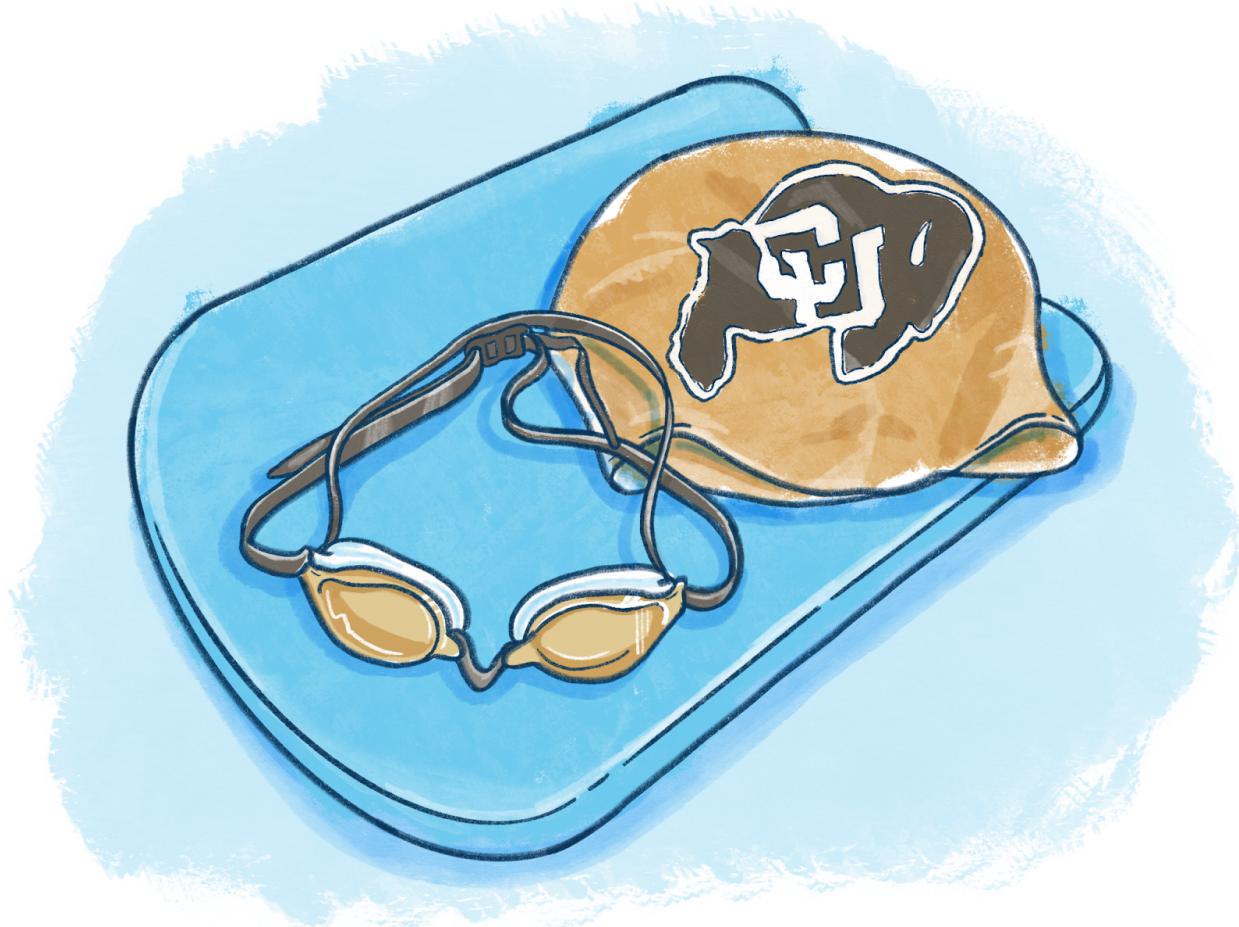


1.

Before You Can Swim, You Must Learn To Float



In the Beginning

The year is 1919. The University of Colorado had just constructed a huge natatorium in the school's gymnasium. The new pool was filled with swimmers and Professor Hayt was appointed the first swim coach. It was the start of the golden age of swimming at CU.

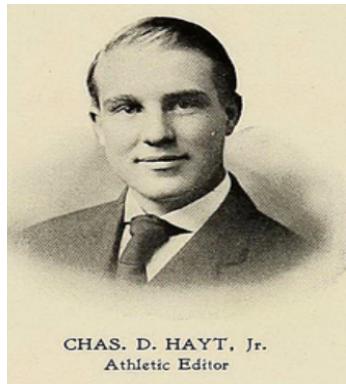
At least it would have been, if any of that was true.

What you just read never happened. It was a made-up piece of fiction, published in the 1908 edition of the school newspaper, the Coloradoan (1). It was one of dozens of predictions made by alumni for what the school would be like in a decade.

Like most of those would-be prophecies, it was completely wrong. By 1919, there was no swim team and no pool on campus to swim in.

“Professor Hayt” was Charles Hayt Jr., the Athletic Editor for the Coloradoan at the time (2). Not only did he never coach swimming at CU, but in a tragic twist of fate, he never made it to the year 1919. He passed two years prior at the young age of 31 (3).

The “First” CU swim coach



CHAS. D. HAYT, Jr.
Athletic Editor

Strangely, the prediction was right about one thing: 1919 was a benchmark year for swimming at the University of Colorado. As it would so happen, it was the same year that swimming was first proposed to be a university sponsored sport (4).

A year later, the Women’s Athletic Association (W.A.A.) formed the first swim team on campus (5).

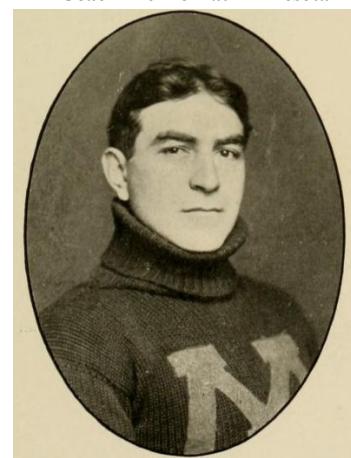
A Brief History of Women’s Athletics

Before delving into the history of that first swim team, it is important to understand how women’s athletics at CU came to be.

The origin of women’s athletics at the University of Colorado can be traced back two decades prior to 1901 with the formation of a women’s basketball team and fencing class (5). However, school support was limited at best until the Women’s Athletic Association was founded four years later in 1905 (5).

The mastermind behind the W.A.A was the recently hired Director of Physical Education and football coach, Willis Kienholz (5). Kienholz was a young up-and-coming football coach. After playing four years for the University of Minnesota, he received high praise for his coaching at Lombard College and North Carolina State before joining CU (6)(7).

Coach Kienholz at Minnesota



On Friday, September 22nd, 1905, Kienholz gave, “*A very interesting talk on gymnasium work to the girls of the University*” (8). Shortly thereafter, the W.A.A. was created. Four women sports were to be overseen by the W.A.A: basketball, tennis, hockey, and gym work (5).

A few weeks later, Kienholz orchestrated a 109-0 drubbing over a local Denver school: Regis College (9). That win was the highlight of a very successful 8-1 season and is still the record for the largest win in CU football history (10).

Those nine games were the only games Kienholz would coach for CU. By the time the calendar flipped over to 1906, he was out the door for the head coaching position at the University of North Carolina (11).

Four years and two teams later, Kienholz was done with coaching football altogether as he was ousted from his job at Washington State after allegedly bribing players with cash to play for the school and for telling players to “Hold them up and make them rattle their junk” (12)

The W.A.A. continued without Kienholz, but faced challenges in the years following its foundation. Interest in women’s athletics varied from “sometimes high, sometimes low, and sometimes very low” (13). The situation worsened in 1908 when the faculty banned competitions with other schools, meaning that they could only compete against themselves and behind closed doors (5).



CU Women’s Basketball Team (1908-1909)

Lack of participation and financial struggles continued to plague the W.A.A. until 1912 when it was reorganized and placed under the control of the Associated Students of the University of Colorado (A.S.U.C) (14)

The new oversight did wonders for women’s athletics. Now with a manager, a faculty advisor, a governing board and an expanded budget, participation swelled (14). In 1913, it was declared that, “*Women’s athletics is a department of the girl’s activities which has come to stay*” (14).

Despite the growing support and participation, things weren’t perfect, as the ban on intercollegiate games remained firmly in place. That was until the arrival of Coach Millie Bird Vandeburg in 1914.

Vandeburg, who played on the women’s basketball team back in 1908, was far from satisfied with the state of the program since her departure (15).

In her first meeting as coach, Vandeburg had this to say, “*I was here six years ago and now when I come back I can’t see that basketball affairs have advanced a bit. It’s a shame, but I believe that we can remedy this state of affairs if we go about it the right way.* ” (15)

Coach Millie Bird Vandeburg (1917)



Vandeburg was a woman of her word, and got to work lobbying the school to remove the intercollegiate ban.

Vandeburg was able to gather support from several key administrators, including President Farrand, Dean Bigelow and Dean Hellems. The latter of which said, “*Personally, I can see no objection to intercollegiate games. We may as well face the fact that women will do what men will do*” (16).

Due to her efforts, the ban was finally lifted in the fall of 1914 (cite). It was a significant triumph for women’s athletics at CU in its long journey toward parity with its male counterparts.

Coincidentally, that same year, CU hired their first Director of Women’s Physical Education. The woman that was hired for the task was Helen Masters Bunting (17).

Born in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, Bunting came to Boulder by way of Wellesley College (MA) where she graduated with a Degree in Hygiene and Physical Education in 1912.

When Bunting arrived, basketball was the only sport that women participated in. Within her first two years she added baseball, tennis, archery and gymnastic programs. In addition, she organized an annual field day when all the various women's sports were put on full display.

Helen Bunting at Field Day (1917)



Bunting also drastically overhauled how women athletes could earn a varsity letter with the creation of the point system. Prior to her tenure, only women on the basketball team could receive letters. In 1918, Bunting changed the system so that points could be earned for participation in archery, basketball, baseball, tennis and even hiking. 1,000 points was required to receive a varsity letter.

It was a small shift, but the expanded point system was a great incentive structure that helped encourage participation and competition like never before.

In five years at CU, Bunting “developed one of the best women’s athletic departments in the country” ([cite](#)). She performed so well that the University of Stanford snatched her up to lead their Women’s Physical Education Department. ([cite](#)).

Although swimming was not taught at CU under Mrs. Bunting, she would later introduce women’s swimming at Stanford in 1926 ([cite](#)). Bunting did open the door for Clare Small, who succeeded her, to formally bring swimming to the university.

Clare Small (1931)



Small was hired in August 1919, just a month after Bunting’s departure. She had been teaching at the University of Wisconsin and likely earned the job based on a strong recommendation from Bunting.

This glowing endorsement was, in no small part, due to the fact that Small, like her predecessor, was a graduate from Wellesley College. She, too, graduated with a Degree in Hygiene and Physical Education.

It turned out to be a fantastic hire for the University, as Small would hold down the position for nearly 40 years until her retirement in 1957 ([cite](#)).

