel's astonishing performance against Weber State just before the war.

Both of those performances paled in comparison to the 150 yards that Dick Ready swam in backstroke. Since assuming his duty as the team's top backstroker, Ready had yet to win the event.

That ended against the Pioneers as he maneuvered the pool in a transcendent 1:50; easily the school record and far faster than the previous conference mark. A week prior, he had lost to Gruenfeld who swam four seconds slower.

It is such a radical and uncharacteristic improvement from Ready that we as historical observers are obligated to call into question the integrity of the times from this meet. The times that he and Lepman recorded in this meet were far faster than their times before or after the meet. What is more likely? That these swimmers out of the blue summoned god-like performances that they never replicated again, or that either the pool that they competed in was not regulation or they benefited from over eager timers.

It is our professional opinion that the latter is more likely to be true. As such, the times registered by Lepman and Ready, while impressive regardless of circumstances, will be regarded as unofficial by this book.

The other oddity of this meet is the absence of Eastman. Perhaps he wanted to take a meet off to reset mentally after the embarrassing double defeat he experienced against the Buffs. Either way his absence allowed a few unheralded Colorado swimmers to see the water.

Robert Powalski filled in for the 220 freestyle. The senior from Seattle, Washington largely rode the bench all season, rarely if ever showing up in the final meet results. He had not contributed a single point to the Buffs all year; the closest he got was the week prior when he landed a fourth place result in the 440 freestyle.

With Eastman out of the picture for the meet, the 220 freestyle was suddenly his to lose. He did not succeed in beating the Pioneer's Thomson but he did get to end his collegiate career with second place points and a win over teammate Frank Zaitz. Despite this being his only contribution of the season, his effort against Denver was enough to earn him a varsity letter.

The other temporary replacement was Lawrence Flower. Like Powloski, he was a senior that had spent the majority of the year on mop duty. However, while Powloski rarely, if ever, saw any action, Flower swam

in most meets picking up low end podium points in the distance freestyle events. In the 1947 season he had registered: two second places, two third places and a fourth place finish. Talent wise, he was the definition of a third place swimmer that could get better results if the competition was on the weaker side.

Lawrence Flower (1947)



In perhaps the greatest testament to the skewed results from this meet, Flower swam like an all conference athlete. He destroyed Eastman's top time by a large margin and cracked 6 minutes in the 440 freestyle with a laughably swift time of 5:49.8. There was just no way that a swimmer of Flower's caliber was able to move that fast. Even if the time was dubious, the end result was not, as Flower finally got to experience the epic high that comes with winning an event.

At the end of the day, the Buffs had gotten the feel good team victory that they were craving and it was a good thing because they definitely needed to get their confidence back if they wanted to unseat the Rams in their second matchup.

This would be the final time that either program would compete against each other in a dual meet for two decades. In the coming months, the University of Colorado athletics would once again change conferences, this time hopping the midwestern Big 8 conference. With the change, the Buffs no longer had room for the Pioneers on the schedule, and they wouldn't meet again until 1967 under much different circumstances.

The departure of Colorado sent tremendous shockwaves throughout the conference, as schools like Denver worried about the survival of the conference all together. In their state of panic, the University of Denver decided that a complete overhaul of their athletic's was required.

Just two weeks after this meet, Quigg Newton, the chairman of DU's board, announced the creation of a special athletic commission to study their situation and make recommendations. Newton declared, *"I feel that Colorado's entry in the Mid-West Conference gives us a big challenge. We will have to meet that challenge wholeheartedly, with every resource at our command or drop into comparative athletic obscurity. We have been caught on our limb and we better do something about it."*

And do something they did. They completed the new Denver Fieldhouse the following year and placed more emphasis on all sports on their campus. No team benefited more from this shift in athletics than their swim team. Over the next several decades, the water Pioneers would steadily find their footing and eventually even surpass Colorado altogether.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Denver	3	5	1	1	3	1	1	3	4	22
Colorado	*	4	8	8	5	8	8	5	5	51

*score discretion

Colorado St 41, Colorado 43 - Feb 22, 1947

There was no conference championship meet held in 1947. There is no specified reason as to why there wasn't a meet. We can deduce that two factors played an effect on this. The first was the ongoing recovery from World War II meant that most schools were in their first season back in competition. Coaches and Athletic Departments had enough on their plates rebuilding teams that none were interested in the undertaking required to host a conference meet. The second factor was the ongoing exit of Colorado from the Big Seven. The school had announced its decision to leave for the Big 8 earlier in the winter of 1946. The Buffs hadn't officially left yet but their decision, as discussed previously, had riled up its conference mates.

Possibly to the point that they wouldn't entertain hosting a conference meet with the involvement of Colorado.

Without a conference meet to crown an outright champion, reporters set their sights on this meet as a sort of de facto championship. Both the Rams and Buffs had gone undefeated against the likes of Denver and Wyoming. With their previous win against Colorado, the Rams could complete a perfect season and claim conference title. However, a win by the Buffs would muddy the water. It would mean both teams would have the same head to head and conference records. In that sense both teams would have an argument as champions.

Before the meet started, the Buffs were dealt a serious blow. Eastman, for a second straight meet, was unavailable. Like the meet a week before, we don't know why Eastman was sidelined, but it would send ripples throughout the meet. Could Colorado still find a way to win without their second best swimmer? They would need lower level contributors to swim at their peak form if they wanted to stand a chance.

Luckily for Coach Bradley and the Buffs, Eastman's teammates answered the call, specifically in the 300 medley relay to start the meet. A crew of Ready, Ebaugh and Zaitz put forth a stellar effort to snatch a win away from the jaws of the Big Three of the Rams with a time of 3:37.8.

In their prior matchup with Colorado State, Coach Bradley had neglected the medley relay and it cost them dearly. With the win to start the meet the Buffs were firmly in the driving seat.

With Eastman out, Bradley had a tough decision to make. Should he stick with Lepman in the sprints, in which he had been dominant all season, or should he pull Lepman from the 50 freestyle and have him swim the 220 freestyle? Lepman was practically guaranteed to win the 50 and 100 freestyle. For the gambit to make a profit, Bradley would need Lepman to win the 100 and 220 freestyle and a Colorado swimmer to win the 50 freestyle or the 440 freestyle.

Bradley opted to roll the dice and spice things up, gambling that his best freestyler would win the 220

freestyle and that the team's depth would be there to back him up. The gamble was massive. Never before had a Colorado coach made such a radical change at championship (like) meet. Needless to say it paid off.

Lepman bolted past the Ram's McCaskill in the 220 freestyle and then finished his assignment with a win in the 100 freestyle with a 57.9. The Buffs got decimated in the 440 freestyle as one of the stars of the DU meet Powloski lost his magical touch and was relegated to third place. That meant the deciding race in the scheme was in the hands of senior Keith Gilmore and the 50 freestyle.

Born in small town Idaho, Gilmore had spent the entire season lurking in the shadows. While Lepman was out there kicking opponents behinds and making headlines like Batman, Gilmore was right there beside him as an underappreciated sidekick akin to Robin. Every meet that season Gilmore had swam in the 50 freestyle and finished one spot below Lepman, usually that meant he was the second best sprinter at any given meet that season.

But not today. With the events reshuffled for the first and only time in his brief collegiate career Gilmore took center stage. He would not disappoint.

Gilmore scorched the water underneath him as he finished the 50 freestyle just a few clicks below the all time mark in 25.2 seconds. Disregarding the timing from the DU meet, this was actually the Buffs fastest time of the season in the event, .1 faster than Lepman's time at Colorado State.

Keith Gilmore (1947)



It was the best possible swim for a fantastic individual. Gilmore would graduate a few months later with his degree in Mechanical Engineering and would move back to Idaho where he used his degree to design dams

and hydroelectric projects. He would later alternate careers in real estate, farming and the cattle business all while being happily married to his wife Ruth for 70 years.

But as his obituary powerfully notes, that summary doesn't remotely capture the life that he lived. *"What you have seen so far is an engineer's representation of himself, a solid, tested and safe scaffolding around which Keith built a colorful, complex and very un-ordinary life. Simply put, to those that knew Keith all our lives he was the most interesting man in the world..."*

He was an airplane enthusiast, a motorcycle adventurer, a self taught salesman that took his windseeker from Vancouver down to the Panama Canal and up the east coast to the Chesapeake Bay. But most importantly he was, “...*the most interested man in the world. He wanted to know how everything and more importantly anyone worked. Anytime you met Keith, especially if it had been a while, he would light up, more truly than anyone you had ever known. He wanted to know what you are doing and what you were thinking about*”

At the end of the day, Keith Gilmore was a remarkable man whose impact and love was felt by all of those around him. He lived such an interesting life that his greatest swimming achievement pales in comparison as a footnote to what he did outside of the pool

Unfortunately, Gilmore's triumph was not enough to provide Colorado with an outright win. With losses in the 150 backstroke (Gruenfeld) and 200 breaststroke (Hite), Colorado needed a quality diving performance from Downing if they were to have a chance of winning the meet in the 400 free relay. Like his other teammates, Downing elevated his production. Downing had taken his beatings throughout the year, including a devastating third place against this same Rams team. This afternoon, he subdued Colorado State, possibly with some hometown favoritism assisting him to beat Remington by nearly 9 whole points.

With that win, all the cards had fallen in place. The Buffs controlled their destiny. The score was 37-35, if they won the final freestyle relay they would win the race and a share of a claim to the conference title.

Gilmore led off the race followed by Zaitz and Bowers. It was close the entire way. When Lepman hit the water he was trailing. He slowly crawled back the deficit and in an iconic photo finish he snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with a combined time of 4:03.4.

While Lepman's exclamatory individual efforts and heroics are what shined the brightest in the newspaper headlines, but make no doubts about it this was a complete team win. From top to bottom every member of the team pulled more than his weight and fought for points that contributed to the Buffs their most signature win since the War broke out.

Meet Box Score

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

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>Si</i>	<i>LY</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>			
<i>McCaskill</i>	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	8	
<i>Abshire</i>	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	
<i>Gruenfield</i>	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	
<i>Hite</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	
<i>Burns</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	
<i>Remington</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
<i>Hall</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Brisby</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
<i>Roche</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<i>Total</i>	3	4	3	4	3	6	6	8	4	41	

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Lepman</i>	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	12
<i>Gilmore</i>	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	2	8
<i>Zaitz</i>	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
<i>Downing</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Ready</i>	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
<i>Herbst</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<i>Ebaugh</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Powloski</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Bowers</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Total</i>	6	5	6	5	6	3	3	1	8	43

Wyoming 23, Colorado 61 - Feb 28, 1947

The high of their win against the Rams was immense, but there was still work to be done. To get a taste of the conference title, the Buffs still had to dispatch the Cowboys.

Wyoming was not a guaranteed cakewalk win either. Under the lyrical supervision of Coach Stroup, the Wyoming team had improved in leaps and bounds. They had started their season swimming against the Colorado School of Mines who headed up to Laramie with a notably thin squad of men that had just three weeks of training under their belts. Strapped for men, Mines had to resort to having swimmers compete in three events each. It was a situation that the Wyoming swim program was all too familiar with, but they didn't show any mercy for their competitors routing the small Orediggers force 48-18.

While the meet was a disaster for the Orediggers, they did have a positive update coming just around the corner. After years of having to make due with broken pools and temporary substitutes, that problem was at last be rectified with a new state of the art pool.

A couple weeks after the loss, Mines was preparing to open the new pool. The project had been delayed for months during the previous summer due to the lack of material and a chlorinator, but was finally nearing completion. The former CU and current Mines Athletic Director and swim coach John H. Mason was extremely grateful for the renovated pool and gave extensive praise to Doctor Parker and Professor Ball for persuading the Board of Trustees for the funds to renovate the pool.

Volk Gymnasium Pool (1950?)



Although the facilities problem was now fixed, Coach Mason now had a new problem on his hand: there was no team to swim in it. After their walloping at the hands of the Cowboys, the Mines team had dwindled from an already meek nine swimmers to just four to five consistent practice swimmers. Far below the necessary 12 men minimum that most teams competed with.

Mason was livid, *"It looks as though the school is not interested in swimming now that the pool is in good shape or I would have more men out for the swimming team. I hate to admit to the other schools that we have to call the meets off because we have no swimmers."*

Coach Mason (1947)



Coach Mason would have to make a lot of those challenging calls as no additional men swarmed to participate on the team. One of which was a meet he had to cancel in Boulder. Two months later he would suddenly resign from his post at Mines. He gave no exact reason for his departure and had no new job line. It seems beyond a doubt that the swim season, which was by far the most frustrating of his illustrious career, was the straw that broke the camel's back.

While the once elite Mines swim team continued to decay before their eyes, the Cowboys put together their strongest season in years. With a burgeoning star backstroker in freshman Van Nest and the super senior

diver Rollins, the Cowboys had carved out a niche as the conference's middle ground team. They didn't have enough solid talent to beat the Rams, but they had plenty to hammer Northern Colorado by 26 and Denver by 38.

The DU meet was hosted like the Buffs meet at the Denver Bathhouse. This is notable because the times at the pool were again suspiciously fast. Van Nest obliterated the conference mark with 1:43.4, a whole ten seconds better than the previous conference best. Unheralded teammate Donlin, who was normally able to sprint the 50 freestyle in the high 25 second or low 26 seconds range, went 24.7. Combined with the previous results from the Colorado meet we can conclude with extreme confidence that the length of the pool was not adequate for competition.

Even with an increased pedigree and experience no Cowboys team was ever going to stand in the way of Colorado. No final results exist, but the final score indicates that the Buffs easily took care of business in Boulder to rightfully claim a "Co-Championship" of the Big 7 Conference.

The Wyoming meet was far from the tension filled, championship like atmosphere that surrounded the Colorado State meet. This meet carries a significant weight in the history of the University of Colorado swim team as it marks the final time the Buffs competed as a Big 7 school.

The New Big Seven & Offseason of Change

Just a few days after the meet, it was announced that University of Colorado was set to break from the Big 7 and join the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MVIAA). The MVIAA had a lengthy history stretching back to 1907, but conference membership had remained largely stable since a schism that occurred at the conference meeting in 1928. The outcome saw the three smaller private schools in the conference (Drake, Grinnell, and Washington University of St. Louis) depart while the six large state schools remained to form the newly nicknamed Big 6 Conference.

Map of New Big 7 (MVIAA) Conference



Those six schools were Nebraska, Iowa State, Kansas State, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Together with Colorado joining, the conference was now to be known as the Big Seven Conference. An incredibly confusing nickname as the conference the Buffs were departing from, the Mountain States Conference, was also known as the Big 7. If you weren't in the know about the inner workings of college athletics you might assume that Colorado never left the conference. Later down the line the MVIAA would become known as the Big 8, but to avoid confusion we will refer to the conference as the MVIAA until Oklahoma State joins in 1958.

The move was largely orchestrated by Athletic Director Harry Carlson who "waited a long time for this day" to come, in which Colorado was to compete with institutions that were closer in size, resources and athletic prowess.

The campus was united in its praise for the conference change. Colorado's university facility representative Professor Walter B. Franklin similarly praised the move regarding it as, "*an advancement in our athletic status*" and President Stearns an "*honor to be associated with such fine educational institutions.*"

CU Joining the Big Six (1947)



Not everyone was happy about the move. Athletic Director and football coach Clyde Hubbard prophesied that the decision would spell disaster as, *“The Buffs have had financial trouble meeting ends meet in Boulder. And with the pace speeded up financially in the bigger and supposedly better league things won’t be quite as easy for the Buffs. I can’t see what Colorado had to gain by making the switch.”*

None of the Big 7 athletic directors were stunned by the decision; many of them knew of Colorado’s desire to join a more eastern conference for years. But even with the additional foresight that a departure was possible, the Mountain States Conference was completely caught napping. The conference was in a perilous spot uncertain of how to proceed without the Buffs.

You see, conference realignment is a lot like a good old fashioned bank run. The banking system is fundamentally based on trust. Individuals place money into the bank trust that it will be there when they go to withdraw their money in the future. A bank run occurs when this confidence in the bank wanes. This can be due to fears surrounding the bank's own financial situation or because of external economic factors outside of the bank's control. It is not important if these

fears are actual or imaginary they just need to be perceived to be real.

When enough people no longer have faith in the bank's ability to operate, they race to withdraw what remains before the cash. Thus, starting an aptly named bank run. The timeless Christmas classic *“It’s a Wonderful Life”* has one of the most interesting bank runs ever put to film.

As the economy collapses and the stock market crashes, the inhabitants of Bedford Falls rush to extract their funds from the Building and Loans. The operator of the Buildings and Loans and the film's main character George Bailey is thrust from his cab preparing to depart on his honeymoon to rush into the building to calm the developing mob.

George Bailey Calms a Bank Run



At first, George tells the crowd that he can not payout the individuals as the money is not actually in the Building and Loan, it has been invested throughout the community. In response, a desperate townsfolk barges in and informs the gathering mass that if George is not willing to pay them that they can sell their shares to an outside investor, the greedy Mr. Potter, who is offering them fifty cents on the dollar. Desperate to salvage some of their savings as the economy collapses, the people start to make their way towards the door.

George scrambles to the door and blocks them exiting. Then in a passionate and candid speech George, played by James Stewart, argues, *“That Potter is not selling he’s buying and why? Because we are panicking and he is not. We can get through this thing alright but we*

gotta stick together. We have to have faith in each other”

Ultimately, George’s appeal is successful. He convinces the crowd to only withdraw what they truly need and keep the rest of the money in the Building and Loan. When the bank finally closes at the end of the day, they have two dollars remaining - just enough to survive.

A school changing conference plays out in a similar way to the bank run that George experienced. A competing conference is like a Mr. Potter, an outside entity that entices a member away with financial allure. This creates chaos and uncertainty in the conference members that stay behind. They demand short term payouts and changes. If they let their greed consume them and fail to rally together like the people of Bedford Falls did, the conference will completely collapse.

This is the exact situation that the Mountain States Conference found themselves in. With Colorado gone, it was predicted that Denver would leave to be an independent and that those two dominoes falling would cause the Utah schools of the conference to break away. It would result in leaving behind the smaller Colorado State and Wyoming to fend for themselves. It was surmised that the Mountain States conference could avoid this fate by quickly adding Colorado College to the member list.

A few months later, the remaining Big 7 leaders met and decided that they would stand pat. There would be no proverbial bank run today. Mountain States Conferences headed by the advice of George Bailey. United, they would move forward in their current form. They would eventually add Montana and New Mexico to the league in 1951 and would continue to prosper as a conference for another decade.

The Conference swap wasn’t the only change that would have an impact on the 1948 swim team. After coaching the football team in the fall of 1947, Coach Paul Bradley decided he was done with college athletics.

Along with head football coach Jim Yeager, Paul Bradley, his assistant coach, announced their resignations from the University shortly before

Christmas. Both men were exiting for more lucrative roles in private business.

Jim Yeager (1947)



The 39 year old Yeager, who was making \$6,500, left to “*answer the call of the wolves*” and to become a partner in Brooks Fauber Clothing Store in Boulder. Although his decision may have been financially motivated, Yeager had been facing additional pressure from the University after a combined 9-9-1 record the last two seasons. He likely saw the writing on the wall and decided to resign before getting sacked.

Brooks Fauber Store (1949)



Bradley, on the other hand, was moving south towards Colorado Springs to work in the highly profitable oil business. He was extremely successful in his career change during the next fifteen years he would rise to become the president of the Colorado Petroleum Marketers.

During that time, Bradley never lost his passion for the University of Colorado. He served as the president of the Alumni C- Club and was rewarded the C Fob

Award in 1956 for his continued interest in the University.

In 1964, with two of his kids attending CU and looking to start a new career as a politician, Bradley tossed his hat into the ring for the CU Board of Regents. It was an unsuccessful foray for Bradley; he garnered 21.8% of the vote, the lowest of any candidate, while running as a Republican.



The rejection didn't deter Bradley though. A year later, he caught a break as a seat in the Colorado Senate opened up due to the resignation of William Lennox and he was appointed to fill the hole. His constituents in Colorado District Two must have appreciated his work as a temporary substitute as they elected him to a full two year term in 1966.

At the conclusion of that term, Bradley with plenty of experience under his belt, he shifted his sights towards a loftier goal: to be a representative in the United States Congress.

Squaring off against the Democratic incumbent Frank Evans, Bradley ran on a campaign rooted in conservative values and pro business sentiment. Months before the election, he spoke at the Colorado Springs Optimists Clubs hoping to fire up his base. *"Back the men you chose with your money, your ideals and your time. Do this in order to preserve the greatest form of government yet devised by man. If you don't you'll lose everything just as it's been lost today by default and blackmail."*

A week later, the Bradley campaign scored a major coup with the endorsement of rising Republican star in the recently elected California Governor Ronald Reagan. The former Hollywood star turned politician

had been reluctant to throw his support behind many republican candidates in 1968, stating publicly that he would only support candidates he was interested in that were, "right of center who can be called Conservative and he would do so at no cost to the candidate."

Having met Bradley at a Congressional candidates function that took place in Washington, DC earlier that June, Reagan liked what he saw in Bradley. In September, he reached out to Bradley to let him know that he would be passing through Colorado on his way to South Dakota if he had any interest in using his services. Bradley and his staff jumped at the opportunity and agreed to it before even having an event for Reagan to speak at.

Paul Bradley Meets Ronald Reagan



In the end, even the support of Reagan wasn't enough to bolster Bradley past Evans for the congress seat. He lost a well contested race 52.1% to 47.9%. The defeat would mark the conclusion of Bradley's political career, while Reagan continued his political climb all the way to the White House and a two term presidency from 1981-1989.

New Year, New Coach

For the third time in three seasons, the University of Colorado swim team was to be helmed by a new leader. With the new year around the corner, Bradley had scampered from his job leaving the Buffs with an incredibly narrow window to find a replacement.

Athletic Director Carlson had dealt with a similar situation many years prior when John H. Mason left for Mines ahead of the 1932 season. He opted to fill the role on a temporary basis by having the team's captain Ernest Collins also serve as the coach. It was a disastrous move. The inexperienced Collins, although stellar in the pool, oversaw the worst season in team history up to that point going 2-2 and losing the conference meet to Colorado State. Carlson wouldn't make the same mistake this time, instead he fell back on his classic strategy of finding a replacement elsewhere on campus.



This year's victim was Edson Keith Hartzell, Jr. Born in Boulder, Hartzell was the son of the senior E. Keith Hartzell who was a well respected publicity manager. In the 1920s, he had worked with the City of Boulder on a publicity campaign and was the president of the advertising club.

We don't know much about the younger Hartzell's childhood outside of the fact that he spent it entirely in Boulder. He was a fairly sharp student as he forwent seeing active combat in the war for an education at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

He graduated from the Academy with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1946. He then returned home to Boulder to pursue an additional degree in Mechanical Engineering at CU.

While pursuing his education, Hartzell also taught as an instructor within the engineering school and is listed as teaching architectural drawing in 1947. With his leadership and swimming skills exemplified by his time at the Naval Academy, Hartzell fit perfectly into the mold of a temporary replacement.

E.K. Hartzell (1946)



By the time Hartzell assumed control of the team, the first meet of the year was just two weeks away against the University of Northern Colorado. Luckily for Hartzell, he was handed an extremely experienced team stocked with returners from the successful 1947 campaign.

The team's star freestyler Dick Lepman was back. So too were the team's two stroke specialists. Dick Ready, who had made large improvements after taking over midseason as the starting backstroker, and Clarence Herbst who had been a reliable option in the breaststroke. Additionally, Summer Downing, one of the league's best divers returned, along with the freestyle sprinter Frank Zaitz that was on the record setting medley relay. Even smaller contributors like Pawlowski and Bradt had returned for another go around.

With a handful of promising newcomers to supplement this veteran group the Buffs appeared to be well equipped to handle the step up in competition that was sure to come with the move to the MVIAA.

1947-1948 Season

Record

4-2

Head Coach

Keith Hartzell

Team Roster

Hugh Berger	Jim Berry
Bruce Bowers	Gordon Bradt
Summer Downing	Clarence Herbst
Conrad Horine	Dick Lepman
Robert Menary	Wendell Peterson
Robert Powlowski	Dick Ready
Louis Telk	John Yantis
Frank Zaitz	



Colorado 51, Northern CO 24 - Jan 16, 1948

For a second straight season the Buffs started the year with a matchup with the Bears. The previous meet, the first swim for either school since World War 2, had been a monumental blowout for Colorado. Without the leadership of longtime Coach Hank Brown UNC lost by over fifty points.

Armed with a mature squad Colorado figured to repeat a similar performance. In the year between the meets the Bears had also made a change at the top replacing "Punch" Merriman with Loring "Hutch" Hutchinson.

Hutch's horde was up to the task more than the previous iteration. In front of a large Friday night crowd of 465 students at Gunter Pool the Bears more than doubled their point output losing 51-24.

Even though it was a comfortable win for the Buffs it did expose one potential weakness for the team. While mostly everyone was back there from 1947 there was one glaring Eastman sized hole. Last year Eastman had anchored the distance free events, except for the final two meets where he mysteriously did not compete.

Lepman still held down the sprint freestyles against Northern Colorado winning the 100 freestyle and the 50 freestyle in pool record times of 58.2 and 25.2. But no swimmer emerged to cover the distance freestyle events, as the Bears Bill Manuel and Dean Fair won the 220 and 440 freestyle.

The meet also revealed a potential hole in the backstroke. Entering the year expectations were high that Ready would continue his rapid ascent to a top shelf backstroker. Even though he still won the event he just barely edged out his rival swimmer in Bill Edwards. If he was under duress against the talent offered by Northern Colorado would he be able to hang against the talent rich teams of the Big 7?

UNC Diver Jim Maloney (1948)



Even with those serious question marks the Buffs the rest of the meet was nothing but good vibes. Downing dove into first place and Herbst won yet another breaststroke event, and the freestyle relay looked as strong as ever with the addition of sophomore Bruce Bowers injecting new energy into the winning freestyle relay.

Oklahoma 50, Colorado 34 - Jan 27, 1948

For the first time in team history, Colorado dually the University of Oklahoma. As new conference mates it would be far from the last time they would meet.

The Sooners did not have a storied swimming history before the war. The land locked and sparsely populated state was far from a swimming hot bed. Few highschools in Oklahoma even offered swim teams. As a result ahead of 1948, Oklahoma arguably had one of the worst track records of any MVIAA member in the sport.

The first swim team at Oklahoma was organized in 1929. For the first five years the team struggled to get swimmers and to compete against the likes of Nebraska and Iowa State. If they did bring a team to the conference meet they would finish in a distant third place. This was to be expected. Like many other upstart programs the team had to operate without an on campus swimming pool. The lack of a pool creates two fundamental problems that make it extraordinarily challenging to succeed: it makes training consistently a challenge and it limits your ability to recruit swimmers to the team.

After the 1934 season the team was ready to wilt and die on the vine without the sustenance of a pool to support it. There was no coach. There were no swimmers. It was over. But then out of nowhere emerged a savior. A man so immensely talented, so obsessed with swimming that his singular drive kept the team alive. That man was Jack Davis.

Davis feels less like a living breathing person and more like a character ripped from the pages of American folklore. His best equivalent is not to any other swimmer but probably to that of Johnny Appleseed.

Johnny Appleseed, born as John Chapman, was a real man that was born in Ohio in the later part of the 18th century. He would grow in fame to a near mythological status as a kind hearted man that traversed the midwest spreading appleseeds. It was a mission that he chose for himself and did so despite the obvious challenges that stood against him.

While Appleseed's calling was to spread the seeds of the finest fruit across this great country, Davis' mission was to swim at all costs.

Jack Davis (1934)



No pool? No problem. Davis would just swim in the campus Lilly Pond and nearby lakes instead. But he found the water far too chilly during the winter. He was offered to swim in the Women's Building pool, but that didn't work well for Davis's busy schedule. During the mornings he attended classes and in the afternoons he drove a cleaning truck. Meaning that if he wanted to swim in the women's pool he would have to forgo eating lunch.

Then one day while walking past the McCasland Field House he had an epiphany. The mirror pool in front of the building would make for the perfect practice venue. Although it was only three feet deep that was far deeper than the mere 16 inches of depth he claimed to need.

He raced home, grabbed a suit and hopped in. But he didn't get too many strokes before the landscaper and his dog appeared to yank him out. He was informed that, "*presence in the mirror pool was restricted to gold fish and lily pads. Qualifying as neither he saw his last hope for an afternoon training grounds disappear*"

Davis was pretty disappointed that his new watering hole was off limits saying, "*It would have been swell on a warm afternoon. Of course I couldn't have done much high diving but for straight swimming it couldn't have been beaten at least not in Norman*"

The Mirror Pool



And so Davis remained without a true pool to call his own. It is a shame too because Davis was an elite swimmer. Several months prior to the Mirror Pool affair, in the Spring of 1934 he stormed into the Big Six conference meet with his wingman, and only teammate, Murray MacDonald. Together they smashed a couple of conference records and single handedly earned the Sooners third place at the meet.

A few weeks later they took their talents to the big time racing representing a school without a pool on the national stage at NCAA's in Columbus, Ohio. MacDonald had a forgettable meet failing to make it past qualifying in the 50 freestyle. But Davis excelled, finishing 8th in the 440 freestyle with a conference record of 5:11.8, and 7th in the mile.

In the fall of 1934 Davis lost his partner in crime. He had hoped that he would replace MacDonald with former Iowa State swimmer Charles "Snookie" Van Hoesen. Davis hyped up Van Hoesen would be, "*experience coupled with a strong stroke and fine physique have made him the best national title prospect that the school has ever had*". Despite the praise Van Hoesen didn't join Davis in the water, so if the swim team was to stay alive he would have to do so alone. He had no facilities, no coach, no teammates and absolutely nothing to lose.

Forced from the oasis of the Mirror Pool Davis trained relentlessly, possibly going without lunch on some occasions to prepare for the 1935 Big Six Championship Meet. Entering the meet he had three goals:

- 1) To Make 10 points
- 2) To break the backstroke record (an event he had never competed in)
- 3) To win the 220 and 440 and lower his records of last year.

He succeeded in the first two goals. Entering the meet he had planned to break the 150 backstroke record in prelims and then withdraw from the next day for the finals allowing himself to go all out in the 220 and 440 freestyle at finals.

Jack Davis (1935)



In the prelims he obliterated the conference mark with a 1 minute and 50 second swim in the backstroke, but after completing the race he was informed that he could not withdraw from the finals. As a consequence he had inadvertently set himself up for a grueling final day.

He started by winning the backstroke, but worn down he faltered to a second place finish in the 440 freestyle. A few minutes later he swam in the 220 freestyle. Physically exhausted he still placed third in the event, but had to be carried from the pool. He was revitalized in the dressing room where some rest and stretches allowed him to walk again.

For Davis it was a truly, no good, awful day but he had survived it and had earned the Sooners a fourth place showing for his efforts. He didn't have too much time to reset before departing to swim in the NCAA meet at Harvard.

Ahead of the meet Davis decided to change his race strategy. After the disastrous results of his event decisions at the conference he decided to turn to his new makeshift coaching advisor Bruce Drake for all decisions. Drake, a physical education teacher at the university, had assisted Davis throughout the year offering assistance as he attempted to hone the so-called "Japanese Crawl" technique which placed an emphasis on a strong kick. If you are wondering what made Drake a qualified mentor he was the swim teams coach prior to its folding in 1933.

Bruce Drake (1933)



To Davis Drake's role in his success was simple, "I am not going to start worrying about which ones to enter as Bruce has consented to take all of that off my mind and just enter me into what he thinks I am best qualified to paddle"

The move ended up paying dividends for Davis. With his mind freed to only focus on swimming he got back to his roots with a very successful mile swim.

Although he was still far from the podium he finished in 6th place, dropping 31 seconds from his swim last year. An incredible result given his training situation.

Harvard Swimming Pool



His underdog story didn't go unappreciated as he was named to the Collegiate All-American team in the mile and 440 freestyle. Spauldings swim guide writer Ed T. Kennedy wrote this in his selection, "One of the smallest swimmers in the collegiate swimming ranks, but a fine swimmer is Davis of Oklahoma".

The All American honors would prove to be the pinnacle of his swimming career. He continued to march along on his solo mission to keep the swim team alive in 1936. By all accounts he didn't have as eventful of a championship meet this time around but still pumped out double digit points to earn the Sooners another third place finish.

In a cruel twist of fate after years of competing at an elite level without a pool or team it was finally announced in the spring of Davis' senior year in Norman that the University would be building a pool that he had yearned so long for.

The local newspaper speculated that Davis had mixed emotions about the new pool, "*[he] will be one of the happiest, yet one of the saddest swimmers around these parts when the pool is completed. He will be glad to know that a swimming team will have a chance to develop now, but will realize that if such a place had been available for him he might have been able to go a lot farther in the sport.*"

No doubt it had to be excruciating for Davis who had poured his heart out for Oklahoma swimming only to get to have his dream of having a real pool to swim in ripped away from him as his collegiate athletic eligibility expired.

But it is difficult to feel too bad for him. When Davis departed the University in the Spring of 1947 he owned so many school records that the record book should have been renamed to the Davis Book. Despite the poor conditions he racked up 8 of the 11 school best marks.

But Davis' impact at the University extended beyond just times in the water. In a very real sense Davis is the patron saint of Oklahoma swimming. If it was not for his defiant efforts and success in the water there may not have been a new pool at all. Without a pool to call home the swim team would have remained dormant. At the end of the day Davis was a martyr. He sacrificed himself so the Oklahoma swim team could live on.

The new pool which was built into the McCasland Field House broke ground in the spring of 1936. It took a year and a half to complete and it would have been done even faster if not for a delay in a shipment of ceramic tiles. Even with the delays the pool cost the university pennies on the dollar. Since it was just an extension of the Fieldhouse rather than a standalone building the final bill, although it was double than the initial estimate, was a mere \$60,000.

When it opened it was miles ahead of the CU's outdated facilities featuring eight lanes and a \$750 diving board. Unlike the Carlson which was mostly standing room only, the Fieldhouse pool included a grand stand that could seat 500 spectators. The addition of which combined with the state of art design of the pool brought the pool under consideration to host a future NCAA championship meet. Ultimately that never came to fruition, but the pool did serve as the host site for the 1938 Big 8 Conference meet.

With a pool now at his disposal Davis's former mentor Bruce Drake had no problem revitalizing the team.

They had a mixed first season back. They swam in just three meets. Two of which were against in-state rivals Oklahoma State. They split that series with the Cowboys winning one and losing one, but finished with a losing record for the year with a loss to Washington University of St. Louis 42-33.

At the conference meet despite nearly tripling the output of Davis the young Sooners finished in third place yet again, just six points behind the Cornhuskers. They didn't have much success in individual events with John Jarrett, the team's junior diver, the only champion. However, they did have a stellar 400 yard freestyle which broke the conference record in the event. Unfortunately, so did the Iowa State Cyclones relay and they would have to be satisfied with a second place result.

1938 OU 400 Medley Relay



I wish I could tell you that armed with their world class facilities the Sooners swim team continued a rapid ascent to the top of the Big 8 conference. But as often is the case in life infinite growth is not sustainable nor is it guaranteed. Periods of stagnation are inevitable and oftentimes required for future success.

Over the next several years before the war the Sooners struggled to gain a foothold in part due to a constant turnstile at the head coaching position. Drake departed after the 1938 conference meet and was replaced with Bill Clergen, who himself lasted one year before abandoning the team two weeks before the start of the season. Swimmer Ned O'Reilly was then anointed as student-coach and predictably struggled going 1-3 in duals and garnering a fourth place finish at conferences.

O'Reilly stayed on board as student coach the next year, although he was limited from competing due to a knee injury. The team produced similar poor results going 1-4 while remaining in the conference cellar at the 4th place position. It was the last season for the Sooners before the war mercifully put the team on hold.

Despite the disastrous showing pre-war, it was still apparent that Oklahoma swimming was a sleeping giant waiting to emerge from its slumber. They had a world class facility at their disposal and a large, financially successful athletic department to support them. With the right man in charge the Sooners could go from paupers to kings overnight.

With the swim team men ready to resume operations postwar the men in charge at Oklahoma recognized that the swim team was just one coach away from greatness. So they went out and found the man that would usher in a new era of excellence in the aquatics in Norman: Joe H. Glander.

Glander wasn't like any previous coaches at Oklahoma or Colorado for that matter. He was not a hire of convenience. He was a well respected swim coach that had a strong track record of success.

Glander had attended the University of Ohio. While there he won letters in track and wasn't afraid to back down from a fight. In 1927 he took his fighting skills into the ring and entered the inaugural edition of the Golden Glove tournament. The tournament was an incredibly ambitious concept dreamed up by editors at the New York Daily News to drive newspaper sales. The idea was to create one large organized competition to determine the best amateur boxer in the New York area. Over 1,200 boxers participated at dozens of venues across the city which were eventually whittled down to forty men to compete in front of a massive crowd in the Square Garden. An elite group of which Glander was a part of. In the end he couldn't quite capture the title, but did finish in the quarterfinals.

After graduating from college he coached at Sandusky High School in the northwest corner of the state before moving to the nearby Bowling Green University in 1940.

For his first several years Glander had no involvement in swimming at the school. Instead serving as the team's wrestling coach and assisting the football team. But when the war broke out and coaches were in short supply he took it upon himself to help keep the so-called "minor" sports operating. If you are wondering why Joe was not overseas himself the answer is that for a moment he was but he was discharged from the Navy in 1944.

Even though competition was weak the Bowling Green State was even weaker finishing with just one win in four tries against the likes of schools that today are Division II colleges.

Joe Glander (1945)



After the conclusion of the season Glander got a unique opportunity to travel to Rome to work as a civilian in the Special Service Command of the United States Army with the mission of organizing sports and training men for the Allied Armies Olympics that were to be held in London at the end of the summer.

It is challenging to pin down if these so called "allied game" came to fruition as there isn't too much public information about them, regardless the three month international trip was a huge boon for Glander's career as he got to rub shoulders with many of the finest collegiate coaches. After returning from Italy Glander put together his best season ever coaching his Bowling Green swim team to a 9-1 record. Those results combined with his already growing reputation as a nationally respected coach he had a resume that few other candidates could rival for the Oklahoma opening.

Shortly after the end of the swim season Glander announced that he was shipping out of Northwestern Ohio to the Sooner State. His bags weren't the only thing that he packed with him coming to Norman, he also brought the talents of his top swimmer: Kay Burns. Together their impact was immediate.

Burns had grown up in Findlay, Ohio and briefly attended Bowling Green while Glander was there winning 11 of 12 races. After which he enrolled in the Navy but was luckily quickly discharged as the war came to a close.

Armed with long legs and a strong motor, Burns quickly became the anchor for Glander's squad. The foundation around which the program was built. In his first year he did the seemingly impossible by usurping Jack Davis as the best swimmer in team history by wiping away Davis' now 13 year old record in the 220 freestyle with a time of 2:24.8.

Assembled around Burns was a fairly strong team that included Hungarian Tom Bucher as the team's backstroker and sophomore Harold Hill (Of no relation to the fictional traveling band salesman of the same name in the 1957 hit play the Musicman).

Coach Glander & 1947 OU Swim Team



The team far exceeded anyone's expectations as they scored their first winning season in a decade going 5-3 that included huge wins against Kansas State and Nebraska and a stunning 39-36 win against the vaunted Longhorns in Austin. It was a strange win for the Sooners; they managed just a single win in an individual event.

That win came in the 100 breaststroke as Harold Brighton got it done with a time of 1:14.5 due to the absence of Texas' star breastroker Bobby Hill due to illness. But with wins in both relays and numerous second and third places it was enough to give Oklahoma a marquee win against a Longhorns team that would once again go on to repeat as Southwestern conference champions.

Despite all of the improvement none of it showed up on paper at the conference meet in Ames, Iowa. Led by the Watts the Cyclones defended their home turf admirably winning yet another conference title while the Sooners limped home with a meager fourth place result.

Strangely after all that he had built in such a short period of time Glander announced after the season that he was to resign his posts at the school effective June 1st. The reason he cited for his departure was a new job opportunity at a league eastern university that he refused to name. Apparently must have fallen through because Glander was still in charge the next season.

That brings us back to 1948. Oklahoma was a team on a clear upwards trajectory armed with a deadly combination of strong coaching, elite talent, and a large chip on their shoulders. It was an intimidating matchup for the Buffs first foray into MVIAA swimming.

By all regards the Buffs could hold their own in most events. However, if they were going to score a win against the Sooners it all boiled down to the strength of freestyle swimmers. This was a tall order for Lepman and company. As it would require them to win events against the freestyle stalwart - Burns and his sprint accomplice in Hill.

Luckily for Colorado they would have home pool advantage and they had the benefit of a tune up meet against Northern Colorado while the Sooners had yet to compete outside of practice. Perhaps that would give them enough edge to pull off an upset?

Long story short - it was not nearly enough. Despite swimming 6 seconds slower than his best time Burns blitzed past Lepman in the 220 freestyle. Lepman then proceeded to get double teamed in the 100 freestyle resulting in a third place finish against Hill and Burns.

The Buffs also took a loss in the fifty freestyle as Berger fell to Hill. Strapped for depth this left them all out of weapons to be used in the 440 freestyle. Coach Hartzell could do nothing more than watch as the Sooner swimmers stroked past the mediocre Powloski for first and second.



Start of Race in Carlson Pool (1948)

Outside of those events the Buffs mostly stood their ground. Downing was nearly 30 points better than his competitors in diving and Clarence Herbst continued his strong start to the season in the breaststroke. Colorado even scored a surprise win in the 400 freestyle relay meet. But those were mere consolation prizes.

The Sooners had come into Boulder and taken over the classroom. The lesson of the day was a simple one: In the M.V.I.A.A. there was no such thing as an easy opponent. There was no such thing as home pool advantage.

While Oklahoma would be the first teachers of that lesson they would be far from the last.

Meet Box 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>Total</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	6	6	6	3	8	6	3	8	4	50
<i>Colorado</i>	3	3	3	6	1	3	6	1	8	34

<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>DV</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
<i>a</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Hill</i>	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	10
<i>Burns</i>	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
<i>Crowder</i>	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7
<i>Racz</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
<i>Brighton</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
<i>Farr</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
<i>Cobb</i>	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
<i>Bacher</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	6	6	6	3	8	6	3	8	4	50

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>DV</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
		<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Lepman</i>	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6
<i>Berger</i>	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
<i>Downing</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Herbst</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<i>Ready</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
<i>Bowers</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Zaitz</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<i>Telk</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Horine</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Powloski</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<i>Total</i>	3	3	3	6	1	3	6	1	8	34

Colorado 54, Kansas State 28 - Feb 7, 1948

Although the M.V.I.A.A. as a whole was a step up in competition as a whole, that didn't mean that every team was better than the Buffs. Case in point: Kansas State.

The Wildcats swim team was on the opposite trajectory of Oklahoma. Just before the war, after years of wasting away in the dredges of the league, Kansas State found success with a talented crop of athletes. For three straight seasons from 1940-1942 the Wildcats challenged Iowa State's supremacy, and each time came up short.

That stretch of success would prove to be little more than an oasis in a desert. A brief anomaly, rather than a new standard of excellence.

The first year back in operation benefited heavily from a few holdovers of those golden age pre-war teams. Mainly it was the return of former star Marshall “Smokey” Stover. In 1941, Stover had won both the 220 and 440 freestyle at the conference meet and was a successful diver. Now 27, the tall blonde Stover was still a forth to be reckoned with.

Even with Stover and a couple of promising additions in John Leitt and John McGill the Wildcats were still unable to capture a single win in eight tries. But they were still able to capture third place at the conference meet, beating out Oklahoma by three points due to Stover’s efforts.



Stover graduated that spring, but didn’t move too far away from campus. Armed with a loan of \$175,000 from the Federal Housing Administration he began construction on a 22 unit apartment building located next to the university on the corner of Anderson and 17th Street.

With Stover gone the team would now be helmed by veteran Leitt, who had transferred from Big Ten powerhouse Ohio State to Kansas State the prior season. He had a resume that rivaled the best swimmers in the league. In 1942 he captained the team to a second place finish behind Michigan at the Big Ten Championship. At the meet he won the 100 freestyle and placed second in 50 freestyle.

Six years later those events remained his calling cards, but at thirty years of age and after seeing combat in the armed forces his body wasn’t able to come close to matching his form at Ohio State.

Coach Moll also had returning breastroker McGill who placed second in the conference meet prelims and was the school record holder in the event. But outside of those two, the only notable swimmer on the small eight man roster was James Gillispie. He arrived on the team as an experienced transfer from St.Louis University and as a distance freestyle specialist he was meant to plug the massive hole that Stover left behind in the events.

John Leitt (1948)



Before hosting the Buffs at the Nicholls Gymnasium Pool the Wildcats faced two other opponents: Texas A&M and in-state rival Kansas. Both meets were disasters for Kansas State as they lost by over twenty in both. That meant that they had now lost ten straight dual meets. After seeing the results of the Oklahoma meet against Colorado, Coach Moll no doubt had this matchup circled as a rare chance to end their terrible drought.

Coach Hartzell likely also had his eyes set on the meet. The Buffs were a storied program with a strong history of success and championships; they did not come to the M.V.I.A.A. to be pushed around. They desperately needed a road win to announce their arrival in the conference and prove that they meant business.

The meet was nowhere close to competitive. Kansas State as it had in their earlier meets struggled to hang with the Buffs. The Wildcats lone win came in the 400 yard freestyle as Gillespie toppled Powloski with a time of 5:54.1. For unknown reasons, this was Robert Powlowski’s last time scoring points for CU.

Kansas' State geriatric leader, Leitt, was outmatched by the more energetic Colorado youth, dropping the 60 freestyle to Berger and the 100 yard freestyle to Lepman.

Lepman was excellent after a terrible outing against the Sooner he returned to his standard by also winning the 220 freestyle and anchoring the 400 yard freestyle.

Buried under the freestyle dominance imposed by the Buffs was the continued win streak of Downing and Herbst. Both athletes had strung together three straight victories to start the season.

The surprise of the meet came from Dick Ready, setting a new pool record in the 100 backstroke at 1:48.0. The old record was set only a few months prior by Spencer of Texas A&M.

If you are looking at the results and wondering why the difference in distances for events was due to the fact that Nicholl's pool was just twenty yards long. That meant that 50 freestyle had to be swam at 60 yards, and the 440 freestyle was just 400 yards, although perplexingly the 150 backstroke remained the same length.

Clearly the distance changes didn't impact the Buffs much as they laid down a bushwacking to claim their first win in their new conference and get their season back on track.

For Kansas State it was a crushing blow. The Buffs were one of the few teams that on paper stood a chance of beating. In their final meet of the season they almost beat Nebraska, but the Cornhuskers escaped with a two point win sending the Wildcats to a second consecutive winless season. At the conference meets a few months later they barely registered any points scoring just two as part of a 6th place finish.

On the heels of that performance and their 0-17 record since reforming in 1947, the Kansas State athletic department made the call to shutter the swim team for good. It would be another decade before a new generation of Wildcat swimmers competed.

Meet Box 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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Kansas St</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>28</i>

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>DV</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
		<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Lepman</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Berger</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Herbst</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Downing</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Ready</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Bowers</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Powloski</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Bradt</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Horine</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Ready</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Zaitz</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>56</i>

<i>Kansas St</i>	<i>RL</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>DV</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>Y</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Gillespie</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Leitt</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>McClay</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Wilder</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sigman</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Nichols</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Holder</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Grieshaber</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Holder</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Lindsay</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>28</i>

Colorado St 37, Colorado 47 - Feb 14, 1948

It was fitting that on Valentine's Day, a day meant to celebrate the virtues of love, that two teams that had so much hate for each other met at Carlson Pool..

Like the Buffs the Rams roster had not changed substantially from the year prior. The team was still largely reliant on the one- two punch of Gruenfeld and Abshire. But they did get one new massive acquisition in the return of one the greatest swimmers in their team history: Sherwood Fries.

Fries had left Colorado State before graduating for an opportunity to play in the NFL. He ended up playing just one season before enlisting in the Navy.

Before going overseas he was stationed in San Diego where he continued to play football, but this time for Uncle Sam. The San Diego Naval Station Blue Jackets had multiple players with professional experience and held their own against the elite college programs on the west coast. They beat UCLA by two points and came within a touchdown of beating USC, who would finish the year with a Rose Bowl Title and a 7th place in the national rankings.

Sherwood Fries (1944)



From San Diego, Fries made his way to the Hawaiian Islands where he demonstrated that his shot put skills from highschool were still on par with the best as he got second place at Armed Forces Track and Field competition.

That's the last athletic feat that we know of by Fries until he returned to Colorado State after the war in the fall of 1947. Although he was barred from returning to the limelight on the Rams football team due to his professional experience in the NFL, he was still eligible to compete in other university sports like swimming.

Although Fries was getting up there in age he was still a strong threat in the sprint freestyle and rounded out a formidable Big Three for Coach Tompkins Rams. With the Buffs now gone, and the team loaded with talent they easily the preseason favorites to win the conference.

They lived up to that billing to start the year winning their first three meets against the likes of Denver and Wyoming before coming face to face with the Buffs.

The Rocky Mountain Rivalry between the two schools always meant more than an average meet. But this year was especially personal for the Rams. The Buffs had spoiled their aspirations for an outright conference title last year and their departure from the league gave off the impression that the University of Colorado was just too good to compete with lesser institutions like Colorado State. For the first time the dynamic between the two rivals was not two equal peers, rather it was beginning to shift to a big brother and little brother dynamic. And like any little brother in a family the Rams were sure going to put up a fight.

Unfortunately for the Rams they were dealt a major blow before they even stepped on the pool deck in Boulder. The swim team was hit with a rash of illness. The day before the meet Fries was bedridden in the school's infirmary with a serious case of the mumps. You don't hear too much about mumps in the 21st century, but mumps is a viral infection that can be deadly and commonly results in the swelling of the cheeks.

Fries (1948)



Along with Fries, Sullivan, a distance swimmer, was dealing with a painful ear infection and their top diver Remington left class early on Thursday with a cold.

Shockingly all three men ended up making the trip opting to push through their ailments. But there is little doubt that the men were actually at 100%.

The impact of these swimmers not being in peak physical condition was canceled out by a puzzling performance by Buff star Dick Lepman. For the last two seasons Colorado had lived and died based on how he succeeded in the freestyle events. More often than not he would win both individual events he swam in while anchoring the freestyle relay. However, for the first time he finished the day with just a single third place to his name.

In the 220 freestyle he finished not only behind the Rams Abshire but also teammate Frank Zaitz. It was his only freestyle swim of the afternoon. The week after this Lepman missed the meet against Nebraska against Nebraska, so we can probably chalk up the abbreviated appearance by Lepman as the byproduct of starting to feel under the weather.

Luckily for the Buffs the rest of the squad picked up his slack. Berger was electric again in the 50 freestyle, outpacing a diminished Fries for first place and Zaitz followed up his second place 220 freestyle with an identical result in the 440 freestyle.

Frank Zaitz (1948)



If the Buffs were a donut their gaping hole throughout the season had been the 440 freestyle. Every meet they had bled precious points away to their opponents, as they were forced to rely on the unsteady hands of Powloski. In Zaitz, Coach Hartzell had at last found a temporary patch to the hole.

Interestingly Zaitz was actually the third person to bear the name Frank Zaitz within the state of Colorado. As his dad and his father before him both shared the name. The latter of which Frank Zaitz Sr had an incredible old fashioned American dream story from rag to riches.

Born in Slovenia he moved to the United States at the ripe young age of 17 and after a few stops settled down in the booming mining town of Leadville. The 6 foot 2, 250 pound Zaitz found work there as a smelter before he went into his own business with a partner H.W Hart. The two created Hart-Zaitz Mercantile and profited heavily off the sale of whiskey and alcohol. It was said that Zaitz had the midas touch as every business he touched turned to gold.

Zaitz Mercantile Sign



Despite his lack of education and literacy Zaitz grew his business into an extremely impressive group of diversified holdings that included all of the stores on Chestnut Street, ownership of several mines, ranches, a major stake in the First National bank, and co-owned the Colorado Hotel in Glenwood. From nothing he had built an empire. But after the death of his son Zaitz Jr in an automobile accident his own health declined. By 1936 he had passed away leaving his vast multi-million dollar fortune to his surviving daughter. An estate that the youngest Frank Zaitz saw little of.

Even though he didn't inherit his grandfather's wealth it does seem that he had received his work ethic. After starting the season as a roster after thought he had effectively carved out an invaluable role for himself with just a few meets left in his senior season.

But there were other events in play at the meet that did not involve freestyle and grandsons of millionaires. In the backstroke Gruenfeld gunned down Ready with military precision for the third time in two seasons. But the loss was negated by Herbst's fourth consecutive win of the year. It was the first time since Gene Eaton in 1942 that a Buffs swimmer had won the breaststroke four straight times. Although his times were not as exceptional as Eaton's and he received far less accolades from reporters his sure handiness in the event meant that he was the lynchpin for any CU win that year.

Clarence Herbst (1948)



It is worth discussing a little bit more about Herbst's background. Like Lepman he grew up outside of Chicago in Park Ridge, Illinois.

In highschool he participated in multiple sports: football, track and swimming. But he didn't have much of a knack for the land based sports. In an interview in 2015 Herbst described a time when, *"Four of his pals challenged [me] to a race on the quarter mile track and they would run backwards. And I lost to all four of them. I was not too swift"*.

Even though he was a gifted athlete Herbst struggled to get any recognition from his father who was obsessed with his work as an engineer. *"He was a workaholic and wanted to protect his job, but spent absolutely no time with his children. No picnics in my lifetime. He never came to a football game or a swimming meet. He had bread on the table though and a nice home."*

It was a relationship which Herbst struggled to grapple with, and one which he committed himself to not repeating in his own life. That being said he did follow his fathers lead in one regard - by pursuing a career in engineering. Which is what brought him to the University of Colorado in the fall 1946.

While he came to Colorado for an education, swimming was really his true priority. He once asked a professor to reschedule his exam due to a conflict with a swim meet. A reasonable request coming from a student athlete which would have undoubtedly been accepted today. However at the time it was denied. So Herbst ignored the teacher and went to the meet anyways and assisted in the team winning. As a result he flunked the class and had to retake it over the summer. But it was a small sacrifice for the greater good of the team.

The final win of the afternoon came from diving stalwart Downing who exploited Remington's illness to end their series of board battles that stretched back to last season two wins to one.



Downing Half Twists (1948)

Remington was lucky to even stay standing on platform, relinquishing second place to his teammate Jim Hall. We don't know much about Hall, but we do know that if there were points awarded for attractiveness he would have won all contests. Well at least that's according to his teammate Fries who heaped worlds of praise on Hall in the beauty department after a meet in Wyoming.

“Naturally most of us muscle flexors look kindly at our physiques and every so often we eye each other and make physical comparisons. Needless to say each of us stack up favorably with the rest of the guys, in our own mind that is. Now however, we have to swallow our pride and reluctantly admit that Fancy Diver Jim Hall holds a clear cut decision as the most attractive”

Below is the best available picture of Hall that we could find from 1948. We will let you judge for yourself if his beauty was unrivaled among men. Although it seems unlikely that any black and white yearbook picture can truly capture the imagination like reality.

Hall (1948)



All in all the win was a spectacular demonstration of a complete team performance. Every man on the team chipped into and they beat the Rams stars on the back of their depth by ten points.

The loss for the Rams would be the start of a midseason collapse. After starting the year undefeated they would drop two of their next three against Nebraska and Denver to finish with a disheartening 4-3 record. But the record would not have mattered if they captured the a conference championship

In a stunning turn of events the Rams faltered at the conference meet hosted at their own pool. The conference meet looked a little different than in years past featuring Denver, Utah State, Utah and Wyoming.

It is easy to isolate what went wrong for the Rams at the meet. Their reliance on their top end talent without much depth which was exposed against the Buffs reared its ugly head once again. This time around a devastating cramp in the 220 freestyle forced Jim Abshire to withdraw from the meet.

He was expected to score big points in the 100, 220 and 440 freestyle. Without him the Rams were a sinking ship with a giant lean in the middle. Gruenfeld won the 100 backstroke, but Fries barely scored points with only a fourth place finish in the 50 freestyle. In the end Colorado State could only salvage 30 points good for a distant 3rd place.

The Rams' pain was the University of Denver's gain. The upstart team in just their second year of existence, with their new campus pool still under construction, came out of nowhere to win their first ever league title. The Pioneers were led in scoring by Danny Case. Who won both the 50 and 100 freestyle while also anchoring the 400 freestyle relay.



1948 University of Denver Swim Team

He wasn't the only standout for Denver also excelled in the stroke events as demonstrated by the medley relay of Bill Rapp, Gay Thompson, and Max Von Isser went undefeated in the relay all year and won the conference title as well. Of the three Von Isser was the best individual swimmer as he also won the breaststroke.

So in the end 1948 was a disappointing mixed bag for the Rams. A year that started with high aspirations to return to past form ended in whimper even without the Buffs around to play the spoiler.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Colorado St	3	5	4	4	5	5	1	6	4	37
Colorado	6	4	5	5	4	4	8	3	8	47

Colorado St	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR			FR	BK	BR	FR		
Abshire	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	15
Gruenfield	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Fries	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hall	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hock	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Remington	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Roehl	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	3	5	4	4	5	5	1	6	4	37

Colorado	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR			FR	BK	BR	FR		
Berger	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	2	10
Herbst	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Zaitz	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6
Ready	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Bowers	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
Downing	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Lepman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Horine	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Berry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Bradt	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	6	4	5	5	4	4	8	3	8	47

Nebraska 44, Colorado 40 - Feb 21, 1948

After beating their old conference rival, the Buffs then squared off with what would be brewing into their new conference rival.