She was instrumental in the development of not just swimming, but all of women’s athletics on campus. Her impact was so strong that upon her death in 1972, the Women’s Gymnasium and pool were renamed in her honor ([cite](#)).

The same year that Small assumed her new role atop the women’s athletic department, plans were in motion for a long desired men’s gymnasium and a pool that would be housed within it.

The Origins of CU's First Pool

In 1875, the University of Colorado erected its first building at the cost of \$28,700 ([cite](#)). Known today as Old Main, at the time it housed the entirety of the University. Over the next 40 years, the campus expanded around Old Main like roots spreading out from a tree.

Sketch of Old Main (1875)



By World War One, the campus had 20 buildings, but there was a fundamental problem ([cite](#)). These buildings were constructed with little long term planning and had drastically different designs, styles and building materials ([cite](#)).

A campus makeover was George Norlin's first priority when he assumed the role of acting university president in 1917. He stated, "*I got tired of the campus looking like a third rate farm*".

The campus was so fragmented that a complete makeover was required. That kind of campus, meanwhile, would not come cheap—Norlin's concept of a national elite university would be expensive. The University lacked the \$1 million in funding required for the project.

Later that year, Norlin found his solution when he and the other state university presidents successfully lobbied for the state legislature to authorize a mill levy tax with the specific intent to fund the development of higher education buildings at universities across the state.

A mill levy is a tax rate that is applied to the assessed value of a property. In other words, it is a form of property tax. In this instance, a .3 mill levy was established, which meant that a tax of 30 cents was collected for each \$1,000 in property owned by a resident of Colorado.

The end result of this tax was a massive swelling of funds at the University of Colorado's disposal. Starting in 1918, CU was set to receive 10 annual payments of \$150,000, totaling \$1.5 million. All of which the University was ready to put to good use to build dozens of new buildings - including its first ever pool.

But before you can construct buildings, you first need someone to design them. CU administration cast a large net as they embarked on a nationwide search for a visionary to bring the school into the 20th century.

They eventually settled on the services of Pennsylvania based architecture firm Day and Kluader, and its lead architect, Charles Klauder.

Architect Charles Klauder



It is no mystery why Klauder was selected by the Board of Regents. He had a resume that few architects could rival, which included dozens of buildings at elite east coast schools like Princeton University.

In Klauder, CU had chosen arguably the most influential college campus architect in the country. He would go on to literally write the book on college architectural design and is credited with creating the

American Gothic ecstatic that is associated with campuses across the United States.

It is that same popular Gothic look that the CU administration desired. In fact, the University already had a building under construction that was in the Gothic Style. That building, the Macky Auditorium, had been through a lengthy construction starting in 1909. It was funded by the will of its namesake, Andrew J. Mackey, but due to litigation surrounding the will, delayed its finish until 1921.



Macky Construction (1910)

In the summer of 1918 Klauder arrived in Boulder to visit the campus and make preliminary sketches and then returned to Philadelphia to complete his work.

A year later he returned with final sketches, but in a twist, Klauder begged the University to reject his Gothic designs. He believed that the unique beauty of Boulder deserved a similarly unique architectural style that would not clash with its awe-inspiring surroundings.

Klauder, inspired by Tuscan Villas, pitched a campus in a “Rural Italian Style” assembled from local sandstone. Norlin loved the idea, and in 1919 with his support Klauder’s cutting edge campus plan was approved with unanimous support by the Board of Regents.

In September of that year, the plans for the new gymnasium were accepted with some minor alterations. The men’s gymnasium was slated to be one of the first buildings erected. With the honor of Klauder’s first building went to the new Arts and Sciences Building later named Hellems.

The 1919 plans indicated that the swimming pool within the men’s gymnasium would be, “75 by 30 feet in dimensions occupying one wing on the first floor with a balcony occupying the same space on the second floor”.

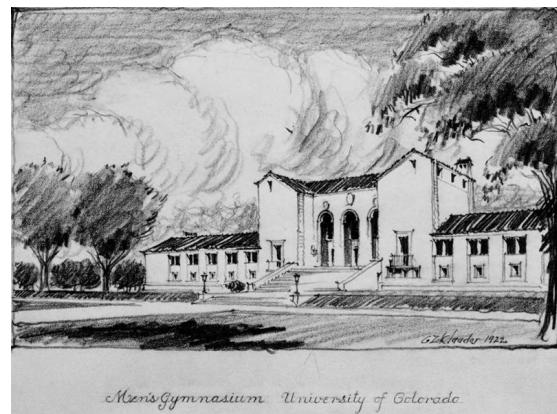
Although the pool was 5 years away from completion, this would be a remarkably accurate description of the final product.

Around two months later, the University began seeking bids to construct the gymnasium for \$250,000 hoping to break ground on the project sometime in 1920.

As is often the case in the world of construction, the timeline and budget were both a bit optimistic. A year later in December 1920, the University had yet to start on the project and the estimated cost was at \$300,000.

The University sat on the design plans for another year, making tweaks that ballooned the budget to between \$350,000 - \$400,000. That was a staggering amount of money, equivalent to \$5,000,000 today.

Men's Gymnasium Design Sketch (Circa 1922)



Construction got underway in the fall of 1921, but came to a screeching halt after the building’s foundation was laid as the stonemason union demanded higher wages from the University.

President Norlin hoped that work would resume in the Spring of 1923. However, the Stone Mason’s balked at wages of \$8 a day and the delay continued.

Finally, in October 1923, work resumed as the cornerstone of the building was finally laid. A crew of 50 men worked quickly to make up for the lost time, and in the fall of 1924 the building and the pool were finally complete.

When the gymnasium opened its doors, it was immediately hailed as the state of the art and the finest gymnasium west of the Mississippi. Part of that was due to the pool, which was one of the, “*longest plunges in the country measuring five feet longer than the pool at Dartmouth which has been taken as a model by a great many institutions.*”

Men's Gymnasium Pool (1925)



The most striking features of the pool were the distinct shiny white enamel brick's that lined the pool. The pool's water was treated not with chlorine but rather with an ultraviolet ray sterilizer and a mechanical sand filter.

The new pool marked the dawn of a new swimming era at the University of Colorado. In Spring of 1925, a men's team would be formed.

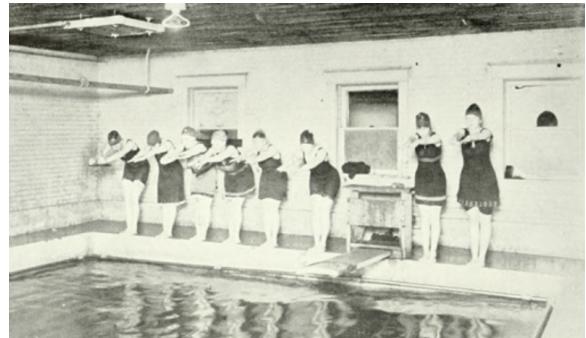
Perhaps the most excited group for the completed pool was the women's swim team, who after six years of existence at last had a place to call home.

The First Swim Team at CU

In the years that it took to design and construct the University's first pool, the CU women's swim team steadily emerged.

Founded in the spring of 1920, by Clare Small, the Women's Director of P.E. The team met once a week at the local Boulder YMCA to practice strokes ([cite](#)).

Women's team practice at Boulder YMCA (1921)



Over the next couple of years, the women's swim team continued to grow in size and popularity. By 1924, they received permission to use the brand new Hygienics Pool. Located on the southeast corner of 21st and Spruce Streets ([cite](#)) Today, the location is home to Boulder's Spruce Pool ([cite](#)).

The Hygienics pool earned its name, not for its cleanliness, but rather from the Hygienics Ice Company located next door. Ironically, the pool was heated by the warm water that was produced from the manufacturing of said ice.

Hygienics Ice Pool (1930)



Various articles to incorporate: grass roots efforts to start the team in 1922

2.

Facing the Music



Royal Order of Water Dogs

We know for certain that the University of Colorado men's swim team came into existence sometime in 1925 (1). The exact origins of how that happened are largely clouded in mystery.

You might have heard the rumors that the University of Colorado swim team was started by a secret society which has quietly controlled every aspect of the team since.

Rest assured, that myth is entirely false. However, like with every good myth, there is some truth buried within it.

In 1925, the same year the swim team was created, another small student organization was launched on campus. The club was, "The Royal Order of Water Dogs" (2).

Official Seal of the Water Dogs (1926)



The stated mission of the Water Dogs, "*was to further the interests of swimming and to promote good sportsmanship*" (2).

Made up of just six members, the club had a rigid hierarchy.

At the top of the command pyramid was the so-called Chief Pup, followed by the Ink Hound/Keeper of the Bones and finally everyone else (2).

Being a Water Dog must have carried an immense weight in the early days of the swim team. In fact, the first three swim captains were all Water Dogs: Robert Austin (1925), Jack Rutledge (1926) and Elston Tribble (1927).

Royal Order of Water Dogs (1926)



One member of the inaugural Water Dogs was Otis Elwin Smith. Smith was instrumental in getting the team off the ground.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Smith was a "*former aquatic star at various colleges and an instructor of several years experience*" (3)(4).

With his background in the sport, Smith may have been the founder of the Water Dogs and was the obvious choice to become the Buffs first swim coach.

In the four seasons that he coached, he would transform the team from relative obscurity to a regional power.

The Water Dogs, on the other hand, vanished from record after 1926. Most likely they disbanded, having achieved their mission of furthering the interest of swimming at CU.

Or did they? I guess we may never truly know.

1924-1925 Season

Record

2-1

Head Coach
Otis Elwin Smith



Team Roster

Theodore Anderson	Robert Austin
Bitterman	Campbell
John Dawson	Leonard De Lue
Robert Frost	Harry Friedman
Clement Marmaduke	Kenneth Mead
Rialto Philio	Elston Tribble
Jack Rutledge	Wilbur Richards
George Waite	



Coach Smith



Capt Austin

Northwestern 41, Colorado 18 - Feb 2, 1925

Most swim meets take place between two swim teams. As strange as it may sound, that was not the case for the first official meet for the University of Colorado swim team. Their first meet was against a Glee club. More specifically, four members of a Glee club (5).

You might assume the Buffs rolled to a blowout victory. You would be wrong, because these weren't your ordinary, run-of-the-mill, Glee Club singers.

Although they moonlighted as members of the Northwestern University Glee Club, their primary occupation was swimming. We don't know how good their vocals were, but they were undoubtedly among the best college swimmers in the country (6). In 1924, they

led Northwestern to its first swimming national championship (7).

The group included Richard Howell, Davis Corbett, Paul Manowitz and was captained by Ralph Breyer. Breyer & Howell won a gold medal as part of the United States' 4 X 200 relay in the 1924 Olympics (6)(8).



Traveling out west as members of the glee club, the Northwestern swimmers saw the opportunity to organize a unique barnstorming tour against collegiate swim teams, many of which were in their infancy like CU. The goal according to Northwestern coach Tom Robinson was "Not a tour of conquest, but one of education" (9)

The traveling group reached Boulder on February 2nd, 1925 where they squared off in front of 500 fans in a brand new Carlson Gymnasium pool. Although pedestrian by today's standards, Carlson was state of the art when it opened. At the meet, Northwestern coach Tom Robinson described it as "*one of the finest in which his men had ever exhibited*"(10).