The year before the Huskers had come into Boulder and stunned the Buffs on the back of swims by Marvin Grimm and Les Oldfield they won by 15.

Oldfield finally hung up the swim trunks, but the rest of the merry band of Huskers was back. Grimm returned to the fold after making it to the final heat of the 50 freestyle at NCAA, and top performers in Porter and King were back for yet another go around.

The results from this returning core were fairly underwhelming. Entering the meet against the Buffs they were 3-4. With conference losses to Iowa State and Oklahoma and two additional losses to Big Ten programs in Michigan State and Minnesota.

Nebraska Swim Team Practice (1948)



Just before heading to Boulder the Huskers barely squeaked past the Rams in Fort Collins by six points. With the way Colorado was swimming it appeared that they were set up to score their second conference win of the season.

However, after hardly participating against Colorado State the week before, Lepman was fully bedridden with an illness sidelining him against Nebraska. The Buffs would once again have to come together as a collective to rally a victory.

Zaitz took the baton as the team's ace and was once again phenomenal. He wasn't fast enough to out swim Grimm in the 220 freestyle but he snatched the Buffs first win in the 440 freestyle all season with a time of 6:03.

Colorado's depth was further tested as rising freestyle star Berger was also inactive, perhaps suffering from the same ailment as Lepman. This forced the Buffs to turn to men even lower on the team's depth chart. In the 50 freestyle, Robert Menary came out of the wood works to score his only points of the year with a team best third place finish in the event.

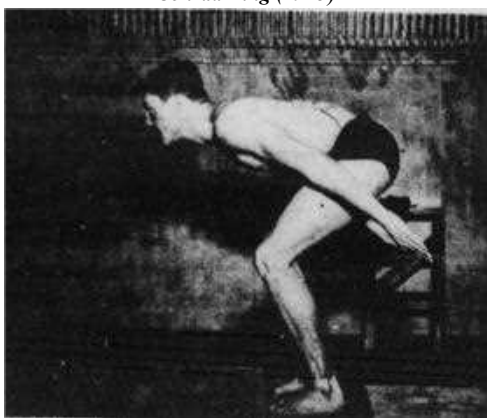
In the 100 freestyle the Buffs pulled a rabbit out of their hat as the young Bruce Bowers provided a glimpse into the future of the event with a 59.1 second time and a win.



Start of Race in Carlson Pool (1948)

Dick Ready also did his part clipping the Husker's Fenton in the backstroke. But in a stunning twist, for the first time all season, Herbst was not able to get it done in the backstroke. There was no shame in defeat for Herbst as his opponent Conrad King was one of top men in the event in the conference. But the loss meant that even with the exceptional results of his teammates the Buffs would need to win the final relay to win the meet.

Conrad King (1948)



The Buffs had been in this exact situation in many other meets in their history. In fact it was identical to their final dual meet against Colorado State in 1947. What was different about this relay is that unlike any of those past meets Colorado was without their two top freestyle options. One way or another some unsung hero would need to rise to the occasion.

For a brief moment it seemed the depleted Buffs were going to pull it off. With the final man in the water they lead the Huskers entering the final lap. If the young Bowers could just hold one for a little bit longer the upset was all theirs. Unfortunately, the Grimm reaper blew down the door and out touched Bowers to put the team's chance at winning on ice.

Given the circumstances the Buffs performed admirably and despite lean odds almost stole a win. However, it is challenging to not speculate whether the result would have been reversed if Colorado was at full health.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Nebraska	6	6	8	4	1	3	5	3	8	44
Colorado	3	3	1	5	8	6	4	6	4	40

Nebraska	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
		FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR		
King	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Grimm	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Branch	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Fenton	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Allen	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Porter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Flagg	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Campbell	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
Swihart	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Moore	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	6	8	4	1	3	5	3	8	44

Colorado	RLY	220	50	DIVE	100	150	200	440	RLY	PTS
		FR	FR		FR	BK	BR	FR		
Zaitz	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6
Downing	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bowers	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Ready	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Berry	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Herbst	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Menary	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bradt	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Horine	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yantis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	3	3	1	5	8	6	4	6	4	40

Kansas 31, Colorado 52 - Feb 28, 1948

The University of Kansas is well known as a basketball powerhouse. They are part of an elite group of programs nicknamed the “Blue Bloods” that include North Carolina, Duke, Kansas, Kentucky and UCLA which have dominated the sport for well over seven decades. Jayhawks basketball more than deserves to be amongst the sports royalty as its roots are deeply intertwined with the creation of the game.

James Naismith, the Canadian born, inventor of basketball came up with the idea for the game while working as a P.E. teacher at the International Young Men’s Christian Association in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was his solution for dealing with rowdy students that needed a safe game to burn off energy during the winter. Like Moses returning from up high on Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, Naismith emerged in December of 1891 with the thirteen rules which would form the outline of the sport.

James Naismith “Basketball Innventor”



The game spread like wildfire via word of mouth and after a few more stops, Naismith took up shop at the University of Kansas in 1898 as a physical education teacher. Inevitably he founded the first basketball team on campus and coached it until 1907. Ironically he proved to be far better at creating basketball than coaching it as his teams went a mediocre 55-60 under his leadership. Which funny enough would be the worst of any head coach in the history of Kansas basketball.

While he was best known for basketball he taught a wide array of sports at Kansas. One of which was swimming.

Although the school did not have an official swim team while he was there Naismith considered himself on the forefront of swim training. So much so that he penned a paper titled “*How to Teach a Man to Swim in 15 Minutes*”. In it he layed out the merits for teaching all students how to swim and discussed at length his technique for getting a first time swimmer across a pool. Interestingly he would start the lesson on land instilling certain techniques before transitioning them to the water. A particular point of focus was body position to which he said, “*All our power should be exerted to pull the body forward and floating will take care of itself. It is because of a lack of appreciation of this fact that many persons sink.*”

Unfortunately for the Jayhawks Coach Naismith with his vast aquatic knowledge did not get to coach the first varsity swim team. Like the rest of the schools in the conference Kansas had a long history in aquatics competition dating all the way back to 1924. Unfortunately for the Jayhawks their history was riddled with struggles. Unlike some other teams which had seen ups and downs Kansas had remained consistently boring its two decades of existence.

1925 Kansas Swim Team



In their first foray into competition in 1925 they finished third at the M.V.I.A.A championship. Neither exceptional nor terrible. That is the level the team would maintain for the remainder of the decade. Regularly finishing in third or occasionally fourth at conferences with the number of swimmers they sent to the meet vacillating from year to year.

By the 1930's things took a turn for the worst. The initial enthusiasm that supported the team those first several years had waned and longtime Coach Allphin found himself in a yearly swimmer deficit. Operating with squads of just four to five swimmers the Jayhawks were unable to directly compete with any teams for several seasons, but did still go to the conference meets where they routinely finished in fourth.

By 1935 the team started to get its act together and now had enough men to compete in dual meets. But even the new supply of swimmers did not guarantee results would follow. In 1936, the Jayhawks truly hit rock bottom. They got torched by Nebraska twice, losing in Lincoln 70-14 and then getting smashed 67-17 in their home waters. The loss at home was notable as the Huskers smashed the conference medley relay record by 15 whole seconds, a stunning feat until you realize that the time didn't count as Kansas's pool was just 50 feet long (16.667 yards).

Kansas Swimmers (1936)



They followed up those nightmarish outings with a similar beatdown at the hands of the Texas Longhorns and worst of all a last place finish at conferences where they lost to Oklahoma's one man team of Jack Davis.

They rebounded from rock bottom the next year by barely sneaking into the top three at conferences. It was a blip, not a trend, they would slink back to fourth place the next two seasons followed by two last places in 1941 and 1942 before the team officially disbanded.

Perhaps due to tradition of losing the University of Kansas was in no hurry to bring the team back. While Colorado and the rest of the M.V.I.A.A schools were active in 1947 the Water Jayhawks remained nowhere to be seen. They finally returned in 1948 with much fanfare as 45 men turned out to the tryouts for Coach Walter Mikolas.



Kansas Swimmers Back in Action (1948)

Shockingly Kansas won its very first meet back against in-state rival Kansas State in Manhattan. They were the dominant team the whole meet with Leitt being the only Kansas State swimmer that put up a notable resistance by winning the 60 and 100 yard dashes. In total the Jayhawks tallied six wins in nine events, but still barely beat the malnourished Cats team 48 to 43. Unbeknownst to Kansas it would be the pinnacle of their entire season.

They lost their next two meets against Nebraska and Oklahoma before scoring a second win against Kansas State. They couldn't keep that winning streak going as they suffered an utterly humiliating 40 point loss at the hands of the conference heavyweights Iowa State the next week.

So as things stood entering the meet against Colorado the verdict was in on the quality of the Kansas team. They were above the drudgery of their in-state conference mate, but generally offered little opposition for other teams.

The Buffs first swim in the pool atop Mount Oread was a record setting one as Herbst, Ready and Berger combined for a conference record time of 3:19.3. It set the tone for another quality well rounded team effort.

Even with Lepman returning from his one meet hiatus not a single Buff scored in more than one individual event. The freestyle events were evenly divided up. Zaitz swam the 220 freestyle losing to the Jayhawks best swimmer Ritchie who won both the distance freestyle events. In the sprint freestyles Lepman wiped away his ailments to score his final first place finish in his Buffs career, passing the torch to the team's future top sprinter Bowers who won his second straight 100 freestyle.

The 400 freestyle was largely abandoned by Colorado, leaving the event to John Yantis who finished in third. Seeing as this was Yantis' only contribution in his lone season on the team it is worth noting a little more about him. He was yet another member of the 1948 team originally called Illinois home. Although unlike Lepman and Herbst who were from the Chicago Metro area, Yantis grew up in the Southern Illinois town of Shelbyville.



John Yantis (1949)

In high school he dabbled with basketball playing on the varsity team his senior year, but his real passion was his contribution to the school newspaper the Snooper. He was apparently also a bit of a lady's man in highschool as the school yearbook noted that, "*he was always in the hearts of several Shelby High girls (blondes especially).*"

At CU writing remained among his chief pursuits as he worked for the student newspaper the Silver and Gold. We don't know what prompted him to swim in the Nebraska meet, but the only time in college he ventured into the world of athletics. He would continue to get his Bachelors of Science from CU in 1950, which he followed up with a Law Degree from Boulder two years later.

We don't know what he spent the remainder of his life doing, but he passed away in 2004 and according to his obituary, "*He will be remembered for his intellect, patience, civic contributions, his love of family, devotion to duty, as well as being an avid sailor and accomplished pianist*"

The lost points in the 400 freestyle hardly mattered as for the first time in the history of Buffs swimming they swam an event completely unopposed by their opposition as Herbst and another CU swimmer were the only two competitors.

After their early loss to Oklahoma it seemed like Colorado would not be up to the task of competing in their new conference, but the Buffs had finished the season strong. Going 3-1 over the course of the final month that included two conference road wins they had at least firmly carved out a spot in the conference middle ground.

MVIAA Championships - Mar 5-6, 1948

The best thing that can be said about Coach Hartzell's team is that they were a strong cohesive unit. Like a car made up of thousands of mechanisms and cogs they routinely came together to create a whole greater than the sums of their parts. This had allowed them to be competitive throughout the course of the season.

While that strategy might work in the regular season, it does not work in championship meets. In dual meets with only two teams you can make up points merely on the fact that the other team does not have a strong swimmer in a particular event. But at a championship meet each event has a larger and more talented pool of swimmers.

In order to score points you need top end talent, which the Buffs simply did not have. Lepman, Herbst, Ready, and Downing were all quality swimmers in their own rights and had won numerous firsts throughout the season, but usually only did so when the competition was middling.

A team that did have a cornucopia of elite swimmers though was the lone conference opponent the Buffs did not see that season: Iowa State Cyclones. The Cyclones had an astonishing sixteen men qualify for the final heats, exactly double the amount of the next closest team Nebraska with eight.

ISU's Coach McGuire & Star Swimmers



With so many quality swimmers they were bound to rack up points. Chief amongst their skilled ranks was the otherworldly talent of Roger Watts. The brilliantly fast freestyle simply had no peer within the league. Before the meet his Coach Jack McGuire had already declared him the best swimmer in the history of the conference.

Watts had nothing to prove after dominating the year before, but somehow he found a way to elevate his performance. He absolutely obliterated two records in the events that he swam. In the 220 freestyle he took down the Lynde of Nebraska record that had stood since 1935 by 10 whole seconds. He did the exact same thing to the 400 freestyle record unloading a 5:05 to beat another decade old record.

With Watts leading the charge Iowa State ran away with the competition. Howard Johnson and Doug Robinson were also impressive for the Cyclones as Johnson bagged the 200 breaststroke and Robinson rallied to win the 150 backstroke after losing the

prelims to a record setting time posted by Crowder of Oklahoma. Add in two more relay wins and that brought the team from Ames, Iowa up to seven wins in nine events. In total with numerous second and third places across the board they scored a conference championship meet record 80 points in total.

Iowa St. Backstroker, Doug Robinson (1948)



The lone man that stood in the way of Iowa State's complete and utter dominance was of course the phenomenal Marvin Grimm. He had to outmaneuver heats full of Cyclones but he emerged victorious in both sprint events. With his efforts the Huskers were able to earn a distant second place for consecutive years.

Things were predictably rough for the Buffs as they were only able to advance four men to finals. Despite promising finishes in the last several meets both Zaitz and Bowers failed to qualify. Both men were third in their prelim heats which wasn't enough to advance to the Saturday competition. The Buffs swimmers that did make it finals largely got lost in the results amongst the towering athletes from Iowa State, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Not a single Colorado swimmer placed higher than fourth place. In the 220 freestyle Lepman, in his final swim as a Buff, got fourth. As did Herbst in the breaststroke and Ready in the backstroke.

The most surprising disappointment had to be the effort turned in by Downing. All year he had been a top man on the boards, rarely losing a meet. However, in a strange twist the Huskers had three divers (Bell, Flagg, and Moore) all make finals and they all ate his lunch. Meaning that he finished in the fifth and final spot.

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1948

	Colorado State College	Oklahoma Univ.	Kansas State	Colo. A&M College	Nebraska Univ.	Kansas Univ.	M.V.I.A.A. Meet	Finished Season 1st Yr. (X), 2nd Yr. (XX), etc. Unfinished (0)
*Berger, Hugh	0 R	5	4	8	1	9	2 ⅓ R	X
*Berry, James	2 R	0	0	2	4	2	0	X
*Bowers, Bruce	1 R	2	4	5	7	8	1 ⅔ R	X
*Bradt, Gordon	3	0	4	1	2	3	0 R	XX
*Downing, Sumner	5	5	5	5	6	5	1	XX
*Herbst, Clarence	5	6 ⅓	7	7	4	7	2	XX
*Horine, Conrad	1	1	3	3	1	0	0	X
*Lepman, Richard	10 R	6	12	3	0	7	1 ⅔	XX
Peterson, Wendell	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powloski, Robert	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	X0
*Ready, Richard	5 M	4 ⅓	7	5	6	7	2 ⅔	XX
*Telk, L. Dan	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	X
Yantis, John Z.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	X
*Zaitz, Frank	1 RM	3 ⅓	2	6	8	4	1 ⅔ R	XX

*Letterman

R - relay

8.

The Doc Is In



All Things Must End

Historical scholars often consider the conclusion of the Roman Empire to have taken place on the 4th of September in the year of 476. It is a very official sounding date and it aligns nicely with the sacking of Rome by Odoacer and the deposition of the last proclaimed Roman Emperor Romulus Augustus.

The truth of the matter though is that the Roman Empire had started to expire long before that. Years of constant leadership turnover, religious and economic division and wars had whittled away the strength and power of the Empire. All of which culminated with its ultimate conclusion in 476.

The decline of the Colorado swim team mirrors that of Rome. While we can point to the loss to Weber State in 1942 as the first visible crack of the swim team's decay, a laundry list of internal and external factors lead to its downfall. The loss of the team due to World War II, the shift to a much stronger athletic conference and of course the constant turnover at the head coaching position. All contributed to a team on the decline.

People often think of declines as steady and linear. Forgetting that any regression whether it is with Rome or the swim team has its peaks and valleys. Brief moments where things appear to be returning to their glory days. For the Roman Empire many historians look to the rule of Constantine the Great who reunited both halves of the empire, adopted the Christianity and stabilized the kingdom for a brief period. After his death the Empire again fractured and continued on its downward descent.

Roland "Doc" Balch was the Colorado swim team's version of Constantine. He took over at its lowest with a team stripped of talent in a unforgiving conference and although he never returned the team to its previous lofty heights his long tenure as swim coach would bring the Buffs back briefly to respectability.

Balch had a fair bit in common with the only other swim coach in Colorado history who was nicknamed Doc: Doc Waite. Both of them hailed from the state of Texas and came to the school as the athletic trainer hence the Doc nickname. But that is where the similarities end.

Balch was a Texan through and through. He grew up in Fort Worth where he attended Paschal High School. After attending TCU and University of Texas for his undergrad and masters degree he taught and coached at various schools around the Fort Worth area. Unlike previous CU swim coaches he had at least some experience with swimming. When he landed a job with the Fort Worth YMCA in 1943 he taught swimming classes alongside other sports and even organized several swim meets.

Roland Balch (1943)



Balch arrived in Boulder at the tail end of the war as a Lieutenant in a Naval Training Unit that was assigned to the University. Upon being dispatched he decided to stay in Colorado and joined the football staff as the team's trainer. His years of experience in physical education made him a logical fit for the role.

It has been said that if a trainer is doing his job right you will not hear anything about them. After all, trainers tend to only make headlines when their players are getting hurt. However in just his second game on the job Balch made headlines not because of the health of his players - but because of his own medical situation.

The Buffs were back in Balch's home state of Texas playing the Longhorns in Austin. The morning of the game he was stricken with appendicitis and was rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment. It was the first of two bad omens for CU football as later that day six players almost joined Balch in the hospital as the elevator at the teams hotel failed, dropping them six floors. Luckily the emergency brake kicked in at the last moment to prevent utter disaster. Things didn't get any better for the team on the gridiron as they surrendered 10 touchdowns enroute to a 76-0 bashing by the hometown team. As the local newspaper wrote about the incident, "*When it Rains, It Pours*"



CU vs UT Austin Football (1947)

Doc would shake off the appendicitis and remain the football team's trainer for the next several seasons. Building up a strong reputation as a kind, caring and passionate coach. In the Spring of 1948 he was tabbed by Athletic Director Harry Carlson to coach the swim team. Unlike past coaches where swimming was more of an offseason activity this was to be his full time job. Balch was done working as the football trainer; he was replaced by Aubrey Allen; his sole focus would be on rebuilding the swim team.

But what of Coach Hartzell? What happened to him? Why was there an opening to begin with? There is no indication that Hartzell was fired or if and why resigned, but we can infer that he was always meant to be a temporary fill-in for the position. He was, after all, at CU primarily as a student furthering his engineering education. He would remain at the University as a student and instructor for two more years during which he completed his masters thesis in Mechanical Engineering.

He was then employed by the Monsanto Chemical Corporation and Denver Equipment before moving to Bristol, Tennessee to work for the Control Cells Corporation as Production Manager in 1955. Bristol was where his father called home from 1950 until his untimely death in 1954 from pneumonia. He had gotten the lung infection while working in Brazil while stationed there as the Director of the United States Foreign Operations Administration.

How long Hartzell stayed in Tennessee we do not know, but we can ascertain that he was back in Boulder, Colorado by 1969. As that year he formed an engineering consulting firm named Hartzell-Pfeiffenberger and Associates, Inc which worked on a large variety of projects including those involving drainage assessments.

At the same time he was the president of Crowley Land Development Company which was pursuing a large purchase of 50,000 acres of farm land in Crowley County, for 20 million dollars. His purchase was opposed strongly by the local Twin Lake city government concerned that his acquisition of the farmland would include the water rights to the area.

Water rights were on the top of the Twin Lake's politicians minds because of a precarious situation that neighboring Colorado Springs found themselves in. They were only part way through massive city developments and with water already scarce they would soon be in a water deficit. The scheme by Twin Lakes was to take advantage of the situation and sell their water to the Springs and reap the profits. Their concern was that Hartzell also saw this opportunity and was angling to profit on the water rights himself. It was a business plan that Hartzell strongly denied saying he had no plans to sell water rights, just farm land.

He didn't know it yet, but soon Hartzell would be changed by water in its frozen form of snow and ice. On November 14, 1970 he made the trip from Boulder to the Springs in blizzard conditions to meet some friends and watch Air Force take on Stanford in a football game.

After watching the Falcons drop the Cardinal by 17, Hartzell attempted to exit the stadium via the south stairwell but slipped on the ice, “striking his head and back on the steps, sliding to the bottom of the stairway where he laid in a dazed condition, with severe pain in his lower back”

Before the fall Hartzell had frequent back pains which had required surgery in 1962 and 1964. This stumble reaggravated those injuries and after experiencing tremendous pain and consulting medical professionals he underwent back surgery in 1972. This kept him bedridden for a month and left him unable to work. So he did what all Americans do when they are wronged, he rolled up his sleeves and called a lawyer.

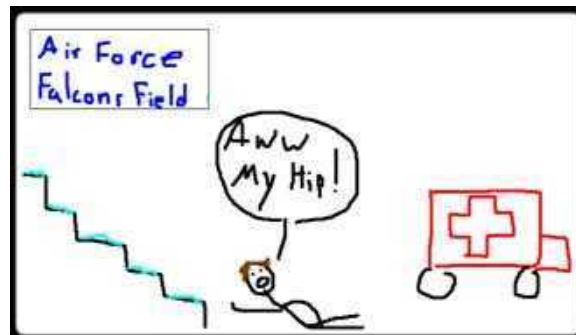
Exhibit A: Hartzell's Icy Fall



Hartzell's attorney argued he was owed damages from the United States of America due to personal injuries caused by negligence or a wrongful act committed by Air Force stadium employees. The crux of his case was the Air Force Academy knew of the dangers posed by the snow and ice and didn't do enough to ensure the safety or warn spectators of the danger.

One key witness for his side was fellow spectator, Joseph L. Musso. Perhaps tired of watching winning football Musso had left the game before Hartzell in the third quarter and exited out of the same southern stairwell. He too noted the icy conditions and despite his best efforts fell and fractured his hip. He was carted away in an ambulance but no warning was issued by the stadium to be cautious of the stairs.

Exhibit B: Musso's Tumble



In a vacuum this information sounds compelling. The Air Force staff knew of the dangers and did not take reasonable action to prevent others from experiencing harm. But, the defense team had witness testimony of its own from Lt. Col. Shields, the Chief of Facilities of the Academy Athletic Department. He testified that before the game his work crew shoveled the stadium, and that prior to the game he inspected the stairwells and observed that, “they had been shoveled, that traction was good and that the Snowmelt (which was applied) was visible.”



Exhibit C: Lt. Col Shield's Observation

This information was critical in the trial court ruling against Hartzell as the judge noted that the, “The duty owing to the plaintiff as a spectator at the football game is the duty to exercise reasonable care to have the premises in a reasonably safe condition...in my view the efforts made to remove the accumulated snow from this stadium were reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances”

But what about the lack of an intercom warning after Musso's injury? Well the judge shrugged that off, deeming that it, "*Would seem pointless to require the defendant to make public announcements (about icy conditions) which appear to be obvious.*"

Stubborn in defeat Hartzell appealed the ruling, but his appeal was strongly rebuked and the ruling in the lower Court was upheld by the 10th Circuit Court. On the bright side, the disastrous outcome of the case was nothing in comparison to the state of the team which Balch inherited from Hartzell.

The 1948 team were certainly no worldbeaters, but what they lacked in top flight athletes they made up for it with bountiful depth. This season that depth would be stretched to the breaking point, as there were no next men up that could immediately fill the shoes of Lepman and Zaitz in the freestyle events and Downing in diving.

Doc could sleep well at night knowing that the stroke events were at least taken care of as both Ready and Herbst returned for their senior seasons. But as we know from past seasons, meets of this era were not decided in the strokes events. Due to the scoring structure the path to victory usually required you to outscore your opponent in the four freestyle events.

Hugh Berger in HS (1945)



The best returner at his disposal was Hugh Berger. He swam most of the season on the Buffs relays and had shown strong individual flashes in individual events against Kansas and Colorado State. He was fast but not outstanding in the speed department. His best time from the previous year was 57.5 which would have put him in Lepman's ballpark. But that time was recorded at the shorter Kansas pool and he was more likely a hair slower than Lepman when in peak form.

Berger was a local Colorado kid, a rarity for top swimmers on the team since the war. He attended highschool at Denver East, and was teammates with Downing. He was the more well known of the two coming out of highschool as he was the team's top freestyler and set conference records in the events.

Notably missing from the roster was Bruce Bowers. Like Berger he had stepped up late in the season and was successful in scoring points mainly in the 100 freestyle. His times were not particularly electric, as he routinely found himself one place below Berger. If his result from the Nebraska meet was any indication he was narrowly a sub minute swimmer. On paper not a huge loss, but in a season when seasoned competitors were in short supply his absence would be felt.

That left Jim Berry as the only other notable freestyler that had seen action last year. He made a few appearances in freestyle events during his sophomore season but was largely forgettable. The Buffs would have to lean on a motley crew of competitors to fill out the freestyle events. The cast of new characters that Doc would rotate throughout the season included Dick Symes, Tom Guggenheim, Edward Timberlake, Conrad Horine, and Richrd Bingham. The fruit of this group's labors would be mixed from mildly successful to completely irrelevant.

Ironically the best addition to the team would turn out to be another non-freestyler in Stan Black. A resident of Loveland by way of Libertyville, Ill he had never swam competitively before arriving in Boulder. At the beginning of the season he was an afterthought in the breaststroke with the event being firmly held down by Herbst. But that would change as the year progressed.

In short Balch was given a mixed bag of a roster with a few strengths but a lot more question marks. Lacking experience and talent and facing a stacked conference meant that the bar was set low for his first season. No matter what happened this year was going to be a rebuilding team. Success was not going to be measured by winning or losing meets. The priority was setting a foundation, building a culture and developing young swimmers. And there was no better leader for those tasks than Doc Balch.

1948-1949 Season

Record

1-5

Head Coach

Howard "Doc" Balch

Team Roster

Jerold Haumgartner	Hugh Berger
Jim Berry	Tom Guggenheim
Stan Black	Arthur Damon
Tom Duesterberg	Tom Guggenheim
Clarence Herbst	Conrad Horine
Robert Pickens	Dick Ready
Smith	Dick Symes
Edward Timberlake	



Inaugural Wyoming Relays - Dec 10, 1948

In a season that would be full of lopsided defeats, Balch's first meet as coach was a fun one. Organized by Wyoming's Coach Francis Stroup, the Cowboys hosted the inaugural Wyoming Relays about a month before the season on December 10th. It wasn't an official meet and the events consisted of relay swims, diving and "novelty acts" by the Wyoming team. Despite the lower outlook for the Buffs season Colorado was still favored ahead of the met against its Rocky Mountain competition.

Other than a final standing, there are no meet results available. In a foreboding sign of things to come the Buffs ended up finishing in second place in Laramie. It could be argued that this was the first Wyoming victory against CU. But at the end of the day this was nothing more than a pre-season exhibition and so the streak continued.

The meet proved to be a massive success and would become a tradition amongst the local schools. CU would continue to participate in the relay meet for the next several decades until the team folded in 1980.

Meet Score

<i>Event</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>2</i>

Nebraska 44, Colorado 31 - Jan 14, 1949

Nebraska's Hollie Lepley was experiencing a coaching nightmare. He had at his disposal once in a generation talent, a swimmer whose individual accomplishments could rival a hero in Greek mythology, but he didn't have the supporting cast to win an elusive championship. The last two years even with Grimm lighting the pool on fire at the M.V.I.A.A championships Nebraska had still finished miles behind first place Iowa State.

With just two more seasons of eligibility remaining for Grimm Nebraska's didn't have much time before their championship window would slam shut. If the Huskers were going to capitalize on it they desperately needed strong injection of quality swimmers.

Unfortunately, for Coach Lepley that didn't come to pass, instead he would have to make due with what he had. A month into practicing the Daily Nebraskan reported that Lepley was, "*moaning over the lack of depth and over all team strength*". You can't exactly fault him for his frustrations; he wasn't working with absolutely nothing as he brought back five additional lettermen around Grimm. But the only noteworthy swimmers of that bunch were Gould Flagg who was runner up in diving and Conrad King who got third in the breaststroke.

Nebraska Swim Practice (1949)



The new crop of sophomores did little to shore up the depth for the Huskers, leaving the team as top heavy and over reliant on the skills of Grimm as ever before.

After a blowout win against the Jayhawks in Kansas where Grimm set a couple of pool records Nebraska hit the road around noon on Wednesday, January 12th. They had a packed road trip itinerary as they would be swimming in three meets in three days. The first of which would be against Northern Colorado on Thursday, followed by the Buffs on Friday and concluding with the Rams on Saturday. It was sure to be a grueling trip for any team, and Colorado was optimistic that the UNC meet would wear down the Huskers rather than give them a tune up.

But that would be expecting too much out of the lowesome Bears. The meet was a cakewalk as the Huskers effortlessly breezed past Northern Colorado for a 30 point win. So for a second time in three seasons Nebraska entered Carlson Gymnasium Pool more than prepared for victory.

Even though the results from this meet are painfully incomplete the Buffs actually put up a fairly strong fight against their cross state rivals.

Leaning on their stroke depth, Colorado scored the first blow as their relay of Ready, Black, and Berger scored the first points of the meet. But the freestyle events followed shortly thereafter. We are missing the results for the 220 freestyle but the Buffs didn't win any of the other three freestyle events. For a team ridiculed for their lack of depth it was a team effort in those events as Grimm won the 100 freestyle, Branch the 50 freestyle and Hill the 440 freestyle.

Shockingly the worst freestyle performance was in the 100 freestyle as Berger the team's captain finished all the way back in third place. Meanwhile sophomores Dick Symes and Tom Guggenheim showed potential with second place results in their freestyle swims.

For those that have walked around the University of Colorado-Boulder campus the name Guggenheim is probably a familiar one. In the heart of the Norlin quad resides the old Guggenheim Law Building (Currently used by the Geography Department). The building was erected in 1909 and was fully funded by an \$80,000 donation from the coffers of the wealthy Senator Simon Guggenheim. His fortune was not really earned but rather inherited from his father who made millions from shrewd investments in Leadville mines.

Guggenheim Geography Building (1985)



Unfortunately, Tom Guggenheim was not from this wealthy branch of the family, he was instead born to a humble family in Cincinnati, Ohio. That wouldn't stop him from eventually amassing his own fortune and making his own sizable donation to the University later in life.

After graduating CU he would return to Cincinnati and work for the Adler Sock Company. A Company which is perhaps most well known for producing a musical single in 1965 called "The Adler Socks" by the Denims. The baffling promotional song attempted to capitalize on the craze created by the Twist by having a similar chorus of "Do the Sock". Unfortunately we don't know if Guggenheim was the man responsible for this genius marketing campaign.

Adler Sock Ad (1965)



After two decades learning the foot covering business Guggenheim went off on his own and purchased ownership of Charleston Hosiery in 1972. In 1990 he sold his stake in the business for a small fortune and retired to his home in Snowmass, Colorado.

Guggenheim & Family in Snowmass (1960s)



Throughout his life Guggenheim continued to stay involved with the University of Colorado, and in 2013 he donated a \$2.25 million to the Leeds Business School, it didn't buy him a name on building but instead went to funding the Thomas Stix Guggenheim Family Endowed Chair in Business Design and Innovation.

Back to the Nebraska meet in the strokes starting with the letter B, the Buffs were of course brilliant. The seasoned Ready swam a 2:37.7 adding yet another win to his cap. While in the breaststroke the sophomore Stan Black usurped the long standing team breastroker Herbst by swimming an impressive 2:44.8. For the rest of the year Black would be the team's defacto breastroker. Week in and week out senior Herbst would try to take back his position, but every meet he would find himself in the same position watching Black's fingers beat him to the wall.



Stanley Black

Overall the boost in the stroke events was not enough to make up for the deficit accrued in the freestyle as the Buffs lost by 13 points.

A day later the Huskers would complete the rare Colorado sweep as they dismantled the Rams 54-30. Their season picked right there as they would drop their remaining three meets of the season to finish a forgettable 4-3 campaign.

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>Total</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	3	5	3	6	8	0	x	x	x	31
<i>Colorado</i>	6	4	6	3	1	8	x	x	x	44

Northern CO 21, Colorado 55 - Jan 22, 1949

Not much had changed in the Greeley for the second year of Coach Loring Hutchinson's tenure. That was to be expected. Northern Colorado was at a drastic competitive advantage compared to its in-state peers. With its smaller enrollment and emphasis as a school primary for teachers they had a much smaller and less talented pool of athletes to pull from for minor sports like swimming. For a sense of scale the University of Colorado had an enrollment of 9,764 students in 1949, Colorado State had about half that with 4,392 students, we don't have exact numbers for UNC that year but it was likely half that of CSU.

Before their competition against the Buffs the Bears began the season by extending their losing streak from last year with losses to Denver, Nebraska and Denver again. There were a few glimmers of hope amid the pain though as Dean Fair was a reliable weapon in the distance freestyle events. He didn't get much assistance most meets except from breastroker Bob Edwards whose iconic moment came in a gutsy effort against Nebraska which earned him a rare first place finish and a warm embrace from his teammates.



Bob Edwards get first against Nebraska (1949)

Even with their weakest team in decades the Buffs were still in a completely different league than the Bears. From the first starter's pistol until the freestyle relay touched the wall Colorado held sway over their Northern foes. CU won eight of nine events against UNC, surrendering only the 50 freestyle to the Bears' Goodwin. Berger served up a feast, devouring the 220 free at 2:36.2 and the 100 free at 1:00.7. Both times were markedly slower than his career bests but were enough to get the job done.

As was to be expected, Ready was Steady in the backstroke winning with a 1:50 and Black proved that last week's win over former breaststroke top dog Herbst was no fluke.

A somewhat pleasant development was a win in the 440 freestyle by Edward Timberlake. He had swam it the week before against Nebraska but had finished in third place. Second on the team behind Guggenheim. For the rest of the season he would be the primary distance freestyler for the Buffs as Guggenheim didn't swim again. Like many of the men that Colorado had rolled out since Vandapool owned the event he was nothing to write home about. This would be his lone first place result as he would do nothing better than third place the rest of the way.

Edward Timberlake (1951)



While Timberlake could not make any claims to being the best swimmer on the team, he could make the argument for having one of the greatest family lineages of any CU swimmer. His family tree is not only extensive but stretches back to the early days of the United States.

The first Timberlake, Joseph, arrived in America by way of England sometime in the 17th Century. At that point in time the United State was still a British Colony. His grandson Henry Timberlake entered the Virginia militia in 1756 that was under the command of a young Colonel George Washington. Apparently he was about to quit military service altogether due to the leadership of Washington who he believed, "*Had no character*". It's a prediction that would go down as one of the worst of all time. Luckily for Henry, Washington was replaced as his commander and he decided to stay in the military.

Possible Depiction of Henry Timberlake



In 1761, the British signed a peace treaty with the Cherokee emperor Kvana Katoga. As part of the agreement Katoga requested that a British officer be sent back with them as a token of peace. For lack of better terms the officer would serve as a hostage. The idea was if the British went back on the signed treaty the officer would be the first victim of the Cherokee counterattack. Obviously this was a job which few men would be dying to have. Unaware that the position could result in his own neck, Timberlake went out of his way to volunteer, sparing his commanding officer from the task.

Armed with a translator he joined the Cherokee for the next year and recorded in great detail their customs and way of life. During his time there he befriended Chief Ostenaco who he would travel with to London to meet King George III in 1762. The trip was mostly a success and they were warmly received by his royal majesty, but it wrecked Timberlake financially. The next several years things only got worse for Timberlake. He had originally hoped he could repay his growing debts with

his soldier's salary, but in 1763 he was informed that his name was on the list of officers who's pay was to be reduced by half.

Now at his lowest of lows Timberlake was approached by another group of Cherokees who wanted to use his connections to get a meeting with King George. They wanted to talk to the monarch about enforcing the Proclamation Line of 1763 which promised that no European settlers were allowed beyond the Appalachian Mountains into Cherokee territory. Despite his best judgment he agreed to the trip.

It was an outstanding disaster. Two of the Five Cherokees died on the way there and then they did not get any audience with the king. The group was such an embarrassment that they were hastily sent home to America on a boat paid by the government. It was not a warm welcome back home for Timberlake. His request for reimbursements were denied by the government because he made the trip without approval. Not long after that he was arrested due to outstanding debt. He would ultimately die in debtors' prison, but not before completing his memoir which today contains one of the most accurate accounts of Cherokee society.

He was survived by his wife and his son Richard Timberlake who, according to dubious sources, would go on to become the Captain of George Washington's private guard. No real evidence exists to verify this claim though, and it was extremely common for people to lie about their position with Washington's private guard. Making this extremely unlikely. Regardless of whether it is true or not, we do know that the next seven generations of Timberlake would serve in the United States military including Edward Timberlake's father, also named Edward Timberlake, who was a Brigadier General.



Gen. Edward W. Timberlake Sr. (1946)

Back to the CU swimmer named Timberlake. After getting his degree in journalism at Boulder and his masters in communication at American University he would follow in his fathers footstep and fulfill his familiar destiny serving Uncle Sam. After years of work he rose to the Public Affairs Director for the Army's Worldwide strategic command in 1964. He had the distinction of being the first civilian to serve in that post. He was incredibly well respected and when he retired he became the first person to be elected into the very niche Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame.

Although Timberlake never saw active duty like some of his ancestors, he could rest well at the end of the day knowing that in the swim battle against Colorado and Northern Colorado he helped lead his squad to victory. Unfortunately although the Buffs would win this battle it would be fair to say they lost the 1949 campaign.

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>Total</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>54</i>

Colorado 34, Colorado St 50 - Jan 28, 1949

The last two years the Rams' Coach Tompkins had been discretely building a strong swim program back up in Fort Collins. It wasn't anywhere close to the glory day championship squad that he used to coach, but he had a respectable group with a handful of veterans that could rival any of the teams in the Skyline Conference.

Entering the year the Rams had lost two of their backbones as Sherwood Fries transferred and Jay Gruenfeld graduated but remained on hand as the team's first known assistant coach. Colorado State had no one to replace Gruenfeld in the backstroke, but Jim Abshire was back to shore up the freestyle. In addition they possessed a rare diving duo in Hall and Remington. Both had competed against the Buffs last year but were kept at bay by Downing.

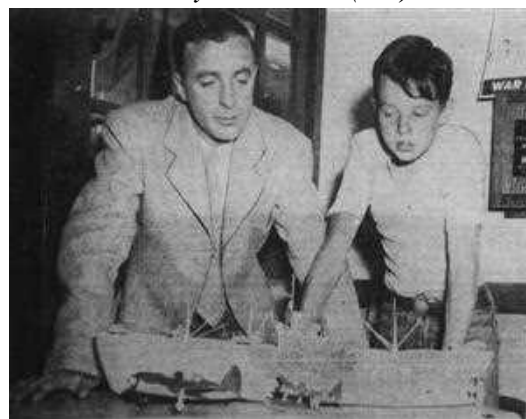
The biggest boon for the Rams though was in the form of new sophomore breastroker Bill Evans. We don't know much about his background, but we do know that he was electric in the event.

If you can't tell the Rams were the same story, different books of the Buffs. Both teams were weaker than last year after losing a couple of their top guys, they both had some interesting swimmers back in the fold, but neither side was especially deep. Add into the mix that both teams had lost to Nebraska a couple weeks before and it was even harder to draw a distinction between the two.

Unfortunately the meet was not nearly as close in practice as it was on paper. Although the Rams freestylers were not top of the conference they still outclassed the Buffs throughout the afternoon. Abshire took home his second straight win against Colorado and Berger in the 100 freestyle and he did so by clipping off nearly a second from the time he swam the year prior.

The state of affairs was much worse in the distance freestyle events. Colorado amassed just two points from third place finishes from Berry in the 220 freestyle and Timberlake in the 440 freestyle. The lone freestyle bright spot was the effort of sophomore Dick Symes in the 50 freestyle. The California native wasn't a particularly noteworthy swimmer in high school, or if he was we have no record of it. We do know that he was very gifted in a different aquatic adjacent hobby-building model replicas of boats. As a freshman in Orinada he built a perfectly scaled, 30 inch model of a Victory Class ship which was exhibited at his school.

Dick Symes' & His Boat (1943)



Whether that skill helped him in the pool is unknown. But when he got to Boulder he proved to be a steady sprinter. In his first two meets he scooped up two second places, but had yet to get his roses. That wouldn't be the case this week as he splashed to first place with a reasonably solid time of 26.4 to beat out two Rams. Even with the win though the Buffs were still outscored 20 to 7 in the freestyle events. Like a trailing presidential candidate in the waning hours of election night the Buffs had no margin of error in the rest of the events and desperately needed to make up points elsewhere. Unfortunately any chance at a rally was extinguished with ease by the Rams.

Still struggling to find his rhythm in the diving well Duesterberg was double teamed by an experienced Hall and Remington finishing in third. Even in breaststroke arguably the team's strongest and deepest stroke didn't go as planned for the Buffs. The unbeatable sophomore phenom Stan Black was going head to head with his mirror image in the Ram's Evans. Both entered the water as undefeated in their young collegiate careers, but only one remained that way. Unfortunately that man was not Black as he just couldn't keep up with Evans pace. For some reason Herbst was absent from the event allowing another young Buff to Conrad Horine to get his first points with the team.

CSU's Bill Evans (1949)



If you were to make a list of what went well for the Buffs compared to what went wrong. The list of foleys would far exceed the list of successes. Along with

Symes freestyle win the only other individual win was Ready in the backstroke.

The Buffs did win both of the relays on the bookends of the meet but they were completely irrelevant. Colorado had unequivocally been outclassed by their in-state rival and so called little brother. It was the biggest loss by the team in the post war era and things were not going to get any easier. The next week the Buffs would face the toughest opponent in their existence, arguably since their very first meet against the Olympian laden Northwestern team 25 years before.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Colorado	6	1	5	1	3	6	4	1	7	34
Colorado St	4	8	4	8	6	3	5	8	4	50

Iowa St 58, Colorado 26 - Feb 5, 1949

In the 2014 Fargo TV series an unsuspecting small town police officer pulls over a skilled hired gun responsible for dozens of murders, Lorne Malvo. When asked to give his identification he counters he warns the officer to get back in his car and drive away. The cop is confused and Malvo coldly responds, "*Because some roads you shouldn't go down. Because maps used to say there be dragons here. But that doesn't mean the dragons aren't there.*" The officer heads the warning and departs the scene.

He's right just because the maps no longer warn their users of dragons doesn't mean that they still aren't around. For the M.V.I.A.A all of the teams didn't need a warning to know that a dragon resided in Ames, Iowa. Like Dragons of legend the Cyclones had an affinity for gold. Since 1929 they had accumulated conference trophy after conference trophy. Thirteen in total. In their first year in the league the Buffs had heeded the warning of Malvo and avoided the dragon, but this year there was nowhere to run. The Cyclones were coming to Boulder and the Buffs were going to feel the heat of their flame.

As had been the case the last two seasons Iowa State was captained by his holiness Roger Watts, whom if he couldn't walk on water certainly swam like he did. But he wasn't a one man show like Nebraska and Grimm.

He was just the king holding the court over a stacked room of stellar swimmers.

An easy way to illustrate just how good the Cyclones were is the amount of swimmers they sent to the NCAA meet at the end of season. For most teams in Colorado and the M.V.I.A.A they would be fortunate to have even one swimmer that was capable of competing on the national stage. Iowa State had not just one, but six. Watts was joined by Shiffler, Schmidt, LaBerge, Kullman and Smith.

Iowa State NCAA Swim Team (1949)



It wasn't like Iowa State hadn't lost any of its top swimmers from the year before. Two huge contributors from their record setting point title a year ago were gone in Dick Nelson and Doug Robinson. But those losses just did not matter to Coach McGuire. The specific swimmers were not what made Iowa State great. They were an institution. If you suited up there was a certain level of excellence expected from you. In a very real sense Iowa State swimming was the modern day equivalent of the Hydra, an ancient Greek mythological monster which was encountered by Hercules. Every time he cut off one of the nine serpent heads of the Hydra, two more would sprout up to take their place. The same was true for the Cyclones for every departing swimmer two men would rise up of equal caliber. It was truly a nightmare not just for the Buffs, but for all of the M.V.I.A.A.

Hercules Fighting Hydra



Possibly the best new Cyclone was sophomore Malcolm Schmitt. A local Ames high school Coach McGuire heaped loads of praise upon him before the season describing him as a natural. Although he was a talented swimmer in high school his school didn't have a swim team so he primarily competed in track. Coach McGuire believed it was to his benefit noting that the experience, *"Helps his start and turns. That is one thing we got to iron out for him. He is turning in very good times now but he is doing it with at least one bad turn in a race."* Alongside Schmitt was another outstanding sophomore in Ed LaBerge.

Obviously Iowa State did bring back some of their core from 1948 beyond just Watts. Mainly they had a treasure trove of talent in the diving locker room. They had four highly talented divers while the Buffs had struggled to even find a single man to replace Downing.

The Defacto Diving Dictator of Iowa State was the conference's defending champion Sam Shiffler. McGuire heaped loads of praise on him, *"He's the best diver the Big 7 ever produced. Sam's taking the hardest dives in the book for his optional dives."* Joining Shiffler as his young apprentices were Ray Obermiller and Dave Bonebroke. Both of which had won state championships in highschool. Oh and don't forget about Jack Winslow the returning conference runner up to Shiffler. Although apparently Winslow had enjoyed the offseason and showed up to training a wee bit overweight at 185 pounds. It was a truly elite group and an extremely motivated one. They started practicing before the rest of the team would each do 100 dives a training session.

Sam Shiffler Levitating (1949)



On February 5th, the might of the Cyclone swim team descended upon Boulder. The Buffs knew that with their team there was no way they had even a narrow chance of winning, but that didn't mean they would go down without a fight.

With the rush of adrenaline that often comes from a surge in competition the 300 medley relay consisting of Black, Berger and Ready found another gear. Not only did they beat out the fearsome Cyclones to start the meet but they did so in a school record setting pace of 3:10 flat.

Hopefully the Buffs savored the moment. Because the brief feeling of success would soon be replaced, as the Cyclones sucked the oxygen out of the room.

In the next two freestyle events Iowa State took home both first and second. In the 220 freestyle, Watts was on like a lightbulb soaring to victory to the tune of a 2:20, while the Buffs Berry brought up the rear. Dick Symes found himself in a similar position in the 50 freestyle. After scoring a win with a 26.7 he was lightyears behind ISU's LaBerge who set a pool record with his 24.2 second swim.



Watts (Iowa State)

The diving competition was actually a minor coup for CU. Despite having four divers of a higher caliber than himself Iowa State had mercy, giving Duesterberg a third place behind Shiffler and Obermiller. Although realistically the two other divers were likely not a part of the travel squad.

In the 100 freestyle, Hugh Berger continued run of losing. After coming into the season as the team's captain and top freestyler he had been outclassed at every turn this season. Outside of a win against the lowly Bears with a time above a minute he had shown that he was just not up to the task. Coach McGuire's raw sophomore star Schmidt was. He threw down a thunderous swim of 56.4, just .3 seconds than the pool record set by Nebraska's Grimm two years before. Apparently Berger did have a pretty good swim of his own tying the team record in the event, but it was an accomplishment that was more than overshadowed by Schmidt.

Iowa State at a Meet (1949)



It wasn't all doom and gloom for Colorado though. They still had their old reliable stroke events to fall back on. Without last year's conference champion in Nelson the Cyclones were unable to offer strong opposition to Black. As he bounced back from his first loss with a 2:39.3 and a win.

Meanwhile, still molten hot from the relay, Ready harnessed that energy and set another school record in the 150 back at 1:46.9. It was the culmination of a spectacular senior season for Ready. After being a reliable event winner in his first two seasons he had finally transcended to a top flight competitor.

The final individual event of the day starred none other than Mr. Iowa swimming himself: Watts. There was no hope of any of the Buff swimmers catching him. Earlier in the year in a duel against Illinois at Ames, he tied the NCAA record in the 220 freestyle, swimming the event in 2:09.7 in a 20 yard pool. A week from now on February 12, he set a conference record in the 440 freestyle at 4:46.8, also in a 20 yard pool.

It is fair to say by the time the meet was wrapped the University of Colorado swimmers finally understood how the Wyoming tankers had felt for years when they competed against the Buffs. Despite herculean performances from their best men Colorado was still separated from victory by 32 points.

But the important thing was not the outcome of the meet, but the underlying effort. All of the Buffs top swimmers had swam excellently and it seemed like the team was starting to round into form. And it was perfect timing. There were only two meets left on the schedule. One was against the growing power of Oklahoma and the other was against Kansas. The Buffs had no chance to beat the Sooners, but they stood a good chance against the Jayhawks. If they swam up to their talent level demonstrated this week they could score a much needed win against Kansas and avoid the embarrassment of a winless conference record.

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>Total</i>
<i>Iowa St</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>26</i>

Colorado 30, Kansas 54 - Feb 18, 1949

Once the little brother to Kansas State swimming, the Jayhawks got to revel in their rivals demise. After a disastrous return after the war the Wildcats couldn't win a single meet in two years the program got the axe. They actually attempted to field a team but struggled to find any willing participants. They were supposed to face the Buffs on February 2nd but were forced to cancel. Afterwards Kansas State Athletic Director Thurlo McGrady stepped in to cancel all remaining meets and dissolve the team for good.

That meant by virtue of being the last man standing the Jayhawks were now the best swim team within the state of Kansas. Obviously that claim did not hold too much water. Like the Buffs they were in the middle of a very forgettable campaign. They started off the year by getting submerged by 15 points to Grimm and the Huskers at home and it didn't get that much better from there.

A week before squaring off against the Buffs though it looked like the Jayhawks were going to pull off a shocker against Oklahoma. After five events Kansas led at home 32-13. With only four events remaining the Sooners appeared to be sunk. But the Sooners' pulled it together, rattling off first and second place in both the backstroke, breaststroke and the 440 freestyle. Allowing them to retake the lead ahead of the final relay. The Jayhawks rallied to win that event, but it was too little too late. The Sooners had gotten the last laugh with a 47-37 triumph, on the back of a 34-5 scoring run.

Despite adding another number to the loss column the valiant effort by Kansas was like a canary in a coal mine. Signaling that perhaps their poor record was obscuring a better team underneath. Last year the Buffs were the top dogs in Boulder routing the Jayhawks by twenty. This year the story would be the same, just with the roles reversed.

Yet again the story of the meet was the Buffs frightening bad freestyle. This time Colorado hit an all time low, as the Jayhawks pulled off a clean sweep. The star of the show for Kansas was Bob Edman a, "*Tightly wound blonde from Great Bend*" who could really swim. Edman was the primary reason the Jayhawks were in such a tight meet against Oklahoma as he captured both sprint events that day. He was brilliant in his encore against the Buffs throwing down a 25 second swim in the 50 freestyle and 55.6 in the 100 freestyle. Symes and Berger simply could not keep up. His partners in crime Bob Wallingford and Dave Ritchie swooped up wins in the 220 freestyle and 440 freestyle. At the end of the meet Edman teamed up with three other Jayhawks to fully slam the door with a freestyle relay victory.



Bob Edman (1950)

The stroke specialists were just as excellent as ever. The record setting relay Ready remained undefeated with his fifth straight win of the year and Black continued his impressive sophomore season. Herbst returned to water, but continued to be a shell of himself managing to just finish in third place.

For Kansas the meet felt like winning a conference championship. Not only had they scored their first win of the season, but they did so in a dominant fashion to ensure that they were not the worst team in the conference. For Colorado it was a knockout punch in a year that felt like a heavyweight boxing fight in which the Buffs were constantly pinned on the ropes absorbing blow after blow from their opponents. They would get little reprieve from the onslaught as they had one meet left against conference juggernaut: Oklahoma.

Colorado 20, Oklahoma 64 - Feb 24, 1949

The Buffs returned back to Boulder before heading back on the road to Norman, Oklahoma to face off against the Sooners. It was the first time they had made the journey and they were going to be competing in the gorgeous McCaslin Field House where a state of the art pool resided in the basement.



McCaslin Field House (c1930s)

If Iowa State were the dragons of the conference, then Oklahoma were a Giant. An intimidating power, but still nowhere near usurping the Cyclones as the league's top power. In his third season in charge of the program Coach Glander had the Sooners firing on all cylinders. Entering the meet against Colorado they were 7-1 racking up wins against Baylor, Texas A&M, SMU, Nebraska, and Kansas. Their sole loss came against the always reputable University of Texas down in Austin. Even though their record was sparkling it should be noted the Sooners had survived a handful of close calls. As they beat Texas A&M by just three points, SMU by five, and Nebraska by two.



1949 Oklahoma Sooners Swim

Glander's top swimmer Kay Burns was gone from the year before, but the Sooners had emerging stars in backstroker Don McCloskey and breastroker Earl Jones. Supplementing these stroke specialists was a solid, but not elite freestyle core consisting of Dick Mitchell, Wayne Clergen and Jerry Riehorst. Although all three of these men were better than the Buffs top swimmers they were likely the reason for Oklahoma's previous close calls.

From the opening starter's pistol to the final relay it was all Oklahoma. Through thick and thin the Buffs had been able to rely on their medley relay starting off the meet with a win. But this week they got wrecked by Oklahoma whose time of 3:04.9 was five seconds faster than the team record.

It was a sign of things to come. The normally impenetrable wall of stroke events came crashing down. For the first time all year Ready met his match as he backslid to third place behind the untouchable McCloskey and Dave Womble. He shouldn't have felt too bad about the result though as the Sooner pair were the two fastest backstrokers in the conference. Stan Black fared no better against future conference champion Earl Jones in the breaststroke.

Without their normal wins in those events it looked like the Buffs would have to return to Boulder with their tails between their legs without a single first place. But then an unlikely hero emerged. Meet after meet Berger had failed to pull through. But not today. In a tight race with two Dicks (Mitchell and Cobb) he eked out a win with a season best 58.3. Finally delivering on his promising 1948 campaign.

Although that win was vindicating for the embattled Berger its impact was like a small pebble dropped into an ocean. The Sooner cleaned up the rest of the events to earn a jaw dropping 44 point win. It was easily the worst loss in team history up to that point. Nearly ten points larger than the previous record set earlier in the season against Iowa State.

Colorado losing not just one but two meets by thirty points was completely unprecedented. In the nearly 25 years of existence ahead of this year the Buffs had registered just one thirty point defeat. That came in 1926 in the form of an exhibition meet against Stanford. Since then they only had two losses by more than 20. A 24 point loss to a stacked Colorado State team in 1933, and another 24 point loss against the best team in Mines history in 1937. It was also Colorado's first one win season since 1936, when CU went 1-2-1.

In other words in a season chock full of all time lows this meet was truly rock bottom. Mercifully for the Buffs this was the end of the road. There were no more dual meets remaining. All they had left was the conference meet and then they could finally put this year in the rearview mirror.

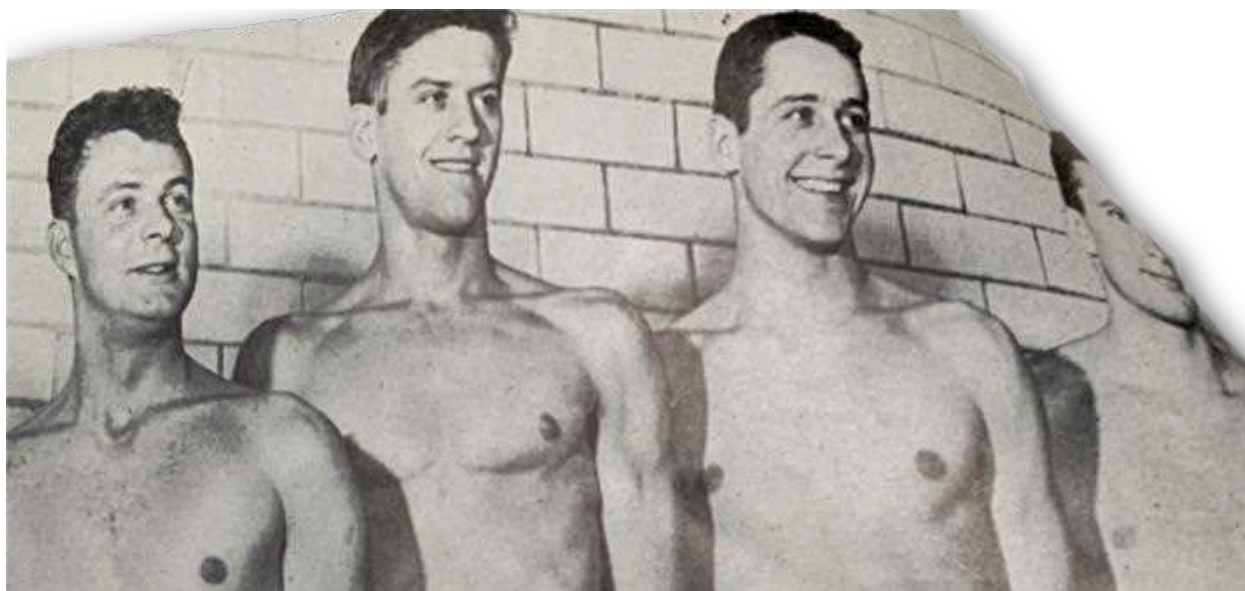


McCloskey (Oklahoma)

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>64</i>

MVIAA Championships - Mar 5 - 6, 1949



Iowa State 400 Freestyle Champion Relay (Rush Smith, Dick Kullman, Malcolm Schmidt, Ed LaBerge)

Entering the meet, Coach Balch had every reason to think his swimmers and divers would finish last. They had just come off a devastating 1-6 season with most of those losses against the MVIAA. The Buffs were only able to bring six men: Ready, Berger, Berry, Symes, Duesterberg, and Guggenheim.