Carlson Gym Pool: Circa 1925



Carlson would serve as the competition pool until [year] at which point it was replaced by Clare Small Pool (11)

Although the pool was top-notch, the team itself was not. The first ragtag CU squad included Nash, Hoagland, Anderson, Tribble, Philleo and Frost (5). They stood little chance against a titan of the sport as they lost in embarrassing fashion, failing to get a single first place finish in a 41-18 loss.

Colorado 36, Denver YMCA 30 - Feb 1925

As their first meet indicates, one of the teams' greatest challenges the first several seasons was finding qualified opponents to swim against. Swimming was just starting to become an official varsity sport at western colleges, so competitions were few and far between. In fact, the only other Colorado school to field a team in 1925 was the University of Denver, whom they wouldn't swim against until April. In the meantime, Coach Otis Smith had to get creative to find meets. So for their second meet the Buffs traveled to Denver where they got their first ever win against the local YMCA by a score of 36-30 (1).

Denver YMCA circa 1922



Denver 24, Colorado 48 - Apr 25, 1925

Technically, University of Denver beat the Buffs to the water by two whole years. Although they did not have a varsity team in 1923, a group of "swimming fans" at the school organized a competition with the Colorado School of Mines.

Hosted at the Denver YMCA, the meet was notable as being the first meet where two Colorado universities competed against each other. It wasn't a pretty meet, one relay got disqualified for illegally touching the wall, but in the end a rag tag Pioneers squad squeaked out a narrow 32-31 win over the Miners.

The DU swimmers had also hoped to schedule a meet against CU, but unfortunately nothing ever materialized and the Denver swim team faded away as quick as it started ([see other cite](#)).

Now two years later, the Pioneers swim team was back, and this time they were formally backed by the DU athletic department.

Coached by Kenneth Johnston, the Pioneers were a spitting image of CU's team. Both squads were brand new, made up of inexperienced newcomers, and had lost their first meet to Northwestern. On paper, it should have been a competitive meet.



Swimmer/Coach Kenneth Johnston

Instead, a series of unlucky injuries crippled Denver's chances of winning. Days before the meet, one of the Pioneers' better swimmers, Stanage, broke his leg and was unable to swim (12).

Desperate for swimmers, Coach Johnston even floated the idea of competing in the meet himself. As a former lifeguard and Olympian (allegedly), he was qualified. And since he was a student at the school and an amateur, he was eligible to compete.

Ultimately, he decided against competing. It was a decision that he would come to regret.

Still shorthanded, Denver lost another of their top swimmers mid-meet when Walker pulled his tendon and was unable to compete in fancy diving or the 100 free.

Without Walker, the Pioneers were also forced to forfeit the final relay of the meet, sealing a 40-24 win for the Buffs at Carlson. Captain Robert Austin led the way for Colorado with an 8 point effort which included a first place finish in the 100 free with a time of 1:07.8 (13).

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Denver	5	5	1	1	8	4	0	0	24
Colorado	4	4	8	8	1	5	8	10	48
<hr/>									
Denver	50	50	50	100	220	PLNG	DIVE	RLY	PTS
	FR	BR	BK	FR	FR				
Ahrens	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	8
Johnson	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	6
Walker	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cato	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
Jones	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	5	5	1	1	8	4	0	0	24
<hr/>									
Colorado	50	50	50	100	220	PLNG	DIVE	RLY	PTS
	FR	FR	BK	FR	FR				
Austin	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	8
Rutledge	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
Tribble	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	6
Waite	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Philleo	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Anderson	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Frost	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Mead	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dawson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	4	8	8	1	5	8	10	48

Colorado 35, Denver Y 27, Denver 10 - May 4, 1925

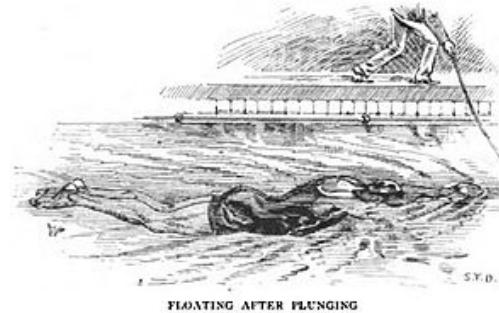
A few weeks later, CU proved their previous wins were no fluke as they beat both University of Denver and the Denver YMCA again in the first triangular meet in team history. Hosted somewhere in Denver, the pool was just 20 yards long. Although it is hard to imagine today a pool not being 25 yards or 50 meters long, it was much more common in the early days of the sport (14). The Buffs claimed a couple of first places in the meet, as Jack Rutledge won the 40-yard backstroke and John Dawson won the diving competition.

More importantly, Colorado dominated the plunge for distance event sweeping with first, second and third place.

You might be wondering what the plunge for distance event is? The plunge for distance is the shortest lived and most interesting event in the history of swimming. Essentially, competitors would dive from a standing position into a pool.



After “plunging” into the water, the plunger would proceed to float for sixty seconds trying to make it as far down the pool as possible without breathing (15).



In 1904 the plunge for distance became an official event for the St. Louis Olympics. The gold medal winner that year was William Dickey from New York, who floated just over 62 feet (16). The win was bittersweet though, as the plunge for distance was quietly removed from the Olympics, never to return. That means Dickey has the rare distinction of being the first and last gold medal winner of the Olympic Plunge for Distance.

The sport was heavily criticized. In his 1922 book titled *Swimming and Diving*, Gerald Barnes, coach at the University of Oregon, said quite harshly that, “Nine out of every ten successful plungers are mere mountains of fat who fall in the water and more or less successfully depend on inertia to get their points for them. (15)”

In 1925 the event was truly on its last legs, only clinging to existence in college swimming. In April 1925, the NCAA rules committee elected to abolish the plunge for distance once and for all (17). As a result, the Denver triangular marked the last time any Buffs officially competed in a plunge for distance.

Anderson won first place that day with a 50 foot, 2 inches dive. That dive was enough for the school record, edging out Waite who posted a plunge of 49 feet, 3 inches a month prior (13)(18).

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>Total</i>
<i>Denver</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Denver YMCA</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>35</i>
 <i>Denver</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>PLNG</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>FR</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>			
<i>Arrons</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Johnson</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>Walker</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>
 <i>Denver</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>PLNG</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
<i>YMCA</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>		<i>FR</i>			
<i>Raglund</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>	<i>9 1/4</i>
<i>Wilson</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>	<i>9 1/4</i>
<i>Stanley</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>5</i>
<i>Bell</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>3</i>
<i>Boyd</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>	<i>2 1/4</i>
<i>Throck-</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>
<i>Morton</i>									
<i>Totals</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>27</i>
 <i>Colorado</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>PLNG</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>FR</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>					
<i>Anderson</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Dawson</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Rutledge</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>Austin</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Frost</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Waite</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Richards</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>Tribble</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>Totals</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>35</i>

Swimmer Spotlight: Robert Austin

Robert E. Austin is the Colorado swim team's equivalent of George Washington.



He was leader of the team as the first captain in 1925. It says a lot about Austin that he was just a freshman when he was elected to be captain (29). It says even more so that he was the first freshman to captain a University of Colorado varsity team (29).

Before joining the Buffs, he held several pacific swimming records and competed in the 1924 Olympic Trials (29).

Once he arrived at Boulder, he immediately got to work as the team's best swimmer and established a handful of records in freestyle events.

Austin arguably peaked early in college. His absence from later yearbooks indicates he may not have graduated, and in the 1930 census he is listed as unemployed (30).

1925-1926 Season

Record

2-0

Head Coach

Otis Elwin Smith

Team Roster

Robert Austin	Arthur Eaton
Irwin May	Jack Rutledge
Elston Tribble	William Stoddard
Jones	Theodore Anderson

Colorado 43, Wyoming 14 - Feb 12, 1926

In 1925, Denver's swim coach Kenneth Johnston boldly declared in the student newspaper, the Clarion, "From now on swimming has come to stay [at DU] and it will next year be a minor sport at all universities in the conference." (19)

1925 Cartoon from DU Clarion

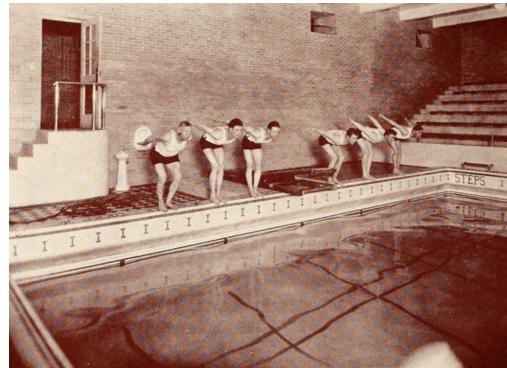


His prediction could not have been more incorrect. Not only was Denver unable to field a team in 1926, but outside of CU, only one other school in the conference added a swim team (20)(21).

That school was up north at the University of Wyoming. In a classic case of which came first: the pool or the swim team? Wyoming did the former and built a brand-new pool in 1925, but was not able to start a team until 1926 (22).

And who was the man charged with leading the first Cowboys swim team? Well, it was none other than the Pioneers' old swimming innovator, Kenneth Johnston

(23). In December 1925, faced with the reality that DU would not be able to field a swim team, Johnson decided to resign and took his talents to Laramie.



Wyoming's University Pool Circa 1925

In a strange series of events, Johnston barely made it to 1926 with his life. In the fall of 1925, he jumped in front of a train.

Granted, he did so with a purpose: to save the life of a rather unsuspecting young girl. While he succeeded in rescuing the girl, he was badly cut and bruised after being dragged 50 feet by the train (cite). He must not have been too badly shaken up, as the next day he re-enrolled at the University of Denver.

A month out from the meet, Johnston had 35 men tryout for the team.

Practicing on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, that number was eventually whittled down to around 15 swimmers. Johnston did manage to find at least one diamond in the rough amongst these recruits, as freshman Vernon Dallas would become arguably the most dominant diver in the Rocky Mountains.

Desperate for competition, the Buffs traveled up to Laramie to match up against the green Cowboys squad.

No results exist from the meet, but 1927 team Captain Elston Tribble described it, “*As an overwhelming victory for the Silver and Gold tanksters, who took every first with the exception of the fancy diving*” (20).

Wyoming 16, Colorado 41 - March 6, 1926

In the month between their beatdown, Coach Johnston tried to get his team into better shape.

A few days before the Cowboys ventured down to Boulder, they hosted an intersquad meet open to the public. Dallas once again dazzled, as his diving antics, “kept the crowd in continual laughter”.

In the 220 yard freestyle, Jess Budd showed increased promise by throwing down a mark of 3:12.3 nearly 3 seconds faster than CU’s best time in the event. Sprinter Jerry Bell also flashed great potential in the 50 freestyle, but his academic standing meant he was ineligible to compete against CU.

Despite the improvements, the Cowboys suffered a pretty much identical defeat. The only difference is that instead of winning diving, the Cowboys won the 100 yard freestyle. (20)(24).

Stanford 44, Colorado 14 - March 24, 1926

The Stanford team were not newcomers to the sport like Wyoming. By 1926, they had already been around for a decade, with plenty of success (25). It was a strong start for a team that would go on to become one of the most respected swim programs in the country. As of today, the Cardinal have earned 8 NCAA men’s national championships in swimming and diving (25).

These days, it would be nearly inconceivable for the Stanford swim team to visit Boulder. That wasn’t the case in 1926, when the Cardinal chose to venture to Colorado to face the Buffs in an exhibition meet.

Stanford University Swim Team (1926)



A year prior, Stanford had the honor of being the final destination for Northwestern on their barnstorming tour. Similar to the Buffs, they were no match for the four Wildcats, but they did manage to lose by a closer score of 36-23 (26).

Possibly inspired by Northwestern’s trip, Stanford’s coach Ernest Brandsten organized a national tour of his own in 1926 en route to the collegiate championships in Annapolis on April 23rd (27). Along the way, the team made a couple of detours in Laramie and Boulder amongst other destinations (28).

The result of the meet was decided before they even arrived. The Buffs never really stood a chance against Stanford.

The group was supremely deep and was anchored by the talents of several Olympians from 1924. The team’s captain Dave Fall earned the silver medal in diving, and Wallace O’Connor won a gold medal in the freestyle relay. (28)

Even though it was just an exhibition, by all accounts the meet was a blowout of epic proportions. The Cardinal swimmers ripped up the Carlson pool, setting records left and right.

It is possible the competition could have been marginally closer as Robert Austin, one of the team’s best swimmers, was bedridden with an illness. (28)

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Stanford	8	5	5	8	5	8	5	44
Colorado	1	0	4	1	4	1	3	14
Stanford	50 FR	RLY BK	150 FR	220 BR	200 FR	100 DIVE	PTS	
Allen	0	1 1/4	5	0	5	0	0	11 1/4
O'Conner	5	1 1/4	0	3	0	0	0	9 1/4
Williams	3	1 1/4	0	0	0	5	0	9 1/4
Stevenson	0	1 1/4	0	5	0	3	0	9 1/4
D. A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Total	8	5	5	8	5	8	5	44
Colorado	50 FR	RLY BK	150 FR	220 BR	200 FR	100 DIVE	PTS	
Rutledge	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	4
Tribble	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
May	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Eaton	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jones	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Stoddard	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	1	0	4	1	4	1	3	14

Swimmer Spotlight: Jack Rutledge

If Robert Austin is considered the George Washington of the CU's swim and dive team, Rutledge is easily the Thomas Jefferson.



A fellow member of the Water Dogs like Austin, Rutledge took the reins of the captaincy heading into the team's second season.

Even before he was captain, Rutledge was already the leader of the team in the pool. When he swam, the water exploded around him.

He was a prolific swimmer, the best on the team, and he regularly took home wins in the 50, 100 freestyle and backstroke. It was said in 1926, "*that he has shattered unofficially every conference and pool record for the freestyle and backstroke events.*"

In the summer, he competed in the annual Colorado State Swimming championships. They were major competitions held on the Fourth of July at Berkeley Lake Park in Denver, attracting well over 15,000 spectators to watch the region's greatest swimmers and divers participate.

For three straight years, from 1926-1928, Jack Rutledge dominated the meet and won 10 events, the most of any competitor in that span. Cementing his status as the best swimmer in the state.



Rutledge (3rd from left) alongside other winners, Berkeley Park (1927)

After graduating from CU, Rutledge would continue to compete for his hometown Pueblo Workers YMCA. In fact, that next season he squared off against his former squad.

Despite his strong individual effort, his team was overpowered by the Buffs both times they met in 1927. However, the same was not true when he swam against the Colorado School of Mines.

In a 1928 trip to Golden, Rutledge alongside another University of Colorado swim team alumni, Elston Tribble won 5 events, a total of 27 points in a shocking 32-27 win.

After that, news on Rutledge starts to fade. As his body aged, he probably took a step away from swimming and focused his energy towards starting a family in Pueblo.

At some point he married Doris Hamby, and they had one kid together: Philip E. Rutledge. Sadly, the happy times did not last, as in 1938 he filed for divorce. It is the last piece of public information we have on him.

1926-1927 Season

Record

4-0

Head Coach

Otis Smith

Team Roster

Theodore Anderson	Robert Austin
R.C. Behn	Jones
Chuck Mau	C.A. Mitchell
Reilly	H.G. Richmond
William Stoddard	Elston Tribble
George I. Warren	



Capt Tribble

Colorado W, Steelworkers YMCA L - Jan, 1927

For the third straight season in the row, the Buffs were forced to grapple with scheduling difficulties. Denver still did not have a team and no meets were scheduled with Wyoming because of a so-called "severance of relations" (31). Maybe the Cowboys were afraid of facing Colorado again after two blowout losses in 1926.

The team in action: 1927



The good news is that CU was able to find a new foe in a freshly formed team at Colorado State. They would not swim against the Aggies until February though and had to resort to competing against the Pueblo Steelworkers YMCA in the meantime (31).

The Pueblo Steel Workers YMCA has a fascinating and tragic history. In 1913, miners that worked for the John Rockefeller Jr. owned Fuel and Iron company went on strike (32).

On April 20th 1914, an attack was organized on the strikers' tents. The resulting conflict went on for nearly 14 hours (32). When the dust finally settled, hundreds were injured and 19 people including 13 women and children were killed (32).

Strike Busting at Ludlow



What soon became known as the “Ludlow Massacre” was one of the most violent labor conflicts in United States history (32).

It was also a public relations nightmare for Mr. Rockefeller, and he worked overtime to reshape his image in the years that followed (33).

One small part of that PR strategy was bankrolling the creation of the Pueblo Steelworkers YMCA. When it opened in 1920 it was the biggest YMCA in the entire country (33).

Pueblo Steel Workers YMCA circa 1920s



Colorado W, Steelworkers YMCA L - Feb, 1927

The Buffs easily won both meets against the Steelworkers. One in Pueblo and the other in Boulder.

The most interesting aspect of these meets was the return of 1926 team captain Jack Rutledge. Rutledge, now graduated, swam for Pueblo and was their only swimmer to break the Buffs’ monopoly on first place finishes (31).

Colorado State 11, Colorado 48 - Feb 11, 1927

We know very little about the first Colorado State swim team. We do know a couple of things. They were coached by Gervaise W. “Tommie” Tompkins, and their first ever meet was against the Buffs in Boulder (34).

Tompkins, a former gymnast at the University of Iowa, took on the challenging task of coaching not one but two new teams: gymnastics and swimming.

He struggled to find athletes to participate in either sports and those that did, “*knew little of what they had to do*”

As you might have guessed meet was not pretty for the Rams. To put it simply they were outclassed in every single event. CSU didn’t even manage to get a single first place finish (35).

While the Rams faltered, the Buffs thrived breaking records left and right at the meet.

It was a bittersweet day for former team captain Jack Rutledge as two of his records were broken at the meet. The first was his 100 free record of 1:49.7, which was beaten by William Stoddard with a time of 1:48 (35).

Rutledge’s 150 backstroke record was also smashed by current captain Elston Tribble as he lowered the mark by nearly seven seconds from 2:17 to 2:10.2 (35).

Colorado State's First Team (1927)



The final score of 48-11 would mark an early low point for the Colorado State swim team. They would go on to get their first win in blowout fashion against league punching bag Wyoming later that season (34).

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Colorado St	1	1	4	3	1	1	11
Colorado	8	8	5	6	8	13	48
Colorado St	100	150	200	DIVE	50	RLY	PTS
	FR	BK	BR		FR		
Deicha	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Shanks	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Noland	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Emery	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Nordine	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	1	1	4	3	1	1	11

Colorado	100	150	200	DIVE	50	RLY	PTS	Meet Box Score
	FR	BK	BR		FR			
Austin	5	0	0	0	5	3 1/4	13 1/4	Event 1 2 3 4 5 6 Total
Tribble	0	5	0	5	0	0	10	Colorado 8 8 5 6 5 5 37
Stoddard	3	0	0	0	3	3 1/4	9 1/4	Colorado St 6 1 4 3 4 4 22
Jones	0	0	5	0	0	3 1/4	8 1/4	
Anderson	0	3	0	0	0	3 1/4	6 1/4	
Reilly	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Total	8	8	5	6	8	13	48	

*Missing events - box score recreated to best of ability

Colorado 37, Colorado State 22 - Mar 4, 1927

Although they could not really swim any worse than they did a month before in Boulder, Rams showed quite a bit of improvement from their first matchup with the Buffs.

Races that were easily won by Buff swimmers a month ago were much more closely contested. In the 120 yard relay the Rams came within inches of winning, but Austin held on to win the race.

It was the closest the Rams got all meet. They did not manage a single first place finish, Colorado State claimed a moral victory by doubling their point score to 22 (36).

A new record was set as Robert Austin brought the 220 free record to beneath 3 minutes with a time of 2:58.5.

Colorado	RLY	220	100	50	150	220	PTS
		BK	FR	FR	BK	FR	
Stoddard	2	0	5	5	0	0	12
Austin	2	0	0	0	0	5	7
Behn	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Tribble	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Mau	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Warren	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Anderson	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	8	8	5	6	5	5	37

Colorado St	RLY	220	100	50	150	220	PTS
		BK	FR	FR	BK	FR	
Nordeen	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Emery	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Noland	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Shanks	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Delch	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hinds	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jay	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	6	1	4	3	4	4	22



Farmer Pool Circa 1927

The two meets against the Buffs were not the most auspicious start for Colorado State's team, but under the leadership of Coach Tompkins they would grow to become the Buffs greatest swim adversary of the 1930s.

Eventually, Colorado State would even rise to surpass the Buffs as the most dominant team in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Swimmer Spotlight: Chuck Mau

It is hard to imagine how Chuck Mau must have felt when he arrived at the University of Colorado to pursue a law degree.

He was thousands of miles from home and was likely one of the few Asian Americans on campus.



Joining the swim team in 1926, Mau would go on to complete 3 years with the team, competing primarily in sprint freestyle events. At the 1928 RMC conference meet, he swam into 4th place in the 50 freestyle and earned a varsity letter for the year (37).

Besides swimming, Mau was very active on campus. He was a member of the debate team and Vice President of Delta Siga Rho: the National Forensic Society (38)(39).

While his talents may not have been game changing in the water, the same can't be said for his career that followed.

After graduating from CU with a law degree, Mau would go on to become a founder of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (40).

Eventually becoming chairman in 1948, this party would prove instrumental in establishing Hawaii as the 50th state in the union (40). For his successful political career, Mau was crowned a recipient of the university's Alumni Award in 1954 and the Norlin Award in 1981 (40).