From that tiny team of swimmers Colorado only brought three men back to compete in the conference finals. Ready was the first of those to compete. No one could argue that he was not prepared to swim his final race as a Buff.

We don't know his final time but Ready held his own taking home third place in the 150 backstroke behind the two Oklahoma stalwarts. It was the first time a Colorado swimmer landed on the podium at the conference meet. It was the perfect bow on a stellar swimming career for Ready. His tenure on the team was nothing short of remarkable. He started in 1948 as the team's backup backstroker and in each successive year under a different coach, he got better and better as a swimmer. While his times were never show stopping, Ready was truly a testament to the power of hard work.

Next up was Berger who ended his career on much more of a whimper with a fifth place finish in the 220 freestyle. But all things considered it was just marginally worse than Lepman's 4th place result in 1948. The next event on the agenda was the 200 yard breaststroke which featured the final Buff swimmer Stan Black. He had been excellent throughout the year, but his inexperience showed. He too was relegated to fifth place behind Oklahoma's Earl Jones and three Iowa State swimmers.

In a display of consistency, the Buffs waited until the last event of the meet to reveal their ace: the 300 medley relay. Individually the three swimmers were respectable but together they were something special. The triplet finished second, only behind Oklahoma. Kansas on the other hand finished in fifth, allowing CU to pass the last place crown to the Jayhawks. By some miracle despite having the smallest squad at the meet the Buffs staved off last place finish by a single point.



Unknown Diver in the 1949 MVIAA Championship

While Kansas and Colorado were in a battle at the bottom the real contenders: Oklahoma and Iowa State were battling it out at the top.

As normal the Cyclones were led by Roger Watts, the greatest swimmer in the history of Iowa State and the MVIAA conference, finished first in the 1500, 440 and 220 freestyle events. The mile win is especially notable as it was the first time that the M.V.I.A.A championships featured the event. Although it would not be added to dual meet competitions it would continue to be a fixture in the many championship meets to come. It also happened to be Watts' best event. Later that month he would go to NCAA and return with a fifth place trophy giving the Cyclones their lone points at nationals good for 20th place.

Even though he swam exclusively freestyle in the championship meet it was said he could beat the best breaststrokers and backstrokers in their own event. The swimmers he beats always claim a disqualification against him. Later admitted that his breaststroke was probably "slightly illegal."

But as talked about before Watts was not the only phenom on the Cyclones, Coach McGuire had a smorgasbord of talent spread out throughout all events. In addition to an unprecedented distance swimmer, he had not one but two sophomore speedsters in LaBerge and Schmidt.

The duo had a healthy teammate rivalry. Training together they were always trying to one up each other and that came out in the championship meet. They were both entered in the 50 and 100 freestyle. LaBerge got the first blow as he bolted to first place with a 24.4 in the 50 freestyle. LaBerge was also the top dog entering the finals of the 100 freestyle having set the conference record in the morning prelims. But Schmidt was not going to be outdone. He came out of nowhere to churn past LaBerge and defending champion Grimm to steal the conference title and conference record for himself.



Roger Watts (Iowa State)



LaBerge (Iowa State)

And of course Iowa State's divers got in on the scoring barrage, although to a lesser degree than might have been anticipated. As just a lone Cyclone, Sam Shiffler, scored points in the event. Shiffler dominated for a nearly 40 point win over Oklahoma's Charles York to further cement his status as the league's premier diver. At the end of the season he became the first Cyclone diver to be named to the All American team joining Watts in the honor.

Although Iowa State had its lion share of triumphs the meet was no runaway contest as the Oklahoma contingency put up a fair bit of resistance. The pioneering Sooners were primarily guided by the stellar swims of Don McCloskey. He ripped off wins in the 150 backstroke and took home the conference's first 150 Individual Medley title and was a key component on Oklahoma's first place 300 yard medley relay.

Supplemented by teammates Earl Jones winning in the breaststroke, Jerry Driehorst second place finishes in the 220 and 440 freestyle and a few other strong showings from others the Sooners fashioned together their best conference performance ever.

They never really posed too much of a threat to Iowa State's championship chances as they ended the meet sixteen points behind their pace. But with McCoskey and others returning the 1950 version of the Sooners were like a den of snakes awakened from a slumber - they were dangerous and a threat to strike.

With the battles at the top and bottom of the conference that left one team alone in the middle; Nebraska. The Huskers were truly in a league of their own. They were much stronger than both Colorado and Kansas topping both schools by nearly 15 points, but they were miles behind the league powers trailing the Sooners by over forty points.

For the last couple of years Nebraska had heavily leaned on Grimm. But the aging World War II veteran had finally started to show his cracks. He had racked up 4 conference titles and points at the NCAA meet, but this year he was little more than a footnote. Faced with stronger opposition from Oklahoma and Iowa State Grimm just couldn't pace. He slipped from being the top dog in the freestyle sprints to two third places. Without Grimm to buoy them the Huskers were all but sunk. They had a handful of swimmers pick up low level points in other freestyle and diving events but the end result made it clear that the sun had forever set on a Nebraska conference title. But as the story goes, when one sun sets another set rises. In this case that sun would now shine over Norman, Oklahoma.

Meet Line Score

	<i>ISU</i>	<i>OU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>KU</i>
<i>1500 Meters</i>	11	5	x	x	x
<i>50 Free</i>	10	x	6	x	x
<i>150 Back</i>	3	10	x	3	x
<i>220 Free</i>	9	6	x	1	x
<i>1 Meter Dive</i>	6	5	2	x	3
<i>200 Breast</i>	9	6	x	1	x
<i>400 Free Relay</i>	10	4	8	2	6
<i>100 Free</i>	12	x	4	x	x
<i>150 Indv. Medley</i>	3	13	x	x	x
<i>440 Free</i>	9	6	x	x	1
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive</i>	x	7	7	x	2
<i>300 Medley Relay</i>	6	10	4	8	2
<i>Total</i>	88	72	31	15	14

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1949

	Wyoming Relays	Nebraska Univ.	Colorado State	Colorado A.&M.	Iowa State	Kansas Univ.	Oklahoma Univ.	M.V.I.A.A. Meet	Finished Season 1st Yr. (X), 2nd Yr. (XX), etc. Unfinished (0)
Baumgartner, J. C.	0	0	X	X	0	0	0	0	X
*Berger, Hugh	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
*Berry, James L.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
Bingham, Richard	0	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	X
*Black, Stanley A.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bradt, Gordon	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X0
Damon, Arthur	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
*Duesterberg, T.	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
*Guggenheim, Tom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	XX
Hamilton, William	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Herbst, Clarence	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	0	XXX
Horine, Conrad	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	XX
Pickens, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	X
*Ready, Richard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XXX
*Symes, Richard	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Telk, Louis D.	0	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	XX
Timberlake, W.	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X

*Letterman

Composite 17 Year Results of the MVIAA Championship

1929	
Iowa State	54
Nebraska	45
Kansas State	9
Kansas	6
Oklahoma	0

1930	
Nebraska	42
Iowa State	39
Kansas	23
Kansas State	8
Oklahoma	5

1931	
Iowa State	46
Nebraska	29
Kansas	21 ½
Oklahoma	16 ½
Kansas State	4

1932	
Iowa State	48
Nebraska	39
Oklahoma	23
Kansas	7
Kansas State	0

1933	
Iowa State	46
Nebraska	46
Kansas State	12
Kansas	8
Oklahoma	3

1934	
Iowa State	49
Nebraska	37
Oklahoma	13
Kansas	12
Kansas State	6

1935	
Nebraska	54
Iowa State	32
Kansas State	11
Kansas	10
Oklahoma	10

1936	
Iowa State	45
Nebraska	45
Oklahoma	12
Kansas State	9
Kansas	6

1937	
Nebraska	58
Iowa State	36
Kansas	13
Kansas State	10
Oklahoma	0

1938	
Iowa State	76
Nebraska	34
Oklahoma	28
Kansas	23
Kansas State	11

1939	
Iowa State	70
Oklahoma	39
Nebraska	35
Kansas	13
Kansas State	11

1940	
Iowa State	63
Kansas State	38
Nebraska	28
Oklahoma	27
Kansas	12

1941	
Iowa State	52
Kansas State	45
Nebraska	44
Oklahoma	21
Kansas	8

1942	
Iowa State	67
Kansas State	45
Nebraska	40
Oklahoma	16
Kansas	0

1947	
Iowa State	76
Nebraska	41
Kansas State	27
Oklahoma	24

1948	
Iowa State	80
Nebraska	39
Oklahoma	27
Colorado	15
Kansas	9
Kansas State	2

1949	
Iowa State	88
Oklahoma	72
Nebraska	31
Colorado	15
Kansas	14

1949-1950 Season

Record

5-1-1

Head Coach

Roland "Doc" Balch (Year 2)

Team Roster

Jerry Baumgartner	Hugh Berger
Stan Black	Robert Bond
Bruce Bowers	Kenneth Cunningham
Arthur Daman	Charles Harbaugh
Stanley Hays	Robert Heim
Eugene Kiley	Ernest Knutzen
Robert Pickens	Andrew Riker
Louis Walstrom	Bruce Whitlock



Wyoming Relays - Dec 2, 1949

Like any new season, year two of the Balch administration brought a handful of changes. In years past the Buffs often had the burden of replacing key components of the prior year's team - luckily as a product of their poor showing in 1949 there wasn't much for Coach Balch to be torn up about losing.

Of course Doc would no longer have the most successful backstroker in team history in Dick Ready at his disposal, but outside of him the losses were minimal. Gone were depth freestylers Guggenheim, Timberlake, and Berry whose minimal presence would not be missed. Former breaststroke star Clarence Herbst was also a casualty to graduation, but after a strong first two years on the team he had been terrible his senior year and had been relegated to a backup in the event behind Stan Black.

With these men gone Doc had plenty of space on a blank canvas to create something far better than last year's team. He would score a huge prize for the team with the return of Bruce Bowers, a sprint freestyler who had shown promise back in 1948, but for reasons unknown didn't compete in 1949.

There is not an abundance of information on Bowers life before CU. He was an army brat, born while his father was stationed overseas in Manila, Philippines. As a result of his father's military occupation Bowers spent his early years on the move, living wherever his dad was stationed including the Ancon Canal Zone in Panama.

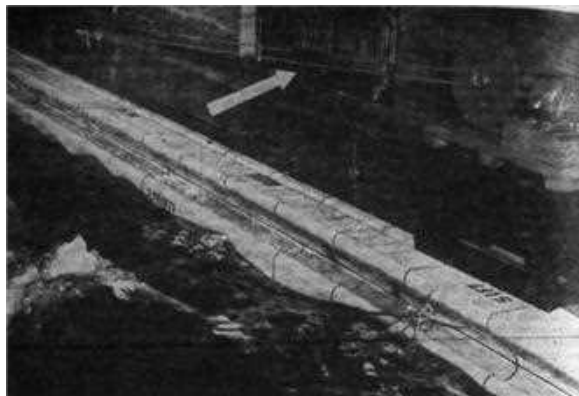


Bruce Bowers (1949)

Spending his time in places where water was abundant compared to the land locked state of Colorado must have done wonders for Bowers. Although he had only demonstrated it in limited samples in 1948 he was exemplary in the water. He would immediately take over as the Buffs top sprint threat. A coveted role which had been assumed unsuccessfully by Hugh Berger in 1949. Although Berger technically was still on the team his participation was minimal as he struggled to carve out a role on the new look team. .

Along with Bowers there was an entirely new cast of talented freestylers: Eugene Kiley, Robert Bond, Robert Heim and Ernest Knutzen. All of which were miles ahead of the best offerings the 1949 team had in those events. Even the largest vacancy in the backstroke found a quick and competent replacement in Robert Pickens.

While the swelling of talent was more than welcome, the most critical thing that this team had compared to the last several iterations was stability. For the first time since before the war the Buffs had the same man leading the program for two consecutive years. Not only that, but they were in highly capable hands. In the ramp up to the season Balch worked the swimmers hard and introduced a new novel training method.



Pace Setting Machine in Carlson (1949)

Coach Balch installed a motorized pace setting machine on the pool deck. Whether the contraption was invented by Doc or by someone else is lost to time, but whatever the case the device was incredibly unique and innovative. It appeared to be a motor that was attached to wheels and was tethered by rope to one end of the pool. Once a pace was set the device would move along the edge of the pool until it reached the end. At which point it would stop or be pushed back in the opposite direction. The swimmer in the water would then try to keep up with the pace of the device.

This was likely an especially machine for training breastrokers. As seen in the image above, breastroker Stan Black can easily maintain an understanding of his position relative to the machine by a simple turn of the head.

In a time in which swimming was bogged down by practices and techniques that are no longer considered optimal this was an incredibly futuristic approach that mirrors some training tactics today. Today tempo trainers are hand held devices that can fit under a swimmers cap. But without caps and the ability to create such small pieces of technology in 1950 this is an ingenious replacement that largely accomplishes the same task.

For a second straight year the Buffs unofficially started off the campaign with a light hearted trip up to Wyoming on the 2nd of December for the Wyoming Relay Meet. Last year the meet was a canary in the coal mine for the Buffs season as their third place showing was a harbinger of bad things to come. This year it would once again serve as a litmus test of the Buffs true talent level.

Coach Balch brought a team of thirteen men up to Laramie, and all of them got in on the scoring party. Although there was no official team score the Buffs swimmers combined for 21 medals and were the top team at the meet beating Colorado State, Wyoming and Nebrasksa. Although there is some dispute in this scoring as the Fort Collins Coloradoan has Colorado finishing in 2nd place.

Although the meet didn't consist of any real events- just relays it illustrated that the team's freestylers were not just as good as advertised. In the 400 foot relay the Buffs veterans Berger and Bowers teamed up with sophomores Bonds and Heim to set a new record.

It was the first of three records set by Colorado in the afternoon as the team captured two more records in the medley relays. Heim and Berger linked with Kiley and Knutzen to drop the 2000 foot medley relay (666.67 yard) by more than half a minute. And then Bond, Black and Bowers sprinted to a 3:20.7 in the 300 yard medley relay. The Buffs would finish with one more win in the 300 breaststroke event that was of course anchored by Stan Black.

Even though this was nothing more than a glorified scrimmage meet, the performances by Colorado were nothing short of excellent. One thing was abundantly clear: the Buffs were trending upwards.

Colorado 42, Nebraska 42 - Jan 14, 1950

At this point in time the University of Nebraska swim team could be best compared to a large blue whale that has been perilously been lifted from the seas and been beached on the sandy shoreline. Immobilized, the mighty whale that had once roamed the ocean towering over all, largely unopposed, was now helpless. The Huskers found themselves in a similar state of affairs. It wasn't long ago that the world was their oyster. They had an all american level swimmer that had been nearly unstoppable and a strong crew around him. But alas father time had weakened his immense gifts and his once strong crew eroded around him without strong replacements. As a result, the Huskers were now firmly beached in mediocrity. A lonely no man's land between contender and pretenders which no team or coach ever desires to be.

Of course no one was more aware of this developing state of affairs than their Coach Lepley. Suffering from a diminished squad due to illness he was dealt an even bigger blow when most of the promising freshman class didn't report back to join the varsity team. They instead elected to leave school and get more gainful employment. If that was not enough one of their best sprinters Ted Kanamine was sidelined due to an injury incurred in a car accident over Christmas break.

Ahead of their first meet of the year against Colorado Lepley was in the midst of a mental breakdown. Reportedly with a, "*soaked crying towel in hand [Lepley] let out a horrible wail when asked about his chances for a Husker victory*" against Colorado. It is hard to not see where he was coming from. Just a month ago he had watched his team be completely outgunned by the Buffs in the Wyoming relays. Nebraska's slim chances at victory would have to rest on the benefit of home water advantage and some remnants of Marvin Grimm's freestyle magic.

Playing to the Huskers advantage though was the fact that Buffs handicapped by financial restrictions imposed by the school were limited to just nine men on their opening road trip to Nebraska and Iowa State.

Regardless of their reduced size the Buffs arrived at the Coliseum pool amped and eager to score their first win against Nebraska since 1940.

The meet didn't get off on a fantastic footing for Colorado. After dominating the 300 medley relay last year and at the Wyoming relay meet it was presumed that the medley relay would once again be a strength for the team. But the Huskers led by the now healed Kanamine got the drop on Pickens, Black and Heim with a 3:15.2 win. It wasn't particularly close either as Kanamine hit the wall nearly five feet in front of Heim.

Luckily for Colorado their fortunes in the freestyle events were not at all reminiscent of 1949. Powered by three newcomers the Buffs took home three wins: Eugene Kiley in the 220 freestyle, Bowers in the 50 freestyle and Knutzen in the 440 freestyle. Remarkably it was the first time since they had joined the conference that they had won both distance freestyle events against a conference opponent. And this wasn't against no pushovers either. Kiley had to outduel Grimm in the 220 freestyle. A rare feat that only the top swimmers in the league could claim to have accomplished.

Bowers was transcendent in the 50 freestyle. By some reports he registered a 25.03, but in others he was recorded at 25.5 seconds. Both of which were the fastest times that a Buffs swimmer had laid down since in the war. The team record was still held firmly by Harold Daniels 1940 swim of 25 seconds even. Bowers was much less successful in the 100 freestyle getting bested by Grimm and Kanamine, but still finished in third place.

The Buffs saw no real drop off in their medley races. Stan Black a model of consistency, scooped up a breaststroke win with a new team record to boot with a 2:27.2 and Robert Pickens did his best Ready imitation winning the backstroke with a time of 1:51.07. Although admittedly he still had a long way to go, nearly five seconds faster, to catch Ready's best time in the event.

Pickens journey to the team is an intriguing one. Born in the Bay Area of California he grew up with his twin brother Richard. The two both attended George Washington High School and swam on the swim team. Both of which were excellent in the aquatic arts. Richard was regarded as the best of the duo getting a nod as an all-city swimmer for his breaststroke. But Robert's backstroke was nearly as good as he won the 50 backstroke his senior year in the all-city tournament.

While they might have been birds of a feather in the water the two siblings were very different outside of it. When they graduated Richard had his sights set high to either attend college or go into the military. Robert on the other hand was a lot less motivated. Unlike his brother, he was undecided about his future at the time of his graduation. By all accounts he took a fair bit of time mulling over his choices and taking a gap year before finally landing at Colorado in the fall of 1947.



Robert Pickens (1949)

At Colorado he studied education. A degree which he did not immediately put to use. Instead upon graduating he would get another education in the art of warfare as he would serve in the Korean War for three years. He would eventually combine both experiences into a job at Lockheed Martin where he trained submarine crews on the Polaris Hydraulic Missile System. Finally in the later part of his life he taught history and wood shop in Washington before passing away in April, 2017.

The Buffs lone blackspot of the meet came in the diving. Which was to be expected. Although they had a new man on the board in Jerry Baumgartner replacing Tom Duesterberg from the year prior the results were much the same. Outside of Iowa State the Huskers had the best crop of divers in the conference, and it had been that way for several years now. Eddie Craren had won the 3 meter competition at last year's championship and was fourth in the 1 meter. In front of a home crowd of 150 spectators he put on an acrobatic display. Pulling off a perfect double somersault followed by a back somersault to vault into first place.



Ed Craren (Nebraska)

Based on all of the results discussed you might presume that the Buffs were comfortably winning the meet as they approached the final relay of the afternoon. However despite the excellent swims the team had been handicapped by the lack of men. Without the necessary depth Colorado surrendered points left and right as the Huskers racked up second and third places. It took Knutzen's win in the 440 freestyle, swam over an incredibly awkward distance of 17 ½ lengths due to the small size of the pool, to draw the Buffs within four points of their hosts.

The way that the relay scoring worked meant that the Buffs chances of winning were completely out the window. The winning freestyle relay would collect eight points and the second place team would get 4 points. Meaning that as long as the Huskers did not disqualify themselves they were guaranteed nothing worse than a tie.

Last year the meet would have been all but lost. The Buffs did not have the freestyle firepower to compete. But as the earlier swims indicated that was no longer the case, the tides were changing. A sparky relay of Heim, Kiley, Bond and Bowers laid down a statement. They led from start to finish to beat the Huskers in the freestyle relay for the first time since 1940 and secure a hard earned tie.

Even though it wasn't a win. The meet was the most impressive result in Doc's young tenure and indicated that the best was yet to come. Even if that wouldn't be immediately apparent by their next performance against the vaunted Iowa State.

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	3	5	8	1	1	6	5	5	8	42
<i>Nebraska</i>	6	4	1	8	8	3	4	4	4	42

Colorado 24, Iowa St 60 - Jan 16, 1950

Before the season got underway disaster struck the Cyclones. Their fearless red headed leader Coach Jack McGuire was stuck with an illness. And not just any illness - the incredibly serious Tuberculosis. For the uneducated Tuberculosis often referred to as TB or consumption is a terrible lung disease which can be incredibly deadly. At the time the only treatment was to isolate a patient in a TB sanatorium to prevent the spread to others and hope for improvement. This is the exact treatment that McGuire was given as he was entered into the Iowa State Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Thankfully, he would eventually make a full recovery, but he would be sidelined for the entire season. In his stead friend and former Iowa State coach Russ Dickinson took charge in his stead.

It was the second time that Dickinson had filled in for McGuire. During the war when McGuire was away in combat Dickinson coached kept the team afloat going 4-2 from 1944-1946. Even a leadership change would not be enough to slow down the dark empire of the M.V.I.A.A as they kept chugging along like a well oiled machine.

Coach Russ Dickinson (1950)



Dickinson's job was made especially easy as all of last year's top weapons were back. The terrible freestyle threesome of LaBerge, Schmidt and Watts were as fearsome as last year. As was conference's top boardman Sam Shiffler. And that was just the tip of the iceberg for a team flooded with depth.

With just nine men the improved Buffs had little to no chance to beat the Cyclones. As such the emphasis for Doc's team was not on scoring points but rather on individuals trying their best and putting down competitive swims which could be built upon for future success.

In a reversal of their meet against Nebraska the Buffs actually struck the first blow. A small change in the lineup from Bob Heim to Bruce Bowers in the anchoring freestyler paid dividends. The relay flew to a 3:06.6, nearly ten seconds faster than in Lincoln.

That was the last glimmer of hope for Colorado. Watts re-energized the Cyclones with a win in the 220 freestyle and his teammate Brown got first in the 60 freestyle over Heim and Bond while setting a pool record of 28.2. Baumgartner got to witness a masterclass from two of the best divers in the midwest: Shiffler and Obermiller. He was not a worthy peer either as Shiffler nearly doubled up his score.



State Gym (Iowa State)

Pickens came back down to earth in the backstroke, as he got his doors blown by last year's 5th place backstroker Jezek who swam nearly 7 seconds faster than Pickens time at Nebraska.

Even the prolific Bowers couldn't hang. Although he can be hardly blamed for that. He was going head to head with the top 2 freestylers in the league: Schmidt and LaBerge and held his own with a competitive third place. He was followed by Knutzen who was another nameless casualty to the unbeatable Watts in the 440 freestyle to round out the Cyclones complete sweep of the freestyle.

The lone man that survived the onslaught unscathed was Mr. Breastroke, Stan Black. He wasn't quite as sharp as he was against the Huskers but it was still plenty to capture yet another win. Clearly the time spent on the pace machine before the season was working.

Reading back those results and comparing the final score to last year's meet in Boulder it might seem that the Buffs were still around the same level. But make no mistake this team meant business. Although the road trip didn't yield a single win they had shown grit, resilience, and talent unrivaled by the 1949 squad. While the direct results didn't correspond with the efforts put forward, that was sure to change as the season unraveled.

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Iowa St</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>60</i>

Colorado St 25, Colorado 59 - Jan 21, 1950

In his 24th year coaching Colorado State Coach Tompkins had overseen his fair share of teams ranging from downright terrible to championship contenders. This year's iteration of the Rams fell somewhere just below average. Although they scored a blowout win against the Buffs in 1949, the win was more a reflection of CU's bad roster rather than Colorado State's quality. At the conference meet the Rams would finish dead last behind both Denver and Wyoming.

While Colorado had spent the offseason adding talent and getting better, Colorado State arguably got worse. That was mainly due to the loss of freestyle stalwart Jim Abshire who had terrorized Buff swimmers during his three year tenure. He had four first places and four second places in four meets against the Buffs, only losing against Dick Lepman. Also saying adieu to the Rams was another three year veteran in their top diver Remington. With a team already pressed on depth their departures would be sorely felt.

At Coach Tompkins disposal was returning star breastroker Bill Evans who won the title at the Skyline championships, John Ehnrenrech a quality distance freestyler who racked up two wins last year against lowly Buffs opposition, and last year's second string diver Jim Hall.

The most notable storyline ahead of the season was the abnormal amount of swimmers on the team that had roots in the Canal Zone, Panama. Three varsity swimmers; Evans, Bud Patten and Jerry Darden and one freshman Russell Lawrence. All came from the small stretch of land that boarded two bodies of waters.

The Rams actually got the season started off on the right foot by defeating Northern Colorado in Greeley by double digits. The day before it was reported that Tompkins, “*the little guy who bobs around in the Colorado [State] swimming pool like a cork and isn't much bigger had 11 of his swimmers ready*” for competition. That statement was somewhat correct as really just two of the eleven did the heavy lifting for the Rams. Bill Evans won two events and sophomore Carl Bailey claimed two distance freestyle events.

While that top heavy approach may have been enough to topple the Bears and the Buffs in the past it was a strategy that would not hold water against Doc's new look squad.

For a second straight meet the Buffs established the pace with medley relay victory. Interestingly it featured yet another lineup change for Coach Balch. This time around he elected to have sophomore Chuck Harbough get some reps, replacing Pickens in the backstroke. A Colorado native Harbough wouldn't see too much action throughout his first season and his three year career with the Buffs, but he would go on to become the first student manager of the team.

From there CU was off to the races. In a complete reversal of their last encounter the Buffs swept the freestyle races. But the dominance went even further than that, Colorado won both first and second place in all four events. Gene Kiley held down the fort in the 220 freestyle with a 2:39.5, and Hugh Berger made one of his few appearances of the season with a win in the 440 freestyle. However, the star of the show was of course Bruce Bowers.

CSU Swimmers



After flirting with the team record against Nebraska, he exploded in his first home meet of the year. In his first swim of the day he toppled the seemingly unbeatable decade old record of Harold Daniels by over half a second with a time of 24.4. However, if that time sounds too good to be true it probably was. That is the time reported by the Fort Collins Coloradoan, however in an article from the Silver and Gold discussing records the day after the meet it was not listed or mentioned. More likely than not this was a typo meant to read 25.4 seconds. So at least for now the Daniels record lived on.

Somehow his second swim was even more impressive, as he whalloped the 100 freestyle record of 57.5 with a new mark of 56.9 leaving teammate Robert Bond in the dust. Unlike the 50 freestyle this time was legit and cemented Bowers status as the preeminent Buff sprinter of the early post-war era.

Another dazzling performance came from the other team's sideline. The defending Skyline breaststroke champion was electric in his only swim. Evans had gotten the best of Black in their last skirmish in Fort Collins, and would dominate him once again. The previous pool record in the 200 yard breaststroke was a 2:39.3 and Black's personal best/team record was 2:37.2 set against Nebraska. Evans made those times look like child play with a mind boggling time of 2:34.5

The rest of the individual swims were very by the books with predictable results. Baumgartner once again got doubled teamed on the boards this time by Hall and Shull, and Pickens swiped his second backstroke win of the season. With the blowout in full effect and the win secured the Buffs decided to have a little fun with their rival. The fun in question was a merciless 400 free relay composed of Heim, Kiley, Bonds, and Bowers who posted the third record of the day with a 3:51.2. It was the perfect exclamation mark for a speedy day of swimming that contributed to a 34 point shellacking of the Rams.

The strong result was monumental not just because it was the first win of the season for the Buffs. It was also the largest win by Colorado against their in-state rivals since the 1938 when a team led by Peyton Musslwhite went into Fort Collins and humiliated the Rams 57-18. Even more important than that it was the first ever known competition hosted within the Clare Small Pool.

You may remember Clare Small from a couple of chapters ago. Small was the longtime Women's Physical Education instructor, who was a pioneer in women's athletics and founded the first organized swim team in school history. As she coached practices originally at the local YMCA several years prior to the formation of the first men's varsity team.