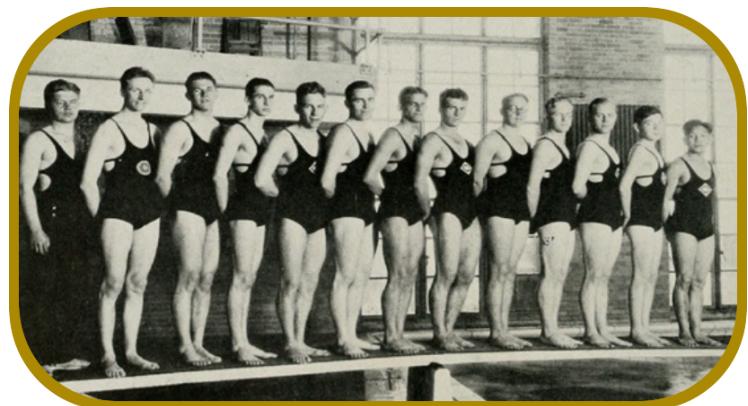
1927-1928 Season

Record
3-0

Head Coach
Otis Smith

Team Roster

Theodore Anderson	R. C. Behn
Ned Campbell	Max Chamberlain
William Clelland	Jones
Chuck Mau	Sherman
William Stoddard	



Capt Stoddard

Ready to Dive into Carlson

Colorado W, Northern Colorado L - Jan 25, 1928

The greatest headache for the Buffs swim team in its first several years of existence was finding a sufficient amount of quality competition.

In 1928 that problem was put to bed once and for all with the establishment of a swim team at the University of Northern Colorado. The addition of UNC together with Wyoming, Colorado State, and Colorado formed the Eastern Division of the Rocky Mountain Conference (37).

The creation of the Northern Colorado swim team aligned with the opening of the brand new Gunter Hall gymnasium and pool (41).

Gunter Hall under construction 1927



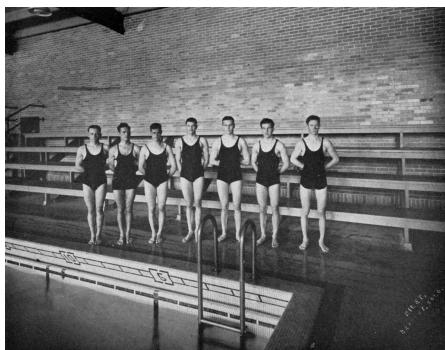
The project cost \$265,000, or nearly \$5 million in 2023 dollars, and was opened to the public on January 25th, 1928 (42).

Even before its unveiling, the pool, like many of the others before it, was hailed as the finest in the state. UNC officials even made the bold claim that the water was, “even safer than the water that is furnished by the people of Greeley for drinking purposes.” Whether that was a statement on the quality of the pool or a backhanded compliment at the expense of the Greelites is unknown.

The pool didn’t sit vacant for long, as only a few hours after the opening ceremony, the pool was in use to host the Buffs.

At this point, it had basically become a rite of passage for each new college swim team in the area to have their first official meet.

Wyoming had their first meet against Colorado in 1926, and Colorado State swam their first meet in Boulder a year later in 1927. Now in 1928, Northern Colorado first meet was the Buffs

First UNC Swim Team (1928)

Both Wyoming and Colorado State lost their debut meets to CU in blowout fashion.

The result was similar for the Bears, as a 45-20 loss sealed their place in the tight-knit fraternity of teams that lost their first foray into swimming to Colorado (41).

This first Bears team's only real noteworthy talent was John Jacobs. He was a strong breastroker and scored the Bears' only first place of the meet. Alongside Kelly Green, he was the only swimmer that earned an athletic letter that season.

Unfortunately for UNC Coach Peter Brown, Jacobs graduated that Spring, leaving a sparse talent base to build on heading into next season.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Colorado	6	10	10	9	10	45
Northern CO	3	3	5	4	5	20
Colorado	RLY	100	50	100	100	220
		BR	FR	BK	FR	PTS
Jones	1 ½	0	0	0	6	0
Anderson	0	0	0	6	0	0
Clelland	0	0	6	0	0	6*
Behn	0	6	0	0	0	6
Mau	1 ½	0	4	0	0	5 ½
Stoddard	1 ½	0	0	0	4	0
Campbell	1 ½	0	0	3	0	0
Sherman	0	4	0	0	0	4
Total	6	10	10	9	10	0
Northern CO RLY	100	50	100	100	220	PTS

	BR	FR	BK	FR	FR	
Jacobs	0	0	0	4	0	0
Bullock	¾	0	0	0	3	0
Green	¾	0	3	0	0	0
Unnamed	0	3	0	0	0	3
Benneweis	¾	0	2	0	0	2 ¾
Boyles	0	0	0	0	2	0
Baylis	¾	0	0	0	0	¾
Total	3	3	5	4	5	0

*No Reported Score - box score recreated to best of ability

*Clelland swam 220 FR in exhibition with time of 3:05.1

Colorado St 10, Colorado 49 - Jan 28, 1928

Expectations were low for Colorado State swimmers against the Buffs. The team was composed mostly of freshmen, and lacked much in the way of returning talent. Before departing for Boulder, the Fort Collins Coloradoan predicted, “*that a win is clear out of the question in swimming or gymnastics*”

That prediction proved spot on as Colorado dispatched the Rams in dominating fashion.

No meet records survive, but we do know that one CSU freshman made a strong first impression. That freshman was Will Lenfesty out of Aztec, New Mexico. He exploded onto the scene by smashing the conference record in the 150 backstroke in his debut meet..

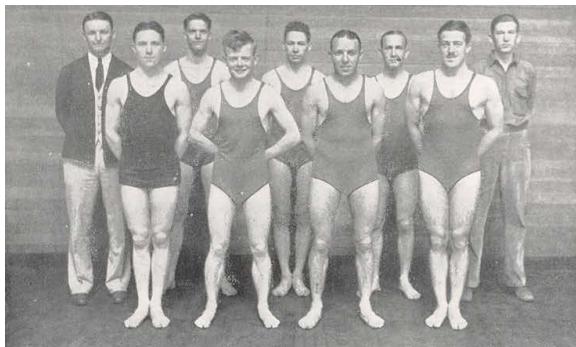
He was a natural swimming talent, he was taught how to swim backstroke by Coach Tompkins just a few months prior to this meet.

Over the remainder of the season, Lenfesty’s greatest competition was himself. He broke his own record 4 times in the backstroke in en route to winning the event at the championship meet.

Colorado Mines 11 Colorado 57 - Feb 19, 1928

Northern Colorado wasn’t the only school to add a swim team in 1928. The Colorado School of Mines launched a team as part of their athletics revival program undertaken by their athletic department (43).

It was the first time that they had fielded a team since their 1923 squad that narrowly lost to DU.

First Mines Swim Team (1928)

The new Orediggers had quietly possibly the worst debut in the history of college swimming. They suffered a humiliating loss to Denver East, a local highschool (43).

To their credit, they regrouped from that first loss and got revenge a few weeks later against Denver East in a practice meet (43).

In their first meet against a college opponent, they squeaked out a 32-30 win against fellow newcomers Northern Colorado (43). They did so in spite of two of their best swimmers, Paddleford and Malcome being deemed ineligible (44).

Still down two swimmers, Mines journeyed to Boulder and were, “drowned under the deluge of 57-11” (44). The Orediggers did not get first place in any events, their best finish came from Bench, who got 2nd in diving.

Colorado 45, Colorado St 24 - Feb 28, 1928

A month later, the Buffs traveled up to Fort Collins. Similar to their second skirmish in 1927, the Rams offered up a greater level of competition at their home pool.

Jones drove the victory for Colorado with an 8 point performance. He won the 200 free with a record setting time of 2:56.5, while also finishing second in the 50 free.

*Four Swimmers Race at CU/Aggie Duel - Feb 28, 1928*

Lenfesty was once again a bright spot in the darkness for Colorado State, as he won the 150 backstroke with another record time.

Buff diver Chamberlain battled with Colorado State's Lossasso and emerged with a 10 point victory.

*CU Vs Aggies Diving Competition - Feb 28, 1928*

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Colorado	6	8	3	4	8	5	5	6	45
Colorado St	1½	1	6	5	1	4	4	1½	24

Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	200	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Jones	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	8
Behn	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Chamberlain	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Clelland	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5

Campbell	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Sherman	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stoddard	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Anderson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	8	3	4	8	5	5	6	45

Colorado St	3	2	0	9	0	5	2		21
Wyoming	0	3	3	2	3	6	1		28*
Colorado	5	10	12	4	12	4	4		51

*Missing Wyoming Scores

	Colorado St	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	200	RLY	PTS
		BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Hindelider	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	8	
Lenfesty	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Lossasso	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Emery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Kreutzer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Love	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Solomon	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stauder	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1½	1	6	5	1	4	4	1½	24	

RMC East Division - March 3, 1928

Colorado had dominated their competition all season. It was no different in the first ever RMC conference championship, as the Buffs racked up 51 points at the home pool en route to their first conference title (37).

William Stoddard showed exactly why he was chosen to be captain of the squad. He led the Buffs in points, pairing a couple of second place finishes in the 50 and the 100 free with a first place finish in the medley relay (37).

Wyoming, the only team they did not swim against that season, probably due to the breakdown in relations from a few years ago, came in second place..

The win would have been the perfect send off for Coach Otis Smith.

He was instrumental in getting the team off the ground in 1925, and after three years of hard work he got to witness the fruits of his labor.

Unfortunately, the Buffs season was not over. As winners of the Eastern Division, they would travel to Provo, Utah to take on the Western Division of the RMC.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Northern CO	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Colorado St	RLY	200	50	150	100	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		Fr		
Lenfesty	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
Hinderlader	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Jacobs	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Emery	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Stauder	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	3	2	0	9	0	5	2	21

Wyoming	RLY	200	50	150	100	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		Fr		
Budd	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Thompson	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	5
Dallas	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Pascal	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	0	3	3	2	3	6	1	28

Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		Fr		
Stoddard	1½	0	4	0	4	0	0	9½
Clelland	1½	0	6	0	2	0	0	9½
Campbell	1½	0	0	0	6	0	1	8½
Behn	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	7
Jones	1½	0	0	0	0	4	0	5½
Anderson	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	5
Sherman	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Mau	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	6	10	12	4	12	4	3	51

RMC Championships - March 10, 1928

Although the Buffs might have been kings of the East, they were no match for their western division foes.

Only three swimmers for Colorado were able to make it through the prelim and semi-final rounds to qualify for the finals on Saturday afternoon. Those three swimmers were R.C. Behn (200 Breastroke), William Stoddard (400 free), and Ned Campbell (100 free).

Jones had a chance to make it back for the finals in the 200 free, but he got beat by a late sprint down the home stretch by BYU swimmer Millet.

The only swimmer to place from Colorado was Capt. Stoddard as he finished in second place in the 40 free. The Buffs fared better in the relays, getting 3rd in the 160 yard relay, and getting 2nd in the 120 yard relay.

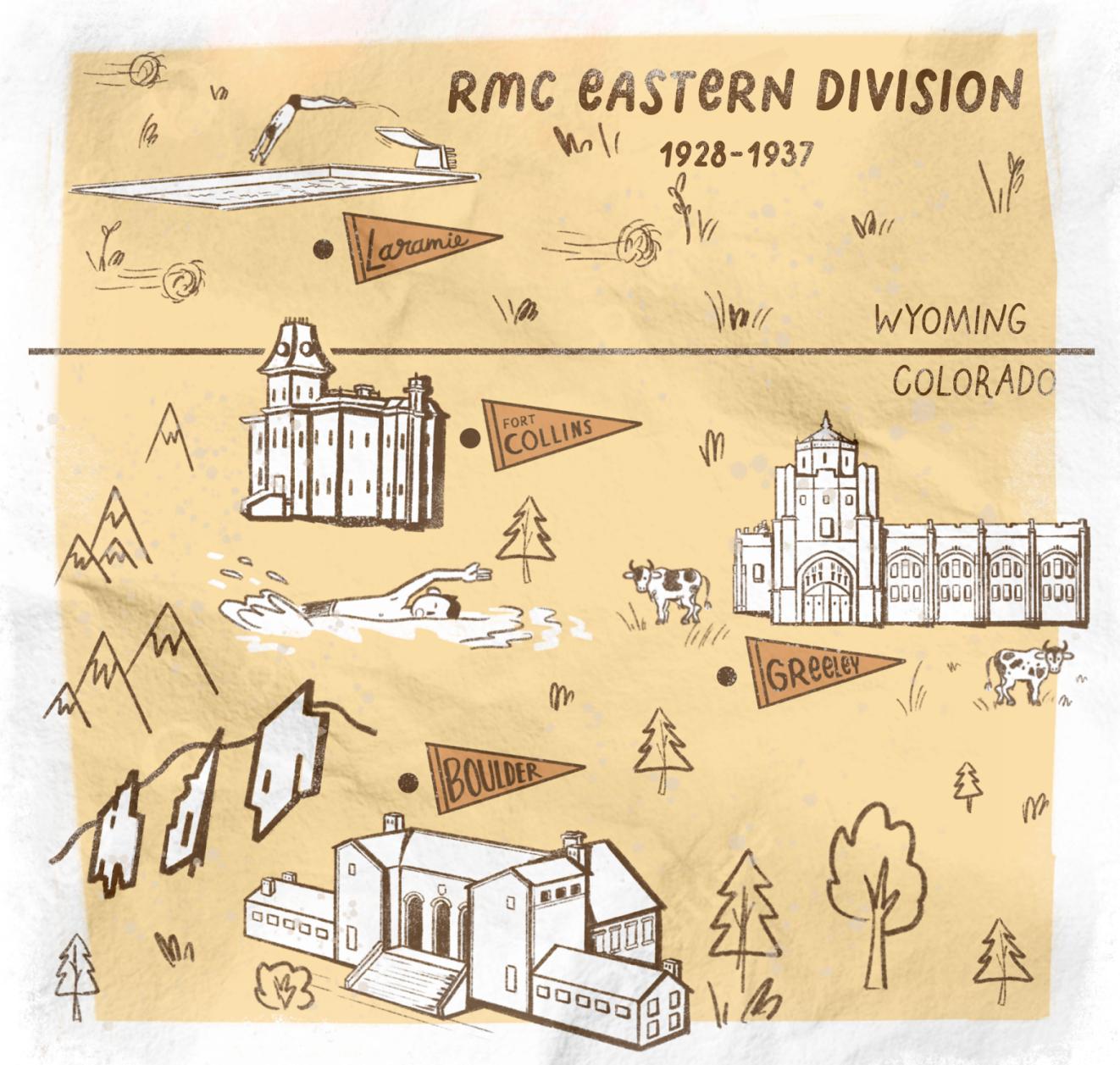
In the end, BYU emerged victorious at the meet. The Buffs put on a respectable performance, finishing in fourth place, just two points behind Utah State.

The other Eastern division teams, Colorado State and Wyoming barely had any swimmers in finals and tied for last with 5 points apiece.

It was the last meet for Colorado's first swim coach, Otis Smith. After the season he would depart the team for unknown reasons and eventually return to his home state of Illinois where he would continue to coach swimming at Oak Park High School.

3.

Rocky Mountain High



John H. Mason

With Coach Smith leaving the team following their first championship win in 1928, the Buffs were on the hunt for a new swim coach.

Athletic Director Harry Carlson found a replacement in an unlikely location - the football field.

His name was John H. Mason, and he was an assistant coach for the CU football team in 1928.

It is unclear why Mason was selected to coach the swim team. In fact, we have no clue if he had any knowledge of the sport of swimming whatsoever. That being said, he did have a very impressive football resume.

Before arriving at CU, he played four seasons as the quarterback for Oklahoma State University. He was a great player from the start, as he was named All-Southwest conference quarterback in his 1922 freshman season.



John Mason Quarterbacking

His 1924 season was his most notable as he helped lead the Cowboys, who had long struggled to field competitive teams, to their best season ever, finishing with a 6-1-2 record.

He was a fan favorite among Oklahoma State supporters; the school yearbook, the Redskin, claimed that there was, “*No greater thrill than the thrill of Johnnie's fighting spirit on the gridiron.*”

The yearbook also said that, “*John holds a letter in wrestling and dabbles in other sports.*”

Conceivably, one of the sports that he dabbled in was swimming.



Sketch of John Mason (1925)

Regardless, Mason was far from the obvious choice to fill the swim coaching vacancy.

It was a gamble that paid off big time. What Mason lacked in terms of experience, he made up for it with moxie and that same fighting spirit he played football with.

With Coach Mason at the helm, the Buffs dominated the Rocky Mountain Conference.

His tenure is by far the most successful era in the history of the team. In the three seasons that Mason coached, they won three conference championships.

In that time, the Buffs didn't lose a single meet. Colorado went undefeated with a perfect 13-0 record.

Not too shabby for a football coach.

1928-1929 Season

Record
5-0

Head Coach
John H. Mason

Team Roster

Ned Campbell	William Clelland
Ernest Collins	Creed Hinderliser
Lloyd Jensen	Johnson
Jory	Louis Overfelt
Schwartz	Orslow Shallenberger
Sherman	William Stoddard
Vie Weiland	

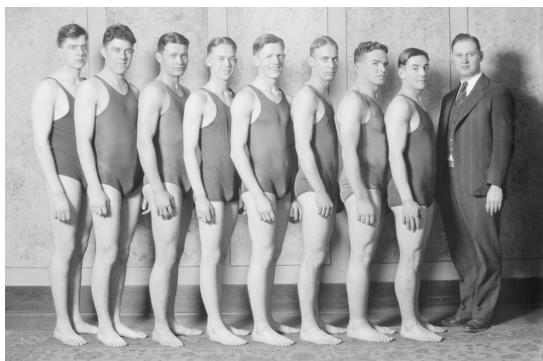


Wyoming 8, Colorado 59 - Jan 26, 1929

Expectations were high for the CU swim and dive team heading into 1929 since a large portion of the nucleus from their first RMC East Division championship squad was returning.

Mason had a strong core returning from last year's championship team with William Stoddard, William Clelland and Campbell. They also had a talented group of newcomers including Creed Hinderliser, Ernest Collins and Orslow Shallenberger who would become key pieces in years to come.

For the first time since their inaugural season in 1926, the Cowboys swam in a dual meet against the Buffs. They definitely regretted their decision to schedule Colorado again, as they got absolutely annihilated in Boulder.



Wyoming's Swim & Dive Team: 1929

The 51 point drubbing was the largest win in team history at that time. It was a surprisingly fast meet to start the season as the Buffs broke three records in: the relay, 100 free and 220 free.

Captain Campbell put on a scoring display winning the 50 free and 220 free. In the 220 free, he set a conference record with a time of 2:51.5. Hinderliser showed off his versatility, winning diving and also swimming on the record setting relay.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Wyoming	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	8
Colorado	14	8	8	5	8	8	8	59
<hr/>								
Wyoming	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR	
Laughlin	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4
Budd	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Owens	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Turner	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	8
<hr/>								
Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR	
Campbell	3 1/2	0	5	0	0	0	5	13 1/2
Hinderliser	3 1/2	0	0	0	0	5	0	8 1/2
Stoddard	3 1/2	0	0	0	5	0	0	8 1/2

<i>Schwartz</i>	3 ½	0	3	0	0	0	0	6 ½
<i>Collins</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
<i>Johnson</i>	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Clelland</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
<i>Overfelt</i>	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<i>Shallenberger</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
<i>Sherman</i>	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Total</i>	14	8	8	5	8	8	8	59

Colorado 53, School of Mines 16 - Jan, 1929

Golden, Colorado is most well known as the home of Coors Beer Company. Each year, millions of gallons of water is heated and brewed into beer.

When the Buffs visited Golden for the first time they must have felt like they were being brewed into beer as the Mines pool was a warm 82 degrees.

It was not the first time that the Mines Gymnasium Pool wasn't up to standard. Back in 1925, Mines had a meet to scheduled against CU inaugural however it was canceled, "*due to the lack of water for the swimming pool*"

Built in 1908, Mines Gymnasium Pool was the earliest collegiate pool in Colorado. Once state of the art, by 1929 it was now starting to show its age, especially in comparison to the new pools popping up along the Rockies.

Mines Gymnasium (1908)



Regardless, the pool conditions didn't turn out to be much of an obstacle for Colorado, as they won first in

every event. The lone blemish in the afternoon was a disqualification from Johnson in the 200 breaststroke because he “forgot to touch both hands to the wall”.

Colorado 54, Northern Colorado 15 - Jan 30, 1929

Colorado's ferocious start to the season continued with a smashing of the Bears.

Johnson figured out how to touch the wall with two hands and was rewarded with a conference record time of 3:09.1 in the 200 breaststroke.

The former captain Willaim Stoddard continued to be in excellent form, winning both the 50 and 220 freestyle.

Mulhollland was the sole Bear with a bit of bite as he earned two of Northern Colorado's three total second place finishes.

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>15</i>

Colorado	RLY		200		50		150		DIVE	100	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK						FR	FR			
Stoddard	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	10	
Jensen	1 1/4	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	9 1/4	
Campbell	1 1/4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1 2/3	0	1 2/3	8	
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1 2/3	0	1 2/3	6 2/3	
Johnson	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 2/3	0	1 2/3	6 2/3	
Shallenberger	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Sherman	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Hinderlider	1 1/4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 1/4	
Schwartz	1 1/4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 1/4	
Overfelt	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	5	8	6	8	6	6	10	5	5	5	5	54	

<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>			<i>FR</i>	<i>FR</i>		
<i>Mulholland</i>	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	6
<i>Akers</i>	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
<i>Binneweis</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
<i>Fuqua</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	$1 \frac{1}{3}$
<i>Hunter</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	$1 \frac{1}{3}$
<i>Mann</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0

<i>Total</i>	2	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	15
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Colorado St 28, Colorado 41 - Feb 16, 1929

After two underwhelming seasons, Colorado State started to put things together in 1929. The team was still made up of many inexperienced swimmers, but head coach Tompkins had spent all autumn of 1928 getting the team ready.