In 1928, just a handful of years after Carlson Gymnasium was complete, the building that would eventually bear her name was finished. The structure in question was the Women's Gymnasium and like the men's gymnasium it would feature a state of the art 25 yard pool. It opened with much fanfare in late January of that year with a group of thirty five women each paying five cents a piece to participate in the pool's first swim practice.



Clare Small Building

Over the next couple of decades the pool would continue to host a variety of women's aquatics events. In the leadup to the season opener against the Rams it was announced that the meet would be held within the women's gymnasium. This is the first official mention of a men's meet being hosted in the pool although this practice could have been started much earlier.

The reason for the change seems obvious. The Carlson Gym Pool was ahead of its time when it was erected in 1925. But twenty five years later it was showing its age. The pool was built just before a boom in aquatic facilities at the tail end of the 1920s. As a result, it was the oldest pool in the M.V.I.A.A, and in some ways already an antique. The Clare Small pool, although just a few years younger, had a few more modern improvements that made it more suitable for competition. This probably made the pool faster than Carlson, which is supported by the fast times posted by Buff and Ram swimmers alike in the first meet in the friendly waters.

One obvious disadvantage compared to Carlson was the lack of spectator space. Carlson's rafters provided upper deck viewing to the small crowds that came to meet. Clare had the space for spectators but it was a much more intimate environment.

It is not clear if this move to Clare was permanent throughout the rest of the season. But by 1952, Clare was the full time home for competitions, while Carlson remained in use for the team's practices. This two pool system would remain until the completion of the Rec Center pool in 1974.

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>59</i>

Colorado 58, Northern CO 17 - Jan 28, 1950

Having matched their prior year win total against Colorado State the Buffs turned their sights to an easy win against Northern Colorado. The Bears had gotten blown out by the Rams a couple weeks earlier and CU didn't expect much in the way of resistance.

By no means was this the worst swim squad that the Bears had ever put forward. In fact the team was composed of veterans returning to defend a Rocky Mountain Conference title in 1949. That didn't mean all that much though. The RMC was clearly the third best swim conference in the region. The M.V.I.A.A. was the undisputed king of the land, followed by the Skyline Conference where Utah, Denver, Colorado State resided. And then there was the RMC, a small three team collection of schools that were lucky to even field teams. Long story short Northern Colorado was not the worst team in the area, but was miles below the competition that Colorado was accustomed to facing.

Bill Creswell (1950)



In the year between matchups the Bears made a change in leadership. Loring Hutchinson was out, and Bill Creswell was in. Creswell had been a student at Northern Colorado graduating just a few years later in 1948. After which he stayed at the school to teach and focus on research. In the next 30 years he would become well known nationally for research in adolescent health behavior. Eventually becoming the Assistant Executive Secretary for Health Education for the American Health Association.

Those merits along with others eventually earned him recognition in the Northern Colorado Alumni Hall of Fame. But those achievements were years away and in 1950 he had the thankless job of coaching the Bears swim team.

Creswell inherited some quality swimmers. Namely top conference point getters: Bob Edwards (RMC 200 breaststroke champion) and Dean Fair (RMC 200 & 440 freestyle champion). While they were promising towards the Bears chances at repeating their conference title, they were miles behind the Buffs options in those events. Case in point, last year neither got better than second place against CU. With the Buffs swimmers dwarfing Northern Colorado a massacre was basically preordained.



Northern Colorado Swim Meet Scoring Table

Showing no mercy Doc elected to return to his best medley relay of Perkins, Black and Bowers for the first event. The trio was electric, putting together a pace 2 seconds faster than against Colorado State and five seconds faster than the Gunter Hall Pool record with a 3:11.8.

Colorado was once again absolutely dominant in the freestyle events. Bowers encore performance to his record setting meet proved that those times were no fluke. He won both the 50 and 100 freestyle with times of just a little bit slower with 25.5 and 57.6.

The Killer K's of Kiley and Knutzen continued to be a one two punch in the distance freestyle events. The two were inseparable walloping team after team. Kiley would torch opponents in the 220 freestyle while Knutzen endured the pain in the 440 freestyle. Both played their part perfectly, but like any classical pairing one shouldered more of the load than the other.

The Killer K's (Gene Kiley & Ernie Knutzen)



If Kiley and Knutzen were to be compared to a musical duo the best comparison is probably that of Simon and Garfunkel. Sure, Garfunkel served his part but the real exceptional talent was Paul Simon and his music and lyrical genius. In this situation Kiley was Paul Simon. Although he didn't set the pool on fire Kiley was a top five freestyler in conference. The same could not be said about Knutzen. While he was faster than anyone that Colorado had put forward in the 440 free in years he didn't really stack up all that well against his peers. In other words Knutzen was just good enough to get the job done.

That being said, having guys that are just good enough is critical to a swim team's success. Picking up points in an event that the Buffs had surrendered previously was one of the reasons the team was so improved. Also, I would be remiss to mention that although many mock Garfunkel there is no doubt in my mind that they produced their best music together rather than apart. The same is true about Kiley and Knutzen. Respectable as individual swimmers. But remarkable as teammates.

On the outside looking in on the two was former Captain Berger. This season continued to be a year of reinvention for the one time ace. After flopping in sprints and getting usurped by Bowers he attempted to rebrand himself as a distance swimmer. Even though he did get the win against the Rams he was still the backup to Knutzen who beat him this meet. Berger would continue to experiment throughout the rest of the season, a strategy that would bear fruit in 1951.

The two stroke events were just as impressive for Colorado as the freestyle. Black still fuming about his loss to Evans hit the water with unrelenting vengeance. Just 48 hours before he had succumbed to Evans' record time of 2:34.5, but today he would blitz past that mark with a 2:32 even. Easily setting a new team record. I guess it is true what they say: competition does breed innovation.



Bears Swimmers During a Meet (1950)

In the backstroke, Coach Balch spiced things up and rewarded Harbaugh with the start. The move could have been influenced by a desire to give Pickens some rest. Due to a scheduling change the Buffs were now swimming against Mines on short rest two days later. Harbaugh didn't disappoint picking up the win, with the team's third string backstroker Bruce Whitlock following on his heels.

Once again the only blemish that prevented absolute domination was diving. You might think that Baumgartner would at least be able to get second against the Bears, but you would be wrong. For the fourth straight time he got just one point in the event. It was the worst stretch of performances by a diver in the team's 25 year history.

The Buffs were once again unrelenting in the freestyle relay. Heim, Kiley, Bond and Bowers pounded the water and emerged with a new team record of 3:50.1. An amazing 1.5 second improvement in one week.

While it was all fun and games for Colorado, obviously the opposite was the case for their opponent. The beaten down Bears limped away with their tails between their legs and a 41 point loss. Things would not get any easier for Coach Creswell and his boys. They would finish 1-6 with just a single victory against Colorado Mines. Just before the RMC Championship meet Creswell was hospitalized for a night after suffering from a Kidney ailment. A sickness which he oddly shared with the school's basketball coach Dr. L.C. Butler. Luckily that setback didn't derail the Bears performance as they stormed past their lowly conference competitors to get a second straight title. Making it one of the rare times that a college team has claimed a title with a winning percentage below 20%.

School of Mines 22, Colorado 59 - Jan 30, 1950

With the conference change, a second World War and the general precarious state of the Mines team and pool it had been nearly a decade since the Buffs competed in the same pool as the Orediggers. The last matchup was an awkwardly scheduled tri-angular meet in 1941. You would have to peer back one more year to 1940 to find the last time two competed directly in a dual. It was a meet which CU won handily 56-23.

After the ex-CU swim coach John H. Mason walked off the job after a failed attempt to revitalize it, Major Dave Roberts assumed control of the team for the 1947-1948 season. Already on campus as the school's ROTC officer, Roberts was willing to work for the love of the sport and did not receive a salary from the school.

Roberts succeeded where Mason had failed and was able to gather plenty of swimmers together to field a team. The new 22 man group composed of mostly novices practiced at the newly renovated pool for an hour and 45 minutes five days a week. His tenure was fairly unremarkable. He never coached the Orediggers to a win going 0-5-1 in dual meets and finishing his time with a lackluster 2nd place finish at the 1949 RMC Championships.

Coach, Major Roberts (1949)



After the season Roberts was relieved of his station. He was reassigned to Monterey, California where he attended the Army Language School there before being transferred to Bolivia. His replacement was another military man: Major James Gray.

If the Mines swim team's performance was poor under Roberts, it was even worse under new management. They didn't have a single swimmer of note and were without a doubt the worst team in the lowly RMC. At the end of the season championship their small seven man squad finished in dead last behind UNC and Colorado College.

The Orediggers were originally supposed to square off against Colorado in the Buffs home opener on Friday, January 18th. But Coach Gray dialed up Coach Balch asked to reschedule the meet to January 30th for reasons unknown. Doc obliged and they met two weeks later instead.

Knowing that the Mines swim team was of an even lesser caliber than Colorado State and Northern Colorado, they just annihilated. Coach Balch decided to spice things up a little. Allowing a handful of swimmers to experiment in different events outside of their comfort zone.

Most notably Hugh Berger took to the heights of the diving board for the first and only time in his career. Despite his inexperience he actually held his own and was just 12 points worse than Baumgartner. Speaking of Baumgartner he had his best outing of the year getting second place against Mines' Roth as only four points separated him from his first victory of the season.

Another event mixup was Stan Black abandoning his backstroke swim. In his first two years he had swam in breaststroke in every meet until this one. He elected to dabble in some distance freestyle instead. His swim was nothing spectacular as he finished second behind distance stalwart Knutzen's 5:58.3.



Mines Swimmers in Action (1950)

With Black out of the breaststroke that allowed for a couple of less notable swimmers to slide into the spotlight. Taking first in his absence was sophomore Louis Walstrom. The Denver native had been Black's unheralded sidekick throughout the year, occasionally getting third place in meets. He was much, much slower than Black. His winning time was 2:49.7 which is nearly 17 seconds slower than Black's best time. Walstrom beat another Buffs reserve, Stanley Hayes. It would be the only time that Hayes scored points in a meet.

The last major alteration to the normal swimming lineup was in the 100 freestyle. Bowers swam the 50 freestyle as normal, and was once again just tenths of seconds behind Daniel's record mark. After which he stayed on the pool deck for the 100 freestyle. Allowing Art Daman to be the man.

Although we have not talked too much about Daman up until this point he was a critical part of the 1950's team success. A sprint freestyler by trade he mainly swam the 100 and 220 freestyle and regularly got valuable second place points. He wasn't half bad as the leading man getting first place with a time of 1:01. Definitely not good enough to win at most meets but plenty good enough against the Orediggers.

Outside of individual event changes Coach Balch once again ran out a different medley relay. This was the 5th different combination in as many meets. This pairing saw Harbaugh retake the backstroke spot and Bob Heim anchor the race as the freestyler, but the biggest change was Andrew Riker in the breaststroke. Buried on the depth chart behind Black and Walstrom, he never saw action in the 200 breaststroke. By all accounts this was not the A-Squad, this was a B-Squad. The three alternates combined for the team's worst medley relay time of the season with a 3:26.8 a whole 15 seconds slower than the team's best.

The freestyle relay didn't get the same treatment as Doc kept the starting four together as they racked up yet another win, albeit at a slower pace than normal. The other events that stayed the same were 220 freestyle and 100 backstroke with Kiley and Pickens both adding additional gold medals to their collections.

When it all was over, even with the antics, the Buffs had secured their third straight blowout. It was the first time since the team had won three in a row since the first three meets they won to start the 1947 season. For the first time in years the vibes were immaculate. This was the best the team had been since they dominated the RMC. Unfortunately, they no longer resided in the RMC. They were an M.V.I.A.A. school now. And that meant that the good times were about to come to a halt as they turned to face off against a confident Oklahoma 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>Total</i>
<i>Mines</i>	3	1	1	5	4	3	1	1	4	23
<i>Colorado</i>	6	8	8	4	5	6	8	8	8	61

Okla. 53, Colorado 30, Wyoming 15 - Feb 4, 1950

For the first time since 1941 the Buffs participated in a triangular meet as they hosted both Wyoming and Oklahoma in Boulder. You might think that their opponents could not have been more dissimilar. The Sooners were conference contenders, while the Cowboys were a middle of the pack Skyline team, but both teams were stocked with their share of elite talent.

Oklahoma brought back their brilliant backstrokers Edson McCloskey and Elvin Crowder along with top freestylers Wayne Clergen and Walter Farr. Wyoming, still coached by Coach Stroup while lacking in depth, possessed a pair of national level swimmers. Both Jim Nolan and Marcus Hodges represented Wyoming at their first NCAA swimming meet in 1949. Neither scored points, but Nolan placed ninth in the mile and Hodges was fifth in his 150 yard backstroke heat.



Wyoming's Jim Nolan (1950)

Both Wyoming and Oklahoma got their seasons off to a later start than the Buffs. Entering this meet they had each competed in just one meet. The Sooners lone result was a 40-35 win against Texas A&M, while the Cowboys got second place in a different triangular against Denver and Colorado A&M. They were supposed to have a meet against Colorado College, but that competition was cut short as the Tigers were forced to forfeit the meet 9-0 after their swimmers reported as out of condition due to fighting a wildfire near Colorado Springs.

Overall the Buffs stacked up favorably against their guests, their combination of freestyle and stroke talent meant that they should beat Wyoming. The question was if they had enough depth to usurp Oklahoma who beat them by 44 last year.

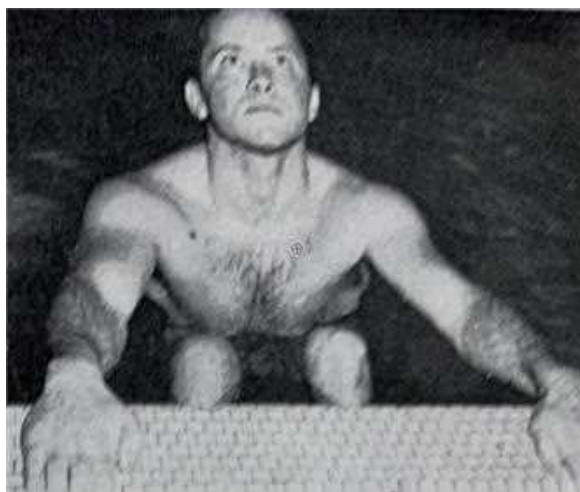
The meet started off in a disappointing fashion for the Buffs. For the first since their opening meet the medley were outgunned. A talented Sooners squad splashed by them with a time of 3:09. Kiley was solid in the 220 freestyle outdueling a pair of Oklahoma swimmers, but fell short of first as the Cowboys' Nolan scooped up the victory. His time of 2:33.4 was nothing special by Kiley's standard, he had actually swam faster than 2:33 on several occasions this season. Unfortunately he was not able to replicate his regular excellence. As a result, Nolan became the first Wyoming swimmer to beat a Buff in a freestyle event since Christansen took home the 220 and 440 freestyle in a 1941 dual meet.

For reasons unknown Bowers did not compete in the 50 freestyle allowing the Sooner Cold to walk away with an easy win in the event. You could say that Cold had ice in his veins. Until the week of the meet he had not participated in a single workout with the team. A couple of days earlier he touched water for the first time against Texas A&M and bolted a 24.6. He was even better against CU ripping off a 24.3 that would have left Bowers in the dust had he competed. Instead the Buffs entered Jim Berry and Bob Heim in the event. The best of the two was Berry, an unremarkable 220 freestyler in 1949, who got second place in his only swim of the season.

Diving was no more disastrous than normal. The Buffs once again failed to get better than third place. After having Berger experiment on the boards against Mines, Doc brought out another green volunteer in Harbaugh. The result was unremarkable- he finished in fourth place.

Finally in the 100 freestyle the Buffs had a breakthrough as their ace Bowers outpaced the Sooner's Fair with a 57.3. Stan Black was similarly excellent carving up the water for yet another victory. They would be the only triumphs in a sea of defeat for Colorado though.

The brilliant backstroke brothers of Oklahoma: McCloskey and Crowder double teamed an overmatched Perkins in the backstroke. McCloskey was the best of the twin billing, but his presence on the team had been in doubt until recently. The defending conference champion in the backstroke had damaged cartilage in his knee over Christmas and was expected by doctors to be out until at least March. But, in early February the knee was deemed sound enough to compete. A pleasant surprise for Coach Glander who would have sorely missed having his top weapon at his disposal.



McCloskey (OU)

The last two freestyle events were unexceptional for Colorado. Wyoming's Nolan capped the afternoon with his second freestyle victory in the 440 freestyle, as Knutzen took fourth. And then a group of the Buffs top swimmers got second place in the relay to conclude the meet.

Once the results were tabulated Colorado was decidedly middle of the pack. With their normally strong freestyle neutralized points were harder to come by. In traditional scoring the result of the meet was Oklahoma in first place with 53 points followed by Colorado with 30 and Wyoming with 15.

But, since the meet was technically a double dual meet that meant the score converted to one win and one loss for Colorado: a 55-20 loss to Oklahoma and 53-31 win against Wyoming.

Colorado College 19, Colorado 64 - Feb 18, 1950

After a grueling triangular packed with talent, the Buffs got a reprieve with another sub-par RMC team. This week's victim was Colorado College. Colorado had already blown out the best and worst team in the league, so it was a foregone conclusion that this would be a cake walk.

It was the first time that CU had ever competed against Colorado College. Which isn't exactly surprising given that the Tigers had only possessed a team since 1940. In a tale as old as time, the inaugural team equipped with no pool of their own had to make due with the best that they could find. Luckily for them they didn't have to look far for a venue. Just 11 minutes down the road from campus was the world famous Broadmoor Resort and Hotel within which was a small pool. Built in 1918 it wasn't up to snuff with most college teams, but it would do.

The Broadmoor Pool



First time EVER playing CC! Here is their 1950 team (yearbook)



I searched far and wide but couldn't find any results. It's because neither CU nor CC's yearbooks are on newspapers.com or coloradohistorical.

- Entering the meet, CC was 3-1. They had beat WYO, UNC and MINES but lost to DU.
- CU was similarly 3-1-1 entering the meet
- Yearbook states CU won all but 2 events and placed at least 2nd in all of them.

Kansas 29, Colorado 55 - Feb 25, 1950

Once again no results. Here is a photo of stan black, the MVP of the season.



There were two new varsity records set at this meet. Bowers 56.6 in the 100 free and the 400 free team composed of hein, riley, bond and bowers
Kansas scored 1st in a single event

MVIAA Championships - Mar 10 - 11, 1950



Colorado 400 Freestyle Relay Team (Stan Black, Bruce Bowers, Bob Bond, Bob Pickens)

The 1950 MVIAA Swimming Championship was the largest in its history. It was also perhaps the greatest swimming event to ever sweep the midwest at the time.

For Roger Watts of Iowa State, it was his time to shine. By March 5th, 1950, he had broken 70 Iowa State swimming records, six conference records, and a fair share of relay records. Ironically, he still hadn't lettered. Russ Dickinson, ISU coach, stated that Watts was more than just a swimmer, he was a leader and coach too. Watts has helped provide an edge to Cyclone backstrokers. Watts opened the meet with a new conference record in the 1500 meter freestyle at 20:34.7, knocking Wayne Clergen's (OU) 21:39.5 off the board.

Colorado brought eleven swimmers and divers to Norman Oklahoma that weekend. They were: Bob Pickens, Stanley Black, Bruce Bowers, Bob Heim, Bob Bond, Hugh Berger, Gene Kiley, Ernest Knutzen, Art Damon, Bruce Whitlock and Charles Harbaugh. Overall, Black scored ten points for Colorado, the most of any Buff for the meet. Black was the only CU swimmer to place first in any event: the 100 breaststroke at 1:07.0. Kiley, Bowers and Bond also brought in a handful of points across various events.

Colorado's relays generally performed well. Each one finished in third place, accounting for almost half of the total points for the Buffs.

For the first time since 1939, the championship was held in Norman, home of the University of Oklahoma. That very year, the Sooners placed 2nd, a distant 31 points behind Iowa State. That lone second place was the highest Oklahoma had ever placed at the MVIAA. That was, until last year in 1949 when the Sooners came within 16 points of the victorious Cyclones.

Now, back in Norman, the Sooners weren't about to let another home pool advantage slip away. For all they knew, it could have been years for another championship meet to take place in Oklahoma.

Initially, it didn't look good. After the Friday night finals, Iowa State was ahead 51-41. Oklahoma had placed a measly 4th place in the 400 free relay, with Iowa State winning the event. Iowa State broke their own record in the relay, setting a new mark at 3:38.4 compared to 3:40.1 in 1949.

It's hard to pinpoint what happened that night, but Sooner Coach Joe Glander must have given the biggest pep talk to his swimmers. By Saturday morning

prelims, the Sooners looked like a different team. In four different events, three Oklahoma men made finals, the most of any team.

Throughout Saturday night finals, Oklahoma kept chipping away at the lead, winning the 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, 440 freestyle, 150 individual medley, and tying in the 3 meter diving. With nothing but the relay on the horizon, Oklahoma was down 88-85.

It's also worth noting that the MVIAA issued a slight scoring change compared to the 1949 meet. Last year, relays were scored on a 10-8-6-4-2 standing. In 1950, it was changed to 12-8-6-4-2. All thanks to the new scoring, this meant that they needed first place in the relay to clinch the championship.

The Sooner relay was composed of rookie Elvin Crowder, Bill Sioger and Walter Farr. Sioger and Farr had their fair share of good races, but Crowder was already riding high on a victory in both the 100 and 150 backstrokes. It was a lethal start to the relay, one that Iowa State couldn't hope to match.

With Crowder leading the relay, the Sooner men stayed several feet ahead of the Cyclones for the entire race. When Farr hit the finish and the timers hit their stopwatches, there wasn't any doubt who the new champions of the MVIAA were. The relay swam in 3:07.2, a new conference record and two seconds faster than the previous record set by Iowa State in last year's conference.

When the dust settled, a plethora of conference records were shattered. Malcolm Schmidt lowered the 100 freestyle to :53.8, breaking his own :54.2 set the prior year. The oldest record to fall was George Halderman's 200 breaststroke, a time of 2:33.4 set in 1938. Twelve years later, that Iowa State record fell to 2:32.3 by a performance by Bob Thatcher set in preliminaries. While Thatcher would go on to win the 200 breast in finals, it was with a slower time, so the preliminary record stood.

The 50 freestyle was churned down to 23.7 by Bob Brown in prelims and Elvin Crowder lowered his own record in the 150 backstroke from 1:42.6 to 1:42.4.



Crowder (OU)

Meet Line Score

	OU	ISU	UNL	CU	KU
1500 Meters.....	7	6	x	x	2
50 Free.....	2	9	5	x	x
150 Back.....	10	6	x	x	x
220 Free.....	5	10	x	1	x
200 Breast.....	9	3	x	4	x
1 Meter Dive.....	4	5	6	x	1
400 Free Relay.....	4	12	8	6	2
100 Back.....	10	5	1	x	x
100 Breast.....	8	2	x	6	x
100 Free.....	x	13	1 ½	1 ½	x
440 Free.....	9	7	x	x	x
150 Indv. Medley.....	11	4	x	1	x
3 Meter Fancy Dive.....	6	6	4	x	x
300 Medley Relay.....	12	8	4	6	2
Total.....	97	96	29 ½	25 ½	7

MVIAA Conference Records

(after 1950 season) (25 yard pools only)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
50 Yard Freestyle	Bob Brown	Iowa State	:23.7	1950
100 Yard Freestyle	Malcolm Schmidt	Iowa State	:53.8	1950
220 Yard Freestyle	Roger Watts	Iowa State	2:15.4	1949
440 Yard Freestyle	Roger Watts	Iowa state	4:56.0	1949
1500 Meter Freestyle	Roger Watts	Iowa State	20:06.2	1949
100 Yard Backstroke	Elvin Crowder	Oklahoma	1:03.5	1950
150 Yard Backstroke	Elvin Crowder	Oklahoma	1:42.4	1950
100 Yard Breaststroke	Stan Black	Colorado	1:07.0	1950
200 Yard Breaststroke	Bob Thatcher	Oklahoma	2:32.3	1950
150 Yard I.M.	Don McCloskey	Oklahoma	1:41.1	1949
300 Yard Medley Relay	E. Crowder, B. Sloger, W. Farr	Oklahoma	3:07.2	1950
400 Yard Freestyle Relay	R. Kullman, E. LaBerge, M. Schmidt, B. Brown	Iowa State	3:38.4	1950

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1950

	Nebraska	Iowa St.	Colorado A&M	Mines	Wyo-Okla.	Colo. Col.	Kansas U.	M.V.I.A.A. Meet	Finished Season 1st Yr. (X), 2nd Yr. (XX), etc.
*Baumgartner, J. C.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	XX
*Berger, Hugh	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	X	XXX
*Black, Stanley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
*Bond, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Bowers, Bruce	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XXX
Cunningham, Kenneth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
*Damon, Arthur	0	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	XX
*Harbaugh, Charles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hays, Stanley	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	X
*Heim, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Kiley, Eugene	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Knutzen, Ernest	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Pickens, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
Riker, Andrew	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0	X
*Walstrom, Louis	0	0	X	X	0	X	X	0	X
Whitlock, Bruce	0	0	X	X	0	X	X	0	X

*Letterman

1950-1951 Season

Record

5-2

Head Coach

Roland "Doc" Balch



Name	Event	Height	Weight	Age	Class	Letters
Jerry Baumgartner	Sprints	--	--	--	--	--
Hugh Berger	Sprints, Ind. Med.	5-11	170	23	SR	2
Jim Berry	220-440	6-3	170	22	SR	2
Stan Black	Breast	6-2	180	20	SR	2
Bob Bond	Sprints, Ind. Med.	5-9	155	20	JR	1
Neil Broderson	Diving	5-8	150	22	SO	0
Bob Campbell	220-440	5-10	165	20	JR	0
Roscoe Champion	220	6-0	165	20	JR	0
Art Daman	Sprints	6-1	180	22	SR	1
Tom Duesterberg	Diving	5-9	170	25	SR	1
Charles Harbaugh	Back, Manager	6-2	170	22	JR	1
Mel Heffelman	220-440	5-11	180	20	JR	0
Bob Heim	Sprints	5-10	145	20	JR	1
Gene Kiley	Sprints, 220	5-10	160	20	JR	1
Jim Seegers	Back	5-11	160	21	SR	1
Bud Walstrom	Breast, Ind. Med.	5-11	175	20	JR	1
Stan Weston	Breast	5-11	160	19	SO	0
Bruce Whitlock	--	--	--	--	--	--

Wyoming Relays - Dec 2, 1950

CU nearly made a clean sweep of the Wyoming relays, winning six of seven events for first place. Only the diving was lost to Colorado State, who came in second overall. Denver and Northern Colorado also participated, but didn't produce any noteworthy results. Coach Balch stated "We are strong for this time of the season," and had been training his team since Monday, October 16.

Colorado State finished second in both freestyle relays and finished third in the distance and stroke medley relays. *"...and in the stroke medley all three of the top teams finished within split seconds of each other."*

As an interesting aside, several relays were measured in feet instead of yards. Instead of the 400 yard freestyle relay, event 1 was an 800 foot freestyle relay. CU took first in the 400 foot freestyle relay at 1:03.2. A new varsity record was set in the 2000 foot medley distance relay, with Daman, Berry, Berger and Kiley swimming the event in 7:48.5. The previous record was set in the December 1949 Wyoming relays.

These are possibly one of the most pointless records of all time. The reasoning was that Half Acre Pool was 100 feet long. Wyoming's head coach Jim Nolan was put in a tough situation and split half of the relays into feet and yards.

Colorado 45, Colorado St 30 - Jan 12, 1951

Twelve points in the relay events were what essentially decided the first meet of the season against Colorado State. The Rams showed strong performances in the freestyle events and won five of the seven individual events.

Outside of the relays, CU's only victories came from the 25 year old Duesterberg in the diving and the backstroker, Harbaugh. Daman anchored both the 270 medley and 360 freestyle relays, allowing CU to start 1-0 on the season.

Stan Black, the 1950 100 breaststroke conference champion, "... was defeated in the Buff's try against

Colorado A&M, for the third straight year. Don Evans of the Aggies has blanked Black in every meeting of the pair," in the 200 breaststroke.



Jim Seegers, Art Daman, Stan Black (CU 300 Medley Relay)

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Colorado St	0	5	5	4	5	k1	5	5	0	30
Colorado	6	4	4	5	4	8	4	4	6	45

Northern CO 25, Colorado 59 - Jan 20, 1951

The Bears were fresh off of a victory against Denver in a dual meet the previous week. They showed considerable strength in the distance and sprint freestyle events. The Buffs, on the other hand, had most of their talent in the relays.

As predicted, CU won both relays and won a majority of the events. Despite early season predictions of a strong UNC team, the Bears performed somewhat unremarkably in the freestyle. The only exception was Dan Hurd who won the 50 freestyle at 25.5.