With training under way Tompkins confidently declared, “*he has never had a squad who has shown as much spirit and enthusiasm*”,

There was a lot to be excited about with the talents of Lenfesty (the conference's best backstroke) and newcomer Kenny Charlesworth (an elite freestyle sprinter), the Rams had emerged as legitimate challengers for best swim team in the state.

Months before the season Tompkins was optimistic, but realistic about the outlook of the team emphasizing that, “*the University of Colorado will once again be the strongest team east of the Rockies*”

Tompkins knew what he was talking about. Despite putting up a strong fight against the Buffs, they once again didn't have enough in the tank to secure a positive result.

The meet was by far their most competitive against the CU. With two events remaining, the result of the meet was still up in the air. However, Ned Campbell secured the meet for the Buffs with a decisive win in the 220 freestyle, clinching Colorado's dominance for at least one more season.



Taking a Dive in Carlson Pool (1929)

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>Total</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>41</i>

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Stoddard</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6 ½</i>
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Hinderlider</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>5</i>
<i>Johnson</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Schwartz</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4 ½</i>
<i>Sherman</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4 ½</i>
<i>Jory</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>3</i>
<i>Jensen</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 ½</i>
<i>Collins</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>1</i>
<i>Overfelt</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>Weiland</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>41</i>

<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Charlesworth</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>6 ½</i>
<i>Lenfesty</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>6 ½</i>
<i>Love</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Kreutzer</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>Solomon</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Selters</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>2 ½</i>
<i>Hobson</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>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>28</i>

Northern Colorado 8, Colorado 60 - Feb 21, 1929

After the beating they took in Greeley a month before, the Bears were long fearing their return visit to Boulder.

Somehow, the Bears managed to swim worse than earlier in the season. Results don't exist from the meet, but it is quite possible based on the score that a Buff finished first and second in every event.

Captain Ned Campbell regained the conference record in the 220 freestyle. After setting the mark in Wyoming to start the season, the record was stolen by Charlesworth of CSU with a time of 2:47.7. Against UNC, Campbell reclaimed what was rightfully his by improving the record by nearly 4 seconds with a time of 2:47.7

Johnson again lowered his 200 breast record. The time doesn't exist on record presumably because he swam so fast he broke all the stop watches.

RMC East Division - March 2, 1929

Entering the conference championships in Laramie, there was little doubt in anyone's mind who would come up on top. The Buffs had absolutely evercerated their opponents to a tune of 267-75 during the regular season. The Rams had offered some resistance when they swam a month ago, but did they have enough depth to truly offer CU a challenge?

The Buffs quickly silenced any doubts by jumping out to a massive early lead by winning the first three events of the meet: the medley relay, 200 breast and 50 free. CU swam especially well in the 50 free as Schwartz established a new conference mark with a time of 27.2 and team captain Campbell finished in second place.

From that point forward Colorado State controlled the meet, winning the remaining five events. Hinderlader was an unlikely star for the Rams as he won the 100 free with a time of 1:05.8 and then in an incredible display of versatility he won diving as well. Lenfesty continued his dominant reign over the conference in the 200 backstroke, and Charlesworth chipped in with a win of his own in the 220 free. Despite the impressive individual performances, CSU's lack of depth proved to be their ultimate undoing.

Every time a Colorado State swimmer won an event, a Colorado swimmer swooped in to get second place as Campbell, Stoddard and Collins all took home silver medals in their respective events.

Diving was the lone event that the Rams got to score unopposed. That was due to the notable absence of both of CU's divers: Orslow Schallenberger and Creed Hinderlader. Perhaps the divers got lost somewhere on the trip up to Wyoming or were ill stricken.

Regardless, by the time swimmers hit the water in the final relay, Colorado's victory was in hand. Even with a win in the relays the Rams still came up 6 points shy of shocking Colorado, allowing the Buffs to put a bow on their perfect season.

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>Total</i>
<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>13</i>
<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Colorado</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>42</i>

<i>Northern CO</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Mulholland</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Fuqua</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>

<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Turner</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>Budd</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>0</i>
<i>Laughlin</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>0</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>

<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Hinderlader</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Charlesworth</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Lenfesty</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Sellers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Kreutzer</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Floyd</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>1</i>
<i>Solomon</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>Hobson</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>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>36</i>

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Johnson</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Schwartz</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>Collins</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>3</i>
<i>Stoddard</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Clelland</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>2</i>
<i>Jory</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Sherman</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>42</i>

1929-1930 Season

Record

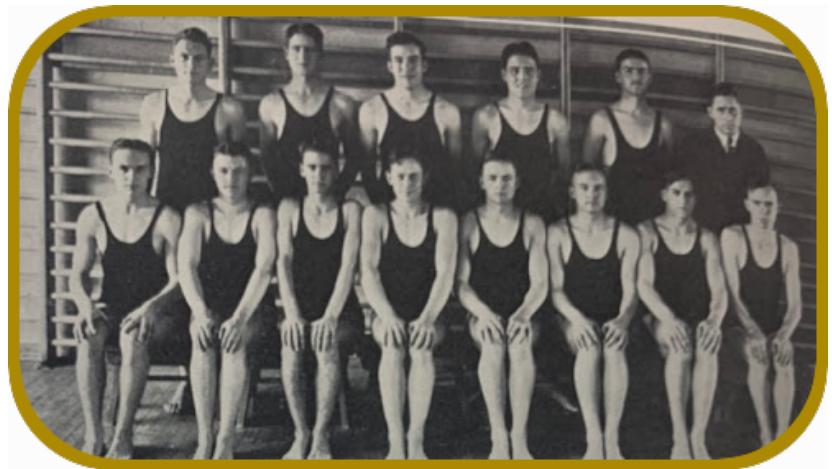
4-0

Head Coach

John H. Mason

Team Roster

John Bangeman	Ernest Collins
John Cowan	Stuart Debenham
Fowler	Robert Hazlett
Holland	Lloyd Jensen
Johnson	Douglas Murray
Louis Overfelt	Schwartz
Orslow Shallenberger	Stark
Thomas	



Wyoming 12, Colorado 52 - Jan 25, 1930

By 1930, the Wyoming swim & dive team had four coaches in the span of its five-year existence. This time the coach was C.L. Porter, who took over the reins from George McLaren.

While the coaches may have changed constantly, one thing stayed consistent: the presence of four time team captain, and diving ace Vernon Dallas. Dallas was hands down the best diver in the conference, winning the fancy diving event at the RMC championships all four years he competed.



Wyoming Capt. Vernon Dallas

That being said, Coach Porter inherited an incredibly challenging situation. The Wyoming swim and dive team was a shell of itself just two years after placing second at a weak RMC Eastern Division Championship.

Outside of Dallas, the shelves were barren with a lack of talent. Coach Porter had to make due with young and inexperienced swimmers.

Coach Porter did not have much time to get the team into shape before journeying down to Boulder. In a time honored tradition, they were decimated by the Buffs by 42 points.

Despite the rough performance, Wyoming actually lost by two points less than the year prior, thanks to Dallas improving from silver to gold in the fancy diving with an 81.4 point performance.

Like the Cowboys, the Buffs also had their fair share of turnover from their championship team the year prior.

Key swimmers Stoddard, Campbell and Clelland had graduated. However, Colorado brought back two conference champions in Johnson and Schwartz in addition to Collins.

CU supplemented their lost talent with several fantastic new additions: Stuart Debenham, Lloyd Jensen and Douglas Murray would all prove to be critical to the Buffs' success this season.

Debenham and Jensen announced their talents immediately to the Cowboys and the conference, winning their respective events in their first ever college meet.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Wyoming	0	1	1	1	1	5	1	0	10
Colorado	4	8	8	8	8	4	8	4	52
<hr/>									
Wyoming	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Dallas	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	6
Holsteid	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
King	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Seyforth	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	1	1	1	5	1	0	10
<hr/>									
Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1 1/3	6 1/3
Johnson	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	6 1/3
Debenham	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
Jensen	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6
Schwartz	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	6
Murray	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bangeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Cowan	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Shallenberger	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Stark	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Thomas	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Hazlett	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	1 1/3
Fowler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	4	8	8	8	8	4	8	4	52

Wyoming 15, Colorado 54 - Feb 8, 1930

Just two weeks later, Captain Dallas decided to get out of his comfort zone and swim the 100 free. He finished second, just behind CU freshman Lloyd Jensen.

It was a great moment of a swimmer going above and beyond for the greater good of the team. An epic display of selfless heroism from the team's best athlete. In a lot of meets, those three points could have been the difference between winning and losing.

Unfortunately, that could not have been further from the case in this meet. Wyoming got blown out to the Buffs in the same embarrassing fashion they had two weeks before.

The Cowboys record against Colorado dropped to an embarrassing 0-5.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Wyoming	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1	12
Colorado	6	8	8	8	6	4	8	6	54
<hr/>									
Wyoming	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Dallas	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	8
Holsteid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
King	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Seyforth	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	1	1	1	3	5	1	1	12
<hr/>									
Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	7
Johnson	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Debenham	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Murray	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Jensen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Schwartz	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Bangeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Cowan	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Shallenberger	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Stark	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Thomas	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Hazlett	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	1 1/3	
Fowler	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	6	8	8	8	6	4	8	6	54

Colorado 44, Northern CO 34 - Feb 12, 1930

Northern Colorado was not a true challenger in the Rocky Mountain Conference. They largely offered no threat to either Colorado State or Colorado, but they were comfortably the third-best team because of the two headed talents of Milholland and Fuqua.

John Milholland, a Junior, was the leader of the squad. Having swam the last three seasons, he had proven

himself to be a grossly talented freestyle, especially in the 220 yard distance events. Out of the water, he was an incredibly bright student and earned several scholarships en route to his tenure as Student Body President.



John Milholland (1931)

His partner in crime, John Fuqua was an elite breastroker. While he was never technically the best in the conference, he routinely held his own, taking silver in the 200 breast in both the 1929 and 1930 RMC championships.

Between the two of them, the Bears stayed within striking distance of the Buffs as UNC combined for over half of CU's points.

Milholland paired two first places in the 50 free and 220 free with a second place result in the 100 free to lead the meet with 13 points.

Fuqua briefly asserted himself as the best breastroker in the conference, by not only beating Johnson in the 200 breaststroke and in the process smashing his conference record by four seconds.

Those impressive individual accomplishments were not enough to overcome the Buffs incredible depth, as CU still eased their way to a 10 point win.

Ernest Collins continued his feisty start to the season by winning the 150 backstroke for the third consecutive meet in the row. Schwartz similarly won the 100 free for a third straight time.