Harbaugh, the veteran backstroker from North Denver, won his 2nd start in the 200 back. Since that was a new event this year, his 2:31.3 against UNC became a new Buff varsity record automatically.

CU started out strong, with a season best 3:12.2 in the 300 medley relay. Once it became apparent that UNC wasn't going to win the meet, the Buffs cruised through the remaining events. Black only turned in a 2:42.0 in the 200 breaststroke, as opposed to his

season best 2:32.0 in 1950. The 360 free relay was won with a time 20 seconds slower than the week prior against CSU.

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>Total</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>59</i>

Mines 18, Colorado 65 - Jan 16, 1951

On January 16, Colorado's defeated Mines by a record 47 point margin. For the second year in a row, Mines was seriously hampered by a lack of swimmers. The Goldiggers were forced to forfeit the diving and swam only one swimmer in a majority of events.



Chuck Harbaugh (CU)

CU swept to first place in every single event. It was a statement that secured a 3-0 start to CU's season, their best start since 1947.

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>Total</i>
<i>Mines</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>65</i>

Colorado 66, Wyoming 9 - Jan 27, 1951

Colorado won first and second in nearly every event. Only Wyoming's Blessing's second place finish in the 200 breast provided the Cowboys with something other than a binary digit on the scoreboard.



Jim Seegers (CU)

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>9</i>

Nebraska 37, Colorado 47 - Feb 2, 1951

In all of Colorado swimming history, there have only been three years where the team started off 5-0: 1929, 1938 and 1939. The commonality between those years? They were all at the start of a new dynasty for the Buff swim team in a new conference.

CU's victory over Nebraska added 1951 to the list of those signature years. Heralded by the now seasoned Coach Balch, it would be reasonable to assume that the next dynasty was upon Boulder.

However, like all statistics, the data cannot be analyzed in a vacuum. The reality was that in 1951, Colorado comparatively faced much weaker teams than those in 1938 or 1929. Mines was on the cusp of falling apart, Wyoming and Northern Colorado barely

fielded the minimum number of swimmers, and Colorado State was swimming through the motions. The first quality win of 1951 arguably didn't come until February against the conference opponent Nebraska.

On the other hand, one could contend that 1951 was the greatest season Colorado had ever experienced. In a matchup with any previous CU team that had started 5-0, the 1951 team could easily defeat them. In just 15 years, swimming technique had advanced dramatically, and collegiate swimmers in the 1950s were displaying times that were far faster than those in the 1920s or 1930s. Colorado also played in a conference that was far more competitive.

The Cornhuskers have been Colorado's hottest current swim rival. Nebraska "...nosed Colorado out of third place in the conference meet last year, 29 ½ to 25 ½ despite the razor-thin 42-42 tie which the two squads racked up in a dual meet in Lincoln earlier..."



Coach Balch; 1950 Capt. Stan Black; 1951 Capt. Hugh Burger

It was the first series of meets for Nebraska this year. They faced Denver on Thursday the 1st, Colorado on Friday the 2nd and Wyoming on Saturday the 3rd.

Colorado played their cards well. While the Doc gave his swimmers priority in the distance freestyles, Balch allowed the Cornhuskers to take the sprint freestyles and diving. Colorado won by ten points thanks to a sweep of the relay events and crucial finishes from Black and Weston in the 200 breaststroke. Nebraska's Ted Kanamine won both the 50 and 100 freestyle, setting a new pool record in the

100, erasing the old record by Iowa State's Mal Schmidt in 1949.

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>Total</i>
<i>Nebraska</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>47</i>

Colorado 24, Oklahoma 59 - Feb 10, 1951

Riding high on their latest 5-0 start, the Doc took eleven men to Norman, Oklahoma to face the defending conference champions. As the underdogs, it would take a miracle to keep their undefeated season afloat.

Unfortunately for Balch's swimmers, they never stood a chance. Oklahoma completed a clean sweep of every race, amassing 59 points to Colorado's 24.

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Oklahoma</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>59</i>

Iowa State 58, Colorado 26 - Feb 17, 1951

There would be no respite for Colorado. Iowa State had compiled one of the finest collegiate swim teams in the nation.

Bob Brown, a swimmer with the Cyclones, broke the world record in the 60-yard freestyle just seven days earlier. His blistering time of :27.3 was two tenths faster than the record of :27.5 set in 1945 by Yale's Alan Ford. Brown was the 1950 MVIAA champion in the 50 freestyle and finished second in the 100 freestyle.

Accompanying Brown and the Cyclone team to Boulder was elite backstroker Lee Anderson. At the time of the February 17 meet against Colorado, Anderson held the NCAA record in the 200 backstroke at 2:17.5.

This would be the final meet before the conference.
 Colorado's duel with Kansas was canceled due to
 pool repairs in Lawrence.

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>Total</i>
<i>Iowa St</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>26</i>

MVIAA Championships - Mar 9 - 10, 1951



Colorado 400 Freestyle Relay Team (Bob Heim, Art Daman, Gene Kiley, Bob Bond)

Matt, feel free to write about this. This was one of the meets you spent a lot of time on.

Meet Line Score

	<i>ISU</i>	<i>OU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>CU</i>
<i>1500 Meters.....</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>60 Free.....</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Back.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>220 Free.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Breast.....</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>1 Meter Dive.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>400 Free Relay.....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive.....</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>100 Back.....</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>100 Breast.....</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>100 Free.....</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>440 Free.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>120 Indv. Medley.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>300 Medley Relay.....</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>26</i>

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1951

	Colorado A&M	C.S.C	Colorado Mines	Wyoming Univ.	Nebraska Univ.	Oklahoma Univ.	Iowa State College	M.V.I.A.A. Meet	Total Meets Participated	Finished Season 1st Yr. (X), 2nd Yr. (XX), etc.
Baumgartner, J. C.	X	0	X	X	0	0	0	0	3	XXX
*Berger, Hugh	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XXXX
*Berry, James	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XXX
*Bond, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XX
*Black, Stanley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XXX
Campbell, Robert	0	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	2	X
Champion, Roscoe	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	1	X
*Daman, Arthur	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XXX
*Duesterberg, Tom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	7	XX
*Harbaugh, Chas.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XX
*Heffelman, Malcolm	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	6	X
*Heim, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XX
*Kiley, Gene	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	XX
*Seegers, Jim	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	X
*Walstrom, Louis	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	X	2	XX
*Weston, Stan	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	7	X
Whitlock, Bruce	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	1	XX

*Letterman

CU Varsity and CU Pool Swimming Records - End of 1951

Colorado Varsity Records (25 Yards Only)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
50 Yard Freestyle	Harold Daniels	:25.0	1942
100 Yard Freestyle	Bruce Bowers	:56.6	1950
220 Yard Freestyle	Hugh Berger	2:25.0	1951
440 Yard Freestyle	Mal Heffelman	5:23.8	1951
200 Yard Backstroke	Chuck Harbaugh	2:29.3	1951
100 Yard Breaststroke	Stan Black	1:05.0	1951
200 Yard Breaststroke	Stan Black	2:32.0	1950
150 Yard I.M.	Bob Bond	1:47.0	1950
300 Yard Medley Relay	C. Harbaugh, S. Black, B. Bond	3:06.0	1951
400 Yard Freestyle Relay	B. Heim, A. Damon, G. Kiley, B. Bond	3:48.2	1951

Colorado Pool Records (25 Yards Only)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Year</u>
50 Yard Freestyle	Ed LaBerge,	Iowa State,	:24.2	1949
	Cold	Oklahoma	:24.2	1950
100 Yard Freestyle	Ted Kanamine	Nebraska	:55.5	1951
220 Yard Freestyle	Roger Watts	Iowa State	2:20.0	1949
440 Yard Freestyle	Jim Nolan	Wyoming	5:16.0	1950
200 Yard Backstroke	Balderson	Nebraska	2:31.1	1951
200 Yard Breaststroke	Stan Black	Colorado	2:33.9	1950
300 Yard Medley Relay	Crowder, Thatcher, Farr	Oklahoma	3:09.8	1950
400 Yard Freestyle Relay	Smith, Kullman, Schmidt, LaBerge	Iowa State	3:46.6	1949

Colorado Varsity & Pool Records (All Distances)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Varsity</u> <u>25 Yards</u>	<u>Varsity</u> <u>20 Yards</u>	<u>Pool</u> <u>25 Yards</u>	<u>Conference</u> <u>25 Yards</u>	<u>Conference</u> <u>20 Yards</u>
50 Yard Freestyle	:25.0	--	:24.0	:23.7	--
60 Yard Freestyle	--	--	--	--	:27.7
100 Yard Freestyle	:56.6	--	:52.3	:53.8	:51.3
220 Yard Freestyle	2:26.3	--	2:20.0	2:15.4	2:13.3
440 Yard Freestyle	5:34.1	--	5:16.0	4:56.0	4:54.6
1500 Meter Freestyle	--	--	--	20:06.2	20:49.6
100 Yard Backstroke	--	--	--	1:03.5	1:02.0
200 Yard Backstroke	2:31.3	--	2:28.4	--	2:19.0
100 Yard Breaststroke	1:07.0	1:05.0	--	1:07.0	1:05.0
200 Yard Breaststroke	2:32.0	2:32.4	2:33.9	2:32.3	2:26.1
150 Yard I.M.	1:47.0	--	--	1:41.1	--
120 Yard I.M.	--	--	--	--	1:14.8
300 Yard Medley Relay	3:09.9	--	3:06.4	3:07.2	3:01.5
400 Yard Freestyle Relay	3:49.1	--	3:37.6	3:38.4	3:32.5

1951-1952 Season

Record
5-3

Head Coach
Howard "Doc" Waite

Team Roster

Niel Broderson	Robert Campbell
Roscoe Champion	Jack Chapman
John Crancer	Reggie Darley
Robert Davis	Harold Donnelly
John Ferguson	Charles Harbaugh
Mal Heffelman	McDonald
Pete Mayo	Jack O'Donnell
Jerry Raveling	Lee Venzke
Louis Walstrom	Jack Watson
Robert Watson	William Yowell



Wyoming Relays - Dec 1, 1951

The '51 iteration of the Wyoming relays began at 7:30 PM in the Half Acre Pool in Laramie. This relay meet has a small piece in history, marking the first time a non Wyoming or Colorado team won.

Denver fought to a narrow 1st place, winning half of the events. Don Brown, a DU freestyler, was shaping up to be the fastest swimmer the Skyline Conference had ever seen.



Chuck Harbaugh (CU)

It was the first time Colorado had shared a pool with Denver in nearly five years. A lot had changed since then, and the Pioneers would go on to win the Skyline Conference by a 75-74 point margin over the Aggies.

Wyoming 45, Colorado 48 - Jan 18, 1952

Colorado and Wyoming tied at the relay meet a month prior. Their next confrontation nearly resulted in the same outcome. A miraculous sweep in the 440 free at the end of the meet by Heffelman and Ferguson prevented the Cowboys from taking the lead.

It wasn't the prettiest meet for CU. The competition had to be swam in the women's pool as Carlson had begun to deteriorate. The women's pool had been kept in much better shape, and the team began shifting their swim meets there as early as 1942. While practices were still held in the men's pool, the University had no plans to renovate the now 28 year old men's pool.

Former 1948 head coach Keith Hartzell and 1950 star Bruce Bowers were volunteers at the meet, with

Bowers providing the announcing and Hartzell serving as the official starter.

Colorado won by a slim 3 point margin, narrowly surpassing Wyoming in the final three events. Bill West of Wyoming was the top swimmer for the 'Pokes; he placed on the Cowboys' winning 400 freestyle relay squad in addition to winning the 100 and 50 freestyles.

Ed Weidenhamer put the Cowboys on the record board, setting a new pool record in the 150 IM at 1:50.1.

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>	6	3	8	5	1	5	5	3	1	8	45
<i>Colorado</i>	3	6	1	4	8	4	4	6	8	4	48

Colorado 63, Northern CO 30 - Jan 19, 1952

Colorado swam a rather forgettable meet against the Teachers, winning eight of ten events. Heffelman contributed to two of the first place finishes, pulling ahead of the competition in the 440 and 220 freestyles with times of 6:11.7 and 2:31.5 respectively.

The other Buffs to join the winning circle were Donnelly in the 150 medley, Broderson in the diving and the Watson brothers in the 200 backstroke and breaststroke.

Northern Colorado was unremarkable, aside from Hurd cleaning up in the sprint freestyles. Colorado was now on track for another 5 win season, but had yet to face any MVIAA teams yet.

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	6	4	8	6	3	8	6	8	8	63
<i>Northern CO</i>	3	3	5	1	3	6	1	3	1	4	30

Colorado St 40.5, Colorado 52.5 - Feb 2, 1952

Things were grim for the 1952 Aggie team. Coach Tompkins was faced with a tough rebuild of the team

and a difficult schedule, with Nebraska and Kansas being added for home and away meets.

Now facing a thirteen meet schedule instead of the usual nine, the Aggies traveled to Boulder to face a Buff team that was swimming above replacement level.

Or at least, that's what Coach Tompkins thought.

Turns out, the team had been busy being trained by Coach Balch. At 2:28.1, Roscoe Champion achieved the team's fastest time of the season and the immediate champion of the 220 freestyle. With unexpected wins in the 50 free and diving events, Venzke, the football quarterback for the Buffs, added ten points to the team score in a remarkable demonstration of versatility.

Despite being besieged with the flu for most of the week, Heffelman got reshuffled into the 100 freestyle and proceeded to tie the varsity record set by Bruce Bowers in 1951. His time was 56.6. He also anchored the Buff's winning medley relay team.

It was a resounding victory for Colorado, one that brought the season record to 3-0. It served as a sobering reminder to the Aggies that their thin roster would not support them in dual meets.

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>	3	4	3	5.5	1	4	1	3	8	8	40.5
<i>Colorado</i>	6	5	6	3.5	8	5	8	6	1	4	52.5

Colorado 44, Kansas 49

Colorado 37, Nebraska 55 - Feb 8, 1952

The 1952 schedule included a double duel event in the Nebraska Coliseum against two MVIAA opponents. It was a trip that Balch and his swimmers found themselves unprepared for. The result of the meet was a dual loss for Colorado, bringing their record on the season down to 3-2.

Against Kansas, the score continuously flip flopped throughout the races. Colorado beat KU in the 300 medley relay and Roscoe Champion opened up the

individual races by championing in the 220 free. Kansas' John Ashley followed with a resounding 25.8 victory in the 50 free and Kansas divers swept the boards.

CU gradually took back the lead but choked the meet away by allowing Kansas to win the 400 freestyle relay.

CU's meet against Nebraska was in far less contention. The Cornhuskers got off to a slow start, finishing only four points ahead of the Buffs after the diving. Nebraska then swept the remaining five events in a row, cruising to an eighteen point margin by the end of the meet.

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	5	5	2	5	4	1	4	4	4	37
<i>Nebraska</i>	6	4	4	7	3	5	5	8	5	8	55

Colorado 23, Iowa St 70 - Feb 9, 1952

Following a disastrous double dual, CU continued their road trip in the MVIAA conference with a meet against Iowa State the following day.

To understand how outclassed CU was at this meet, The Courier states that Iowa State Coach Jack McGuire was trying to crack the national 300 medley relay record.

By 1952, the record was held by Yale with a time of 2:50.7. NCAA backstroke record holder Lee Anderson, freshman NCAA breaststroke record holder Mike LaMair, and NCAA 60 and 100 freestyle record holder Bob Brown made up the state relay squad.

Ultimately, the relay fell 3 seconds short, swimming the race in 2:53.6. However, it was far from the only meet record that fell. New records were established in races not previously contested between the Cyclones and Buffs: the 120 individual medley and 200 backstroke.

The 100 freestyle meet record was lowered to 54.2 by Bill Patterson on ISU. The previous record of 54.4

was held by another ISU swimmer: Mal Schmidt back in 1950.

The final record to fall wiped away former Buff swimmer Stan Black's 2:31.9 in the 200 breaststroke. By the end of the meet, that record belonged to Cyclone swimmer Tom Maine who swam the event in a crushing 2:26.1.

For Iowa State, it was their 24th consecutive victory in MVIAA Conference dual 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>Colorado</i>	3	4	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	4	23
<i>Iowa St</i>	6	5	8	8	6	5	8	8	8	8	70

Nebraska 46, Colorado 47 - Feb 14, 1952

Now 3-3 on the season, Colorado had just two meets left in Boulder against two familiar opponents: Kansas and Nebraska. Balch put his team to work and spent a week tuning them up for the rematches. Bruce Bowers returned to announce the meet held in the women's pool.

Nebraska was quietly becoming Colorado's latest rival. In 1950 and 1951, UNL finished less than five points ahead of CU at both conference meets. While Nebraska mostly stayed dominant in the dual meets, there was a hunger to beat them among certain Buff swimmers.

One of those swimmers was football quarterback, freestyle sprinter and ace diver Lee Venzke, who won the 50 freestyle and diving event against the Cornhuskers. The Watson brothers also swam above replacement level in the 200 backstroke and breaststroke.



Lee Venzke (CU)

On the other hand, Roscoe Champion dropped the ball in the 220 freestyle, allowing UNL swimmers to sweep the event with a time slower than what Champion swam in Lincoln a week prior.

Following a sweep by Watson and Walstrom in the 200 breaststroke, Colorado was up a convincing 40-32 with only two events remaining. The Buffs nearly choked by losing the relay, but when the dust settled, Colorado was one point above Nebraska in the biggest upset in recent team history.

Nebraska would go on to face Colorado State the following day and drop a similarly agonizing 48-45 meet against the Rams.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Nebraska	3	8	4	5	1	4	6	1	6	8	46
Colorado	6	1	5	4	8	5	3	8	3	4	47

Kansas 40, Colorado 53 - Feb 23, 1952

Colorado kept its home record perfect at four straight with a win against the Jayhawker swimmers to cap off their dual season. Overall, the Buffs finished the season 5-3 and dealt a piece of revenge for the earlier 49-44 defeat by the Jayhawks two weeks prior.

Colorado ace Mal Heffelman set a new varsity record in the 100 free and anchored the winning medley relay team. Heffelman tied the mark earlier in the season set by Bruce Bowers two years prior but

lowered the record by six tenths of a second against Kansas.



Mal Heffelman (CU)

The largest comeback occurred in diving, as Colorado won both of the top two spots after Kansas had taken top two in the prior meet.

In dual meets in 1952, only one team showed a decisive edge against Colorado: Iowa State. The Buffs avenged their defeats to Kansas and Nebraska by defeating both teams later in the season.

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Kansas	3	3	8	5	1	3	3	3	3	8	40
Colorado	6	6	1	4	8	6	6	6	6	4	53

MVIAA Championships - Mar 7 - 8, 1952



Hal Donnelly (CU)

Colorado began swimming at MVIAA championships beginning in 1948. Since then, they finished fourth place at every conference. This year was almost no different, with CU finishing tied for fourth with Kansas. It was a rather underwhelming meet for Coach Balch, who was hoping to at least be on par with Nebraska after recently defeating them in a dual meet.

For the first time, Buff swimmers participated in the 1650 freestyle. As John Ferguson, the Roscoe Champion, and Mal Heffelman represented Colorado in the distance event, there were more swimmers from Colorado than any other team. Heffelman was the fastest Buff, swimming the race in a respectable 22:13.6.

The 1650 was dominated by a new phenomenon: Graham Johnston from Oklahoma. The South African finished the race in a brisk 19:14.4, a full minute and a half faster than the winning 1951 time. Johnston

provided a key piece for the Sooners, who were keen on making sure 1950 wasn't a fluke.

The Buffs had zero swimmers participate in the 50 freestyle. Jack Watson and Bill Yowell raced together in the same heat in the 200 backstroke, with Jack Watson's 2:36.3 earning CU's second point of the meet.

Champion continued the momentum by finishing 5th in the 220 freestyle. Despite coming in behind a more formidable bunch of freestylers from Oklahoma and Nebraska, his time of 2:28.2 was almost a season best. The most notable man ahead of Champion was Jerry Desmond, a Husker swimmer who beat Champion in a photo finish after Champion had defeated Desmond in dual matches earlier in the year.

Not to be outdone by his brother, Bob Watson pulled in 5th place in the 200 breaststroke followed by Lee Venzke quarterbacking his way to 5th in the diving.



Bob Watson (CU)

The big flaw with the 1952 team was the lack of a strong 400 freestyle relay squad. The 400 freestyle relay had an atrocious 1-8 record in dual meets on the season. At the conference, the squad of Venske, Ferguson, Donnelly and Mayo placed a rather predictable last place.

Colorado swam much slower in the second half of the meet. After missing finals in the 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke and 100 freestyle, Heffelman and Champion brought life back to the team in the 440 freestyle, finishing fourth and fifth.

Mayo and Donnelly fought for sixth place in the 150 individual medley, but ultimately ended up at seventh and eighth. Venske followed a similar route, narrowly missing finals in the 3 meter diving; his 292.30 points placing him in eighth.

The Buff 300 medley relay team was a much more respectable 5-3 on the season. Yet this relay was the last event of the meet rather than the first. The exhausted Watson, Walstrom, and Heffelman capped off the meet with a last place, allowing Kansas to come back and tie CU.

While Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas battled it out for third place, Oklahoma succeeded in dethroning Iowa State for the conference title. Iowa State defeated Oklahoma 47-42 earlier in the season, and after retaking the championship in 1951, the Cyclones looked poised to go back to back.

Oklahoma was the only team since 1938 to push Iowa State off the MVIAA throne. They accomplished that feat in 1950 and pulled the trick again in 1952.

Unlike in 1950, the Sooners won the meet based on diving. In both the 1 and 3 meter contests, Dave Gallow and Earl Hallum placed in first and second respectively, compiling a 23 point margin ahead of the Cyclones, enough to decide the meet.

Remarkably, Graham Johnston and Dave Gallow were the only Sooner athletes to win any event. Even the Oklahoma relay teams were unable to place first. Oklahoma's deep team allowed them to finish in second and third for each Cyclone finish in first place.

Graham Johnston would go on to swim in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. Johnston didn't wear Sooner togs, but rather the Union of South Africa. Johnston qualified for the semi finals and placed 10th in the 400 freestyle, swimming the event in 4:45.5, thirteen seconds faster than his swim at the MVIAA.

Johnston did not qualify for finals in the 1500 meter freestyle but placed 17th with a time of 19:27.1, a time thirteen seconds slower than his MVIAA race.



Graham Johnston

Graham Johnston was inducted into numerous Hall of Fames after his career, including the International

Swimming Hall of Fame in 1952, the Texas Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame in 2009, the National Senior Games Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Huntsman World Senior Games Hall of Fame in 2012.

Excellent article about graham:

<https://www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/news/pas-sages-legendary-swimmer-graham-johnston-at-age-88/#:~:text=In%201952%20Graham%20was%20selected,scholarship%20at%20an%20American%20university.>



Swimming Stadium; 1952 Helsinki Olympics

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>UNL</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>KU</i>
<i>1500 Meters</i>	12	6	3	1	x
<i>50 Free</i>	7	14	x	x	1
<i>200 Back</i>	9	12	x	1	x
<i>220 Free</i>	11	6	3	2	x
<i>200 Breast</i>	8	12	x	2	x
<i>1 Meter Dive</i>	15	1	x	2	4
<i>400 Free Relay</i>	10	14	8	4	6
<i>100 Back</i>	9	11	2	x	x
<i>100 Breast</i>	9	13	x	x	x
<i>100 Free</i>	5	11	5	x	1
<i>440 Free</i>	11	5	1	5	x
<i>150 Indv. Medley</i>	11	10	x	x	1
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive</i>	15	4	1	x	2
<i>300 Medley Relay</i>	9	12	7	3	5
<i>Total</i>	141	131	30	20	20

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1952

	Wyoming Relays	Wyoming	C.S.C.E	Colo. A&M	Nebraska & Kansas	Iowa St.	Nebraska	Kansas	Conference	Finished Season 1st Yr (x), 2nd (XX) etc
*Broderson, Neil	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	XX
*Campbell, Robt.	X	X	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	XX
*Champion, Roscoe	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
*Chapman, Jack	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
*Crancer, John	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Darley, Reg.	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Davis, Robt.	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
*Donnelly, Harold	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Ferguson, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Harbaugh, Chas.	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	XXX
*Heffelman, Mal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX
McDonald	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
*Mayo, Pete	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
O'Donnell, Jack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X
Raveling, Jerry	0	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	0	X
*Venzke, Lee	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	XXX
*Walstrom, Louis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
*Watson, Robt.	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X
*Yowell, Wm.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

*Letterman

1952-1953 Season

Record

6-3

Head Coach

Howard "Doc" Waite



Name	Class	Event
Clarence Barnes	JR	Free
Delbert Crosier	SO	Breast
Harold Donnelly*	JR	Free, I.M.
John Ferguson*	SO	Free, Relay
Alan Fox	JR	Free
Mal Heffelman**	SR	Distances
Dick Keller	SR	Free
Alex Leong	SR	Free
Lynn Miller	JR	Free, Breast
Henry Mulvihill	SR	Free
Ed Ortega	SR	--
Jerry Raveling	JR	Breast
Takeshi Sato	SO	Free
Lee Venzke*	SR	Diving, Free
Bob Watson*	SR	Breast, I.M.
Jack Watson*	SO	Back
Dexter Weed	JR	Diving
Stan Weston	SR	Breast
Bill Yowell*	SO	Back

*Letterman

Wyoming Relays - Dec 6, 1952

Coach "Doc" Balch began his fifth season as head coach in 1953. This made him the swim team's longest-tenured coach, and he showed no signs of throwing in the towel. His 1953 team was initially a squad of 49, composed of 19 varsity candidates and 30 freshmen.



"Doc" Balch

Fifteen Buff swimmers were scheduled to make the journey to Laramie for the Wyoming relays. Of those fifteen, six were lettermen. The seventh and remaining letterman on the team was Lee Venzke, who was unable to travel to the invite due to a football competition. Of the seven lettermen, Mal Heffelman from Albuquerque was the only two time letterman.

Practices began on October 16th with a variety of training routines, including pulley weights, calisthenics, kicking sets and form swimming.

The 1953 schedule, dubbed the toughest in franchise history as early as November, included a number of challenging teams, including a rare matchup against

Colorado College. The Tigers won Rocky Mountain honors in 1952, Oklahoma won the 1952 MVIAA, Iowa State the 1951 MVIAA and Colorado State fell behind just one point of tying Denver for the Mountain States Championship.

The regular group of teams received an invitation to participate in the meet, and Colorado College was also included for the first time. Nebraska and Mines were invited but did not participate. Wyoming finished last in their own meet for the first time, even though there was no formal scoring. After two years since their best-ever relay performance in 1951, when the Buffs won all six relay events, Denver easily defeated second place Colorado.

The best performance came from the winning 300 medley relay team of the Watson brothers and Dick Keller.

Colorado 51, Colorado College 33 - Jan 10, 1953

For the first time in team history, Colorado competed in the home pool of Colorado College: Camp Carson. The Buffs won eight of ten events, only dropping the 200 breaststroke and the 300 medley relay to the Tigers.

Located south of Colorado Springs, Camp Carson was a significant US Army training facility built in 1942 for the war effort. Veterans, families, and enlisted students were housed in quonset huts on the Colorado College campus in addition to the Camp Carson. The campus South Hall and parking lot are currently located where the quonset huts once stood.



Colorado College Campus c.1950

On May 5th, 1948, a \$250,000 indoor swimming pool was approved for construction on Camp Carson as part of the camp's recreational 15 year post war plan. The L shaped building was 174 feet in length and 140 feet in width. The pool deck had a seating capacity of 288 people and the pool itself was 25 yards by 45 feet.



Exterior View of Carson Pool, March 16, 1950

The grand opening of the pool was held at 8:00 P.M. on March 15th, 1950. Located on F and 15th street, the building was constructed of a cream colored brick with sea green interior tiled walls. The depth of the pool ranged from 3 to 11 feet with two diving boards.

"Inside the building is a dedication plaque which bears the following inscription: 'The completion of this recreational facility was financed by military personnel of World War II as a memorial to their comrades who gave their lives in that war.'"

Perhaps most unique to this pool was the large white sand beach just outside the facility for sunbathing.

The meet between the Tigers and Buffs was extremely one sided. Heffelman, the Watson brothers

and Venzke were Colorado's elite four, as they combined for five first place finishes. Alan Fox, the junior breaststroker, also took a crack at the sprint freestyle events and grabbed two blue ribbons.

Colorado College would go on to win the 1953 Rocky Mountain Conference, though the RMC was now more than a decade removed from the last time it was competitive.



Colorado College Swim Team, 1953

Meet Line Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	0	6	6	6	5	5	6	4	6	6	51
Colo. Coll	5	3	3	4	4	3	3	5	3	0	33

Colorado 67, Wyoming 27 - Jan 17, 1953

Beginning at 2 p.m., Colorado recorded its second win of the season, defeating Wyoming 67-27 on Saturday, the 17th, at Half Acre Pool. Buff senior Heffelman swam to an astonishing three individual wins in the 50, 100 and 440 freestyles.

For Coach Larimore, it was the first time since his own relay match in December that his team had seen action. The Cowboy team reporting in for the Colorado dual was a shell of what swam in the Wyoming relays just over a month prior. Coach Larimore's team had been depleted to just a mere six men after losing a number of men to poor grades and draft calls.

Jack and Bob Watson tallied wins in the 200 backstroke and breaststroke respectively. Wyoming's lone victories came in the diving won by Channer and in the 150 yard individual medley won by Weidenhamer.

Overall, the Colorado swimmers won first and second place in six of eight individual events. Combined with a sweep in the relays, it would be the Buff's most decisive victory of the 1953 season.

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	8	8	4	1	8	8	8	8	8	67
<i>Wyoming</i>	3	1	1	5	8	1	1	1	1	4	26

Colorado 61, Colorado St 31 - Jan 31, 1953

By the third meet into the season, Heffelman was quickly establishing himself as the team's sprint and distance freestyle ace. The duel with Colorado State saw him win three individual events. Heffelman was first in the 220, 100 and 440 freestyle, with times significantly faster than his swims against Wyoming. Heffelman had now captured eight firsts in three meets in four different events.



Mal Heffelman & Doc Balch, 1953

Football quarterback Venzke won the diving event over Aggie diver Hurry with 277.7 points. He also placed third in the 100 freestyle and swam on the 400 freestyle relay which won that event.

The Aggie drubbing shocked Coach Tommy Tompkins, who promised Colorado a "surprise" prior to the meet. The Colorado State team was small, but experienced, with most of the team consisting of eight returning

lettermen from the 8-2 1952 season. It's not clear why Tompkins expected to surprise Colorado. The Aggies' first meet of the season was a 48-45 drop against Colorado College, who upset Tompkins' team in the last relay.

The last time Colorado State bested Colorado was in 1949, and this meet was Colorado's largest margin of victory over the Aggies since 1950.

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	5	7	4	5	6	8	6	6	8	61
<i>Colorado St</i>	3	4	2	5	3	3	1	3	3	6	31

Oklahoma 60, Colorado 33 - Feb 3 1953

The picnic part of Colorado's 1953 schedule was over. The Buffs began a hectic 12-day period on February 3rd, which included five meets with three opponents that were among the top-ranked in the country.

First on that list of nationally ranked teams was the conference champion, Oklahoma. Colorado's Heffelman faced Graham Johnston, the three-time event conference champion and now Olympian. Both swimmers were undefeated in the 440 freestyle this season heading into the meet, which started at 7:30 p.m. in the women's pool.

Johnston swam the 440 in 4:59.0, seventeen full seconds lower than the previous pool record and finishing far ahead of Heffelman. Johnston also clipped the pool record in the 220 freestyle, setting a new pool mark at 2:15.9.

DeJong, the other Sooner from South Africa, set a new pool record in the 50 free, lowering the mark from 24.0 to 23.9. Green swam to a new pool record in the 200 backstroke, setting the new pace from 2:28.4 to 2:26.6. In total, the Sooners set five new pool records.



Lee Venzke (CU)

On the Buff's side, Bob Watson put on a driving finish to narrowly pass Oklahoma's Jim McKinney by a hair in the 200 breaststroke. That and Heffelman's 100 freestyle marked the only two victories for the Buffs. It was the first time all season Heffelman failed to win all his events in a dual meet.

Venzke rematched Oklahoma's Hallum in the diving. Venzke placed fifth and Hallum placed second in the one-meter diving at the conference the previous year. A year later, the two concluded similarly, with Hallum emerging victorious in the diving.



Graham Johnston (OU)

The meet brought Oklahoma to a 4-0 start to their season. They would host Baylor, Texas and the Big Southern Methodist before hosting the MVIAA.

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>	6	8	8	8	5	4	5	3	5	8	60
<i>Colorado</i>	3	1	1	1	4	5	4	6	4	6	33

St Thomas 45, Colorado 39 - Feb 6, 1953

In what was shaping up to be one of the most ambitious weeks in several years, Colorado hosted the University of St Thomas in the women's gymnasium pool. It was the first contest of any kind between the University of Colorado and a University from the state of Minnesota.

Despite having a relatively small student body population, the large St Thomas swim team finished in second place in the 1952 Minnesota Athletic Conference. The previous night on Thursday the fifth, they bagged a victory over Colorado State, 61-32.

Entering the meet, St Thomas was favored to win the duel. They had racked up an impressive seven wins in eight duels. The Minnesotans were led by co captains Dan Schneeman and Bob Anderson. Both were conference champions in their specialties, the backstroke and distance freestyle respectively.



Dan Schneeman & Bob Anderson (STU)

The Minnesotans opened up the meet with a victory in the 300 medley relay. The time of 3:12.9 was faster than anything the Buffs had swam all season.

Heffelman immediately struck back by setting a new varsity record in the 220 freestyle at 2:23.8 and beating rival captain Schneeman. Another victory in the 100 freestyle puts him in contention as arguably the best freestyler the franchise had seen since Vandapool or Merrifield in 1940.

Despite being up 38-29 with two events remaining, Colorado choked the lead by getting swept in the 440 freestyle and losing the 400 freestyle 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>St Thomas</i>	4	4	5	5	4	1	5	1	8	8	45
<i>Colorado</i>	0	5	4	4	5	8	4	8	1	0	39

Iowa State 63, Colorado 30 - Feb 7, 1953

The very next day, the exhausted Buffs contended with the second best team in the conference. Predictably, the result was devastating, with Cyclone swimmers smashing four pool records.

Iowa State opened the meet with an impossible 3:01.6 in the 300 medley relay by Lee Anderson, Bob Best and Bill Patterson to break the pool record and tie the conference record.

LaMair of Iowa State became the second man in a week to set the 150 individual medley pool record. Mitchell of Oklahoma set the previous record on Tuesday in 1:41.4, while LaMair accomplished it in 1:40.3.

It wasn't until the diving event that Colorado claimed its first victory of the day, as Venzke finished just 15 points ahead of Cyclone diver Coe. After initially being behind Coe, Venzke pulled his best dive of the season on the last attempt to surpass him. "The Buff ace has been picking up points right along this year by attempting more difficult dives than his opponents and it is paying big dividends for him."

Heffelman was the star in a losing effort. He would go on to win the 100 and 440 freestyle events, but in the 220 freestyle, he was unable to catch Cyclone swimmer Thomas. In the last five yards of the 440 freestyle, Heffelman bested Cyclone swimmer Best

thanks to a strong finish. With this triumph, Heffelman's record now stood at 13 in 16 starts for the year. There was not a single swimmer from the Buff who placed higher than third.

Lee Anderson of Iowa State broke the record in the 200-backstroke, becoming the third man to do so in a single week. Sooner swimmer Green set the record in 2:26.6 back on the 3rd followed by Minneostan Bob Anderson who did the event in 2:23.8 three days later. Three days later, Minnesotan Bob Anderson completed the event in 2:23.8. With Anderson's mark of 2:21.8, three different people were able to cut the old CU pool record of 2:28.4 by seven seconds in three different meets.

LaMair also set a new pool record in the 200 breaststroke at 2:28.9, a record which hadn't been broken all year. If the records continued to fall, Colorado was soon going to be faced with some unbeatable marks.

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 State</i>	6	6	8	8	4	4	8	8	3	8	63
<i>Colorado</i>	3	3	1	1	5	5	1	1	6	4	30

Colorado Mines 30, Colorado 63 - Feb 11, 1953

"Colorado's swimming team sailed through Colorado Mines like the USS United States crossing the Atlantic here last night and when the splashing was over the Buffs had an easy 63-30 victory." The score was exactly the reverse as Colorado's defeat several days earlier against Iowa State.

The most impressive event of the night was between Alan Fox and Heffleman. The two battled it out in the 50 freestyle and when the timers clicked their watches, both read 25.4 seconds. The CU varsity record was 25 seconds.

Diver Venzke found the red zone in his event, his 267.8 points enough to earn him his fifth victory in six starts.

Colorado was quietly putting up a hegemony against Mines. Colorado last lost a dual match to the

Orediggers in January, 1937. The win was a critical snap in Colorado's three game losing streak as they prepared to face an MVIAA team three days later.

Nebraska 36, Colorado 57 - Feb 14, 1953

The meet against Nebraska was a masterclass for Venzke and "Marvelous" Mal Heffelman. The dynamic duo combined for 25 of the Buffs 57 points. Heffelman swam the 220, 100 and 440 freestyle in good times, but all shy of records. The Albuquerquean had to catch Bentz of Nebraska on the last turn of the 440 freestyle and out sprint him in the last ten yards to win the race.

Venzke moved the line of scrimmage down 50 yards, winning the 50 freestyle and defeating his own teammate Fox. It was an event he only swam once all season. Immediately after the race, he hit the springboards and was initially behind Nebraska's Cotter. However after catching his breath, he completed a 50 point final dive to win the event with ease.

Jack and Bob Watson rounded out CU's event winning swimmers with a first-place finish in the 150 individual medley and the 200 backstroke respectively. Jack posted his win with a time of 2:31.4.



Jack Watson (left), Jerry Raveling (center), Alan Fox (right)

Colorado ended the meet with a complete sweep of the individual events, but found themselves swept in the relays by the Cornhuskers.

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>	6	3	1	4	3	3	4	1	3	8	36
<i>Colorado</i>	3	6	8	5	6	6	5	8	6	4	57

Colorado 53, Kansas 40 - Feb 21, 1953

Colorado rounded out the 1953 dual meet season with a resounding victory over yet another MVIAA opponent. After the diving, Kansas was up 26-19 and looked poised to defeat the Buffs.

It was a fleeting advantage, though, as Heffelman and Fox finished first and second in the 100 freestyle. The 200 backstroke and breaststroke titles were both won by the Watson brothers, extending their stellar racing careers. With his swim, Bob Waton managed to cut the pool record that Denver's Barry Trader had held by 7.7 seconds. Heffelman's easy victory in the 440 freestyle sealed Kansas' defeat, as they fell short by thirteen points.

Balch's concerning conclusion was that the Buffs once again lost both relays. The 1953 squad included plenty of strong swimmers for the individual events, but the relay teams definitely lacked some talent. Heffelman finished the season with twenty one victories in twenty four events.

Colorado actually had one dual meet scheduled after Kansas against Northern Colorado, however for unknown reasons the meet folded.

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	6	6	3	1	8	8	8	6	4	53
<i>Kansas</i>	6	3	3	6	8	1	1	1	3	8	40

MVIAA Championships - Mar 6 - 7, 1953



Mal Heffelman (CU)

Colorado broke franchise records in Stillwater, Oklahoma, by finishing third in the conference championship. The Buffs managed to narrowly best both Kansas and Nebraska, two teams who had been irritatingly just ahead of Colorado in years past.



Graham Johnston (OU)

The opening race of the meet was essentially a duel between Heffelman and Johnston. While the Olympian swam the 1500 free in a time twelve seconds slower than his 1952 race, Heffelman exploded to a resounding second place. Marvelous Mal placed 8th in the 1952 1500 freestyle with a time of 23:05.0. While Heffelman's time was never reported in the 1953 race, it wouldn't be unreasonable to assume his time was under 22 minutes based on prior year's results. The Oklahoma Daily claims that Sooner swimmer Hudack was handicapped by swimming in the first heat with a group of slow swimmers. Since the 1500 was timed finals, had Hudack been swimming in the second heat with Johnston and Heffelman, it's possible he could have beaten Heffelman and claimed second.

Curtis Lee was Oklahoma's third contestant in the 1500 freestyle, but swam the entire race backstroke and still finished seventh overall.

Oklahoma and Iowa State had a stranglehold on the 50 and 200 backstroke, with Sooner captain Clarke Mitchel breaking the conference record twice. He initially broke the record in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:19.0 in the prelims. In the finals, he lowered the record even further with a time of 2:17.9.

Heffelman was next in line for scoring, with him placing fourth in the 220 yard freestyle. Again, he finished behind the unstoppable Johnston, but he also placed behind Russ Thomas of Iowa State and Jack Hudack of Oklahoma. Heffelman was defeated by both swimmers in dual competitions earlier in the season.

Bob Watson followed with a fourth place finish in the 200 breaststroke, finishing only behind a sea of Sooner and Cyclone swimmers. Stan Weston also made waves by making finals in the event and placing sixth.

Weston was a member of the 1951 team, but for unknown reasons he sat out 1952 and the first half of 1953. When he made his return at the Mines meet on February 11, he placed first in the 200 breaststroke. After only swimming for a few weeks, his sixth place at finals in the conference was the perfect cap for his collegiate swimming career.



Back in his gridiron, Venzke dove to 355.95 points to earn a bronze medal in the one meter diving. It would be Venzke's last event as a collegiate athlete. [ADD STUFF ABOUT FOOTBALL HERE MAYBE]

Of course what came to haunt Colorado during the regular season also came to pass at the conference. Colorado's 400 freestyle relay team finished last among the five schools. Still after day one, Colorado was in

third with eighteen points. The question was whether they could hang on to the lead over Kansas and Nebraska.

Not to be outdone by his younger brother, Jack Watson opened up the second day with a sixth place finals finish in the 100 backstroke. It would be his last race with the team.

For most of the season, Raveling swam in the shadow of Bob Watson and Weston. He typically placed second or third in the 200 breaststroke but finished first against the Colorado Aggies. At the conference, he was the only Buff to place in the 100 breaststroke.

Alan Fox similarly plugged the holes where Heffelman and Venzke couldn't swim. The freestyler from Hammond, Indiana wrapped up his 1953 season with a sixth place finish in the 100 freestyle.

For the first time in franchise history, a Buff swimmer qualified for the NCAA championships. That swimmer was of course Marvelous Mal who qualified in the 440 freestyle with an unknown time.

Colorado finished out the meet with a third place finish in the 300 medley relay, the same place they finished at the conference. Even though the Buffs were miles behind Oklahoma and Iowa State, it was a time to celebrate for Balch and his swimmers as they capped off the best post war season in team history so far.

Oklahoma ended with a third championship in four years. While Colorado celebrated, the meet ended in a blaze of controversy over the winner of the 150 individual medley. The event was awarded to Iowa State swimmer Bob Best with a time of 1:39.1. However it was a split decision made by three judges who also clocked Clark Mitchel of Oklahoma with the same time. "Al Whale, the meet referee, and Cyclone Coach Jack McGuire said they thought Mitchell should have been given the nod." However, the decision was ultimately meaningless as the meet was won by Sooner swimmers by more than forty points. Bob Best is credited with breaking the conference record of 1:39.6 set by Dale Lucas of Iowa State in 1952.

Meet Line Score

	<i>OU</i>	<i>ISU</i>	<i>CU</i>	<i>KU</i>	<i>UNL</i>
<i>1500 Meters.....</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>50 Free.....</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>200 Back.....</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>220 Free.....</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>200 Breast.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>1 Meter Dive.....</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>400 Free Relay.....</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>100 Back.....</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>100 Breast.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>100 Free.....</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>440 Free.....</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>150 Indv. Medley.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive.....</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>300 Medley Relay.....</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Total.....</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>28</i>

NCAA Championships - Mar 25 - 27, 1953

With his qualification in the 440 freestyle at the MVIAA conference, Mal Heffelman became the first Buff swimmer or diver to qualify for the highest collegiate competition. The swim meet was held at Ohio State, who were the defending champions of the 1952 championship.

Heffelman was one of three Colorado swimmers heading to an NCAA championship. The other two athletes were wrestlers Royal Smith and Linn Long who were headed to Penn State.

Heffelman swam a fantastic 440 freestyle, setting a new varsity record of 5:12.4 and finishing fourth in his prelims heat. While it wasn't enough to qualify him for finals, it was nonetheless an amazing performance.

Soon after graduating with a degree in civil engineering on June 5th, Mal married Joann Bassett in Colorado Springs. Joann was also an alum from the University of Colorado where she obtained a degree in physical education.



Joann Bassett

Heffelman would go on to work at the historic General Electric Lynn Facility in Massachusetts working on aircraft engines. He would eventually return to his home state of New Mexico and lived a peaceful life in Belen before passing away Friday, June 12, 2009.

CU Swimming & Diving Participation - 1953

	Wyo. Relays	Colo. Coll.	Wyoming	Colo. A&M	Oklahoma	St. Thomas	Iowa St.	Colo. Mines	Nebraska	Kansas U.	Conference	Total Pts	Years Participated
Barnes, Clarence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Crosier, Delbert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
*Donnelly, Harold	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	18 ³ / ₄	52-53
*Ferguson, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	22	52-53
*Fox, Alan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	59 ¹ / ₂	53
*Heffelman, Malcolm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	123	51-53
*Keller, Richard	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	13 ³ / ₄	53
Leong, Alex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Miller, Lynn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Mulvihill, Henry	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Ortega, Ed	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
*Raveling, Jerome	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	30 ¹ / ₃	52-53
Sato, Takeshi	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
*Venzke, Lee	0	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	64	52-53
*Watson, John	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	48 ¹ / ₃	52-53
*Watson, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	59	52-53
Weed, Dexter	X	0	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	-	53
*Weston, Stanley	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	17	51-53
*Yowell, William	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	23	52-53

*Letterman

9.

In the Depths of the Valley



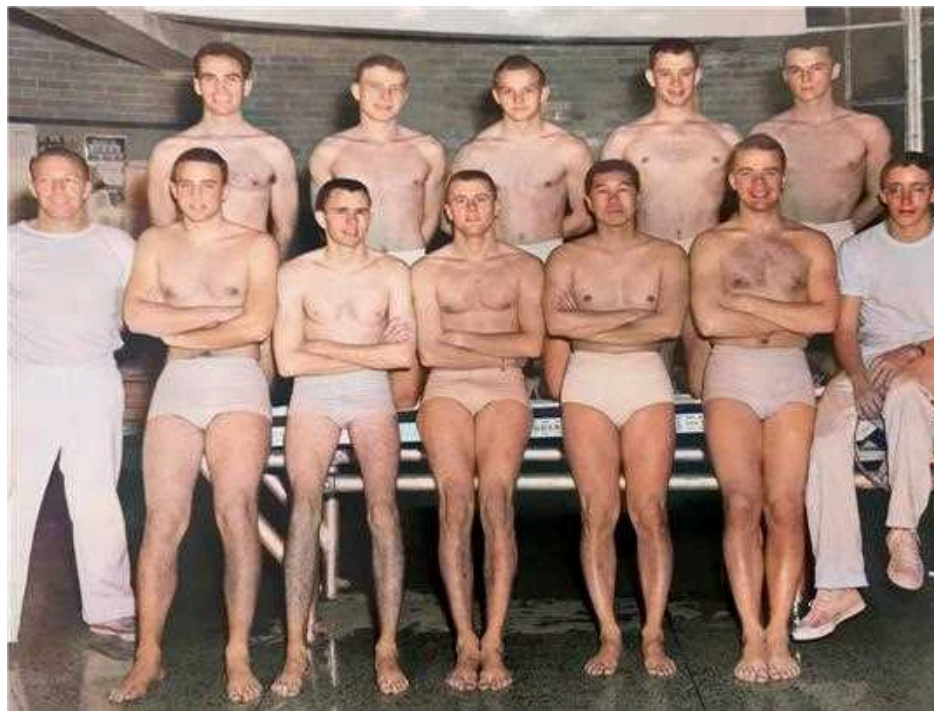
1953-1954 Season

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
Richardo 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 breastroker 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	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 Larimore 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>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>72</i>

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>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>42</i>

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>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>45</i>

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

<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	3	1	3	8	1	4	8	3	0	31
<i>Nebraska</i>	5	6	8	6	1	8	5	1	6	7	53

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>	5	3	4	6	6	1	8	5	6	0	44
<i>Kansas</i>	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, Mike LaMair and Jim McKeivitt. 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, McKeivitt, 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

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Colorado	3	4	1	4	6	1	1	1	4	4	29
Iowa State	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, Elisabeth, 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

<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	5	5	5	8	5	4	4	5	7	48
<i>Northern CO</i>	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 they weren't defeated 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.

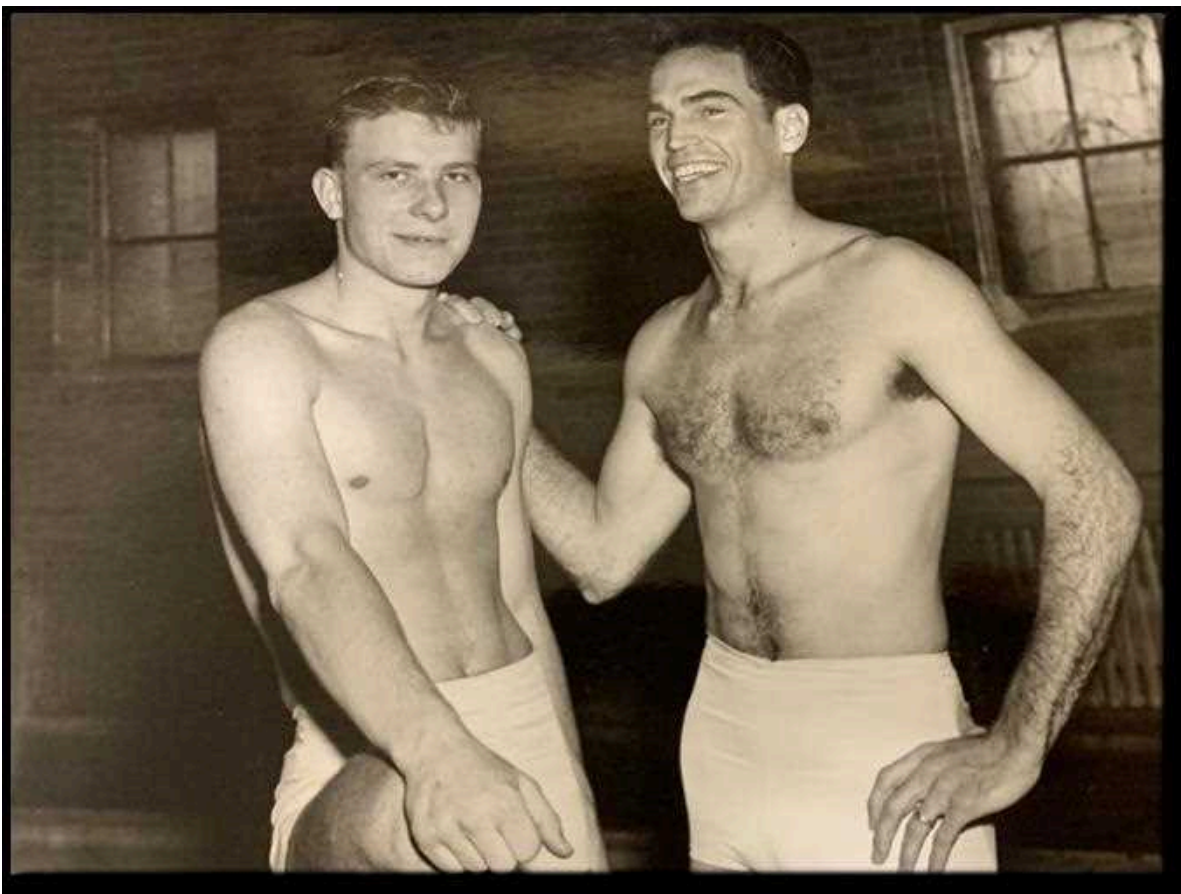
While it wasn't the closest score, it was boosted by Calvin Bentz Jr., a top Cornhusker swimmer. Tireless Cal finished first in three events, contributing fifteen points for Nebraska, enough to win the meet. In the 1954 season, Bentz personally scored 109 of Nebraska's 406 ½ points in dual meets.

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

<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>	5	8	4	6	1	4	5	3	6	7	49
<i>Colorado</i>	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 McKeivitt. 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 duel 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 McKeivitt 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

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

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

Swimmer Spotlight: Hal Donnelly



Another 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."



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 (as illustrated by his son)

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 will] 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

<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>	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	3	7	42
<i>Colorado</i>	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

<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>	2	3	3	1	0	1	4	4	1	3	22
<i>Colorado</i>	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 swimmers. 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 McKeivitt 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 McKeivitt.

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>	5	8	6	8	3	4	8	4	5	7	58
<i>Colorado</i>	0	1	3	1	6	5	1	5	4	0	26

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>	5	6	5	6	8	5	5	5	8	0	53
<i>Kansas</i>	0	3	4	3	1	4	4	4	1	7	31

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 Helsing."

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	1	4	4	3	4	4	8	1	4	36
<i>Oklahoma</i>	5	8	5	5	6	5	5	1	8	6	54

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 dual 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	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 McKeivitt, 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).

<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



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

[illegible]

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 finish 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 Rotherth. In contrast to Loar, both Allen and Rotherth were incoming sophomores to the team.

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

100 freestyle, Balch would utilize Rotherth 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 freestylist 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>	0	6	4	4	1	8	8	4	6	7	48
<i>Colorado</i>	5	3	5	5	8	1	1	5	3	0	36

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>	5	3	1	3	4	3	1	3	8	0	31
<i>Iowa State</i>	0	6	8	6	5	6	8	6	1	7	53

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 Grinnel.

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>	0	5	5	5	3	6	1	5	5	0	35
<i>Nebraska</i>	5	4	4	4	6	3	8	4	4	7	49

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</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	5	4	4	3	6	8	1	4	0	40
<i>Colorado</i>	0	4	5	5	6	3	1	8	5	7	44

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 Austiniansenior 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>	5	3	3	5	1	3	8	3	3	7	41
<i>Colorado</i>	0	6	6	4	8	6	1	6	6	0	43

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>	5	1	4	1	4	1	6	4	1	0	27
<i>Colorado</i>	0	8	5	8	5	8	3	5	8	7	57

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>	5	5	6	6	6	8	5	5	6	7	59
<i>Colorado</i>	0	4	3	3	3	1	4	4	3	0	25

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 Stewart, 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	Colo. A&M	Wyoming U.	Iowa State	Nebraska	Colo. State	Kansas U.	College Invt'l	Nebraska	Ft. Carson	Oklahoma	Big Seven Conf	Years Participated
Bruce Allen*	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	55-56
Gordon Greenley*	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	54-56
Raymond Hatch	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
William Haze*	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	56
Gerald Loar*	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	55-56
Harlow Rothert*	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	56
Charles Shom*	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	54-56
Geoffrey York	X	X	X	0	0	X	0	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, backstroke, Perry Jones, breaststroke, 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 backstroke 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 backstroke 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.

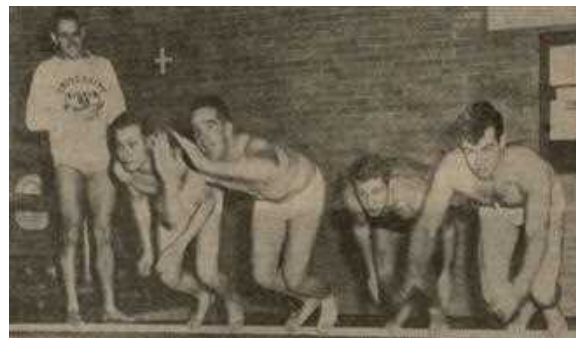
During the NCAA swimming and diving championships last year, around sixty top American swimming coaches debated about what to do about

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 Niethold, Bill Nunn

The new Cowboy swimmer Bob Niethold 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

<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	1	1	4	4	1	4	4	1	0	20
<i>Wyoming</i>	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 time 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

<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>	7	8	4	4	4	1	8	8	5	0	49
<i>Colorado St</i>	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

<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>
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<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

<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>	7	6	1	4	6	1	8	8	6	0	47
<i>Kansas</i>	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 spend 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

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

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

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

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/591893693/?mat ch=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>	12	x	5	5	x	x
<i>200 Fly</i>	7	5	2	1	3	4
<i>50 Free</i>	16	2	x	3	x	1
<i>200 Back</i>	7	9	3	1	x	2
<i>220 Free</i>	16	x	4	x	2	x
<i>100 Breast</i>	5	13	4	x	x	x
<i>1 Meter Diving</i>	2	9	1	10	x	x
<i>200 Indv. Medley</i> ...	7	3	5	3	4	x
<i>400 Free Relay</i>	14	10	4	8	12	6
<i>100 Fly</i>	7	x	3	4	3	5
<i>100 Free</i>	18	1	x	x	3	x
<i>200 Breast</i>	7	10	3	x	x	2
<i>100 Back</i>	7	5	6	3	x	1
<i>440 Free</i>	11	x	8	3	x	x
<i>3 Meter Fancy Dive</i>	11	4	x	7	x	x
<i>400 Medley Relay</i> ...	14	9	4	1	0	6
<i>Total</i>	161	80	52	49	27	27

*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 Ivit.	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 Sheft*	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