Meet Box Score

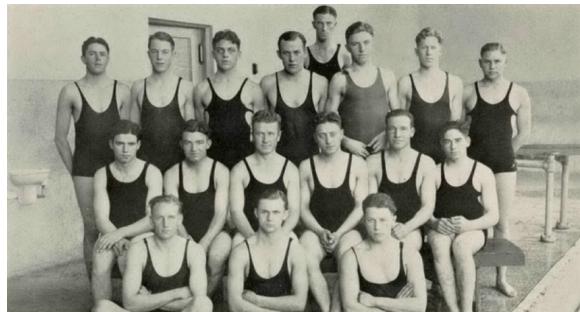
Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Colorado	8	3	4	8	6	3	4	8	44
Northern CO	4	6	5	1	3	6	5	4	34

Colorado	RLY 200 50 150 100 DIVE 220 RLY PTS								
	BR	FR	BK	FR	FR				
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2 2/3	7 2/3
Schwartz	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7
Murray	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2 2/3	5 2/3
Johnson	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2 2/3	5 2/3
Jensen	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
Cowan	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Debenham	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Shallenberger	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Thomas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bangeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Overfelt	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	8	3	4	8	6	3	4	8	44

Northern CO	RLY 200 50 150 100 DIVE 220 RLY PTS								
	BR	FR	BK	FR	FR				
Milholland	0	0	5	0	3	0	5	0	13
Fuqua	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	6 1/3
Akers	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Binneweis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	2 1/3
Green	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 1/3	2 1/3
Baylis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Harmer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
House	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Litchman	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Morris	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	6	5	1	3	6	5	4	34

Colorado 47, Colorado St 28 - Feb 18, 1930

Since 1927, coach Tompkins had slowly built up the Rams into a considerable foe. When Colorado State arrived in Boulder, they were undefeated riding high on the thrill of three consecutive victories against Wyoming, Northern Colorado and School of Mines. The only thing that stood between them and a perfect season were the Buffs.



Colorado State's Swim & Dive Team: 1930

The Rams hot start to the season was not a fluke. Unlike prior iterations of the Colorado State swim team this team possessed both the top end talent and the depth to truly challenge CU.

The Rams did lose a couple key pieces from the previous season. With conference champion Charlesworth graduating alongside key pieces Hinderlinder and Hobson the team's best diver, Lenfesty and Charlesworth.

The losses weren't felt too badly by Colorado State though as freshman Wilson Longmore quickly emerged as a rising star. Seamlessly taking over from Charlesworth as the best freestyler on the team.

Increased contributions by veterans LoSasso, Stoddard and Sellers also furthered helped to fill the holes left by the departures.

Even with all that talent and home pool advantage they still weren't able to unseat the Buffs.

Lenfesty secured the Rams' only gold medal of the meet, finishing the 150 backstroke with a time of 1:59.40.

Colorado dominated the rest of the meet. It was a textbook performance for the Buffs Johnson, Debenham, Schwartz, Jensen and Shallenberger all winning their speciality events, while sweeping both relay events.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Colorado	9	5	6	3	5	5	8	6	47
Colorado St	3	4	3	6	4	4	1	3	28

Colorado	RLY				200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR						FR		
Johnson	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Debenham	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Jensen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Schwartz	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Shallenberger	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bangeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Holland	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Murray	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Collins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Bangeman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	8	3	4	8	6	3	4	8	8	4	44	

Colorado St	RLY				200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR						FR		
Lenfesty	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Longmore	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
LaSasso	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stoddard	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hunt	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Morris	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sellers	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Murray	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
<i>Total</i>	3	4	3	6	4	4	4	4	1	3	3	28

RMC East Division - March 1, 1930

For the first time, Gunter Hall in Greeley was selected to host the Rocky Mountain Conference. The home pool advantage did little to help the upstart Bears though as UNC finished dead last in fourth place.

Even though the meet wasn't entertaining for Northern Colorado fans, it was an absolute classic for the other teams involved.

In an outstanding performance, that would go down as the largest upset in Colorado Collegiate swimming history, the upstart Rams stunned the University of Colorado by earning a share of the conference title with 37 points a piece.

Heading into the meet, the Buffs had never lost a meet of any kind to an in-state school. Since their inception a half decade prior, they had a pristine 13-0 record.

Even though they didn't outright beat Colorado, the Rams accomplished something even more powerful -

they proved that “Superman could bleed”. The Buffs were beatable.

In many ways, this meet would serve as an inflection point for the two rivals. For Colorado State, it would mark the opening of their championship window and a precursor to their dominance. Meanwhile, it would foreshadow the decline of the University of Colorado swim team that, dethroned, would spend most of the next decade chasing the Rams.

Regardless of the future events. How did the Rams pull off this shocking result? When just two weeks earlier they were clearly outgunned and outmatched.

Like any upset, the perfect storm of events took place.

Despite falling behind early, with Debenham, Schwartz, Jensen, and Murray quartet grabbing first place in the 200 freestyle relay with a 1:49.50. The Rams quickly bounced back, with Stoddard, Longmore, and Lenfesty all earning wins in their respective events.

Then the Rams got some assistance from the other two teams at the meets. The always steady diving star, Vernon Dallas in his last year of competition won the event keeping CU diver Shellenberger off the podium.

In the next event, Milholland raced to yet another conference title leaving Colorado’s Benjamin and Jensen relegated to 2nd and third respectively.

These crucial points that slid between the fingers of the Buffs meant that heading into the final event, the medley relay, the Rams still had a chance. All they had to do was win.

In a truly legendary moment, the freshman Longmore who already had won the 50 free and got second in the 100 free, powered his way through the water and past the Buffs. Longmore had forced a miracle tie and while doing so set a new conference record in the 300 medley relay with a time of 3:37.60 and ultimately.



Wilson Longmore (1932)

For the man that started off the relay swimming the backstroke, Lenfesty, it was the ultimate culmination of his swimming career. Lenfesty wasn’t even swimming three years ago, and neither had most of his teammates. Now in the final meet of his career, he had achieved the unimaginable: he had brought Colorado State its first swimming championship.

In a way the final relay of the meet, literally and figuratively, served as the passing of the torch of the best Colorado State swimmer from Lenfesty to Longmore.

For Longmore this would just be the beginning. Later that summer, he placed second in the 100 freestyle on July 4th, 1930, at the Berkeley Park’s Championships.

Over the next three seasons, he would continue to put the conference on notice. More importantly, he would be the key piece that would evolve the Rams from upstart challengers to an outright dynasty.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Northern CO	2	4	2	0	0	5	2		15
Wyoming	6	0	1	0	1	5	0	4	17
Colorado St	4	5	5	6	3	5	1	8	37
Colorado	8	2	3	5	7	1	5	6	37

	Northern CO	RLY	200	50	200	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS	FR
Mulholland		0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	7	
Fuqua		0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Litchman		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total		2	4	2	0	0	0	5	2	15	

<i>Wyoming</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Dallas</i>	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<i>Laughlin</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Simon</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	6	0	1	0	1	5	0	4	17

<i>Colorado St</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Longmore</i>	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	8
<i>Lenfesty</i>	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Stoddard</i>	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Hunt</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<i>Lossasso</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<i>Fuller</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
<i>Total</i>	4	5	5	6	3	5	1	8	37

<i>Colorado</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>DIVE</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>RLY</i>	<i>PTS</i>
	<i>BR</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>BK</i>	<i>FR</i>			<i>FR</i>		
<i>Schwartz</i>	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7
<i>Debenham</i>	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Jensen</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
<i>Bangeman</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
<i>Collins</i>	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Cowan</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Johnson</i>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Thomas</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<i>Murray</i>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Shallenberger</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>	8	2	3	5	7	1	5	6	37

1930-1931 Season

Record

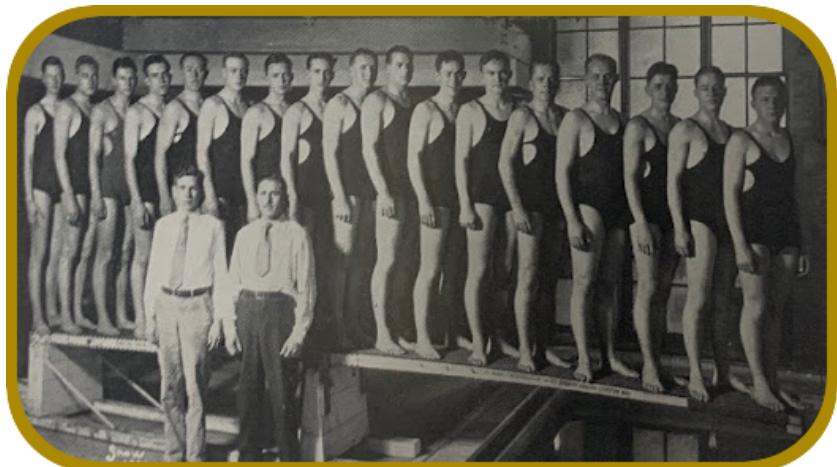
4-0

Head Coach

John H. Mason

Team Roster

Arthur Aikens	James Baird
Harold Benight	William Clelland
Ernest Collins	John Cowan
Stuart Debenham	Robert Hazlett
Creed Hinderliser	Lloy Jensen
Douglas Murray	William Nagel
Neusteter	Fergus Pingrey
Wilmer Sims	John Story
Werner	



Head Coach John Mason

Colorado St 28, Colorado 52 - Jan 31, 1931

After a disappointing end to their 1930 season that saw CU settle for a shared conference title with rival CSU, the Buffs got a chance for vengeance when they opened up the season against the Rams in Carlson Pool. Contrary to most early season meets, both teams only brought a handful of swimmers and divers.

The team had a few key gaps to fill with the graduation of top contributors Johnson and Schwartz. But the addition of newcomers like Arthur Aikens and Creed Hinderliser more than made up for their absence.

Colorado won 7 of the eight events, only conceding the 50 freestyle to Colorado State's Longmore.

Just like last year's dual meet, Longmore's talent shined through despite his team's lackluster showing. In his first swim of the season he lowered the conference record in the 50 free to 25.90.

It wasn't the only record set on the day as newcomer Fergus Pingrey bolted to a conference record of 2:00.4 in the 200 freestyle.

Fergus Pingrey (1931)



This meet represented a small capsule into what would become an extremely successful 1931 season. Murray, Collins, Debenham and Pingrey provided Colorado with incredible depth to the team that the other Rocky Mountain teams simply could not match.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Colorado	11½	5	3	6	5	5	5	11½	52
Colorado St	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	28

Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		FR			
Aikens	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Debenham	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Hinderlader	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Pingrey	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Murray	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cowan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	11½	5	3	6	5	5	5	11½	52

Colorado St	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		FR			
Longmore	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	8
Green	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
LaSasso	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Shanks	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Sullivan	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	28

Wyoming 13, Colorado 62 - Feb 6, 1931

The first weekend of February 1931 was not a great one for Wyoming. After losing a close competition to Colorado's gymnastics team, Wyoming dropped a hard 62-13 loss against Colorado's swimmers and divers.

It was truly a team effort for the Buffs. A record setting 15 swimmers scored points in the meet as Colorado secured both 1st and 2nd place in all eight events. A new Eastern Division Record was set by Collins, Sims and Debenham in the 300 Medley Relay with a time of 3:34.10. Benight dazzled in the fancy diving competition, winning the event with 90 points.

With the loss of diving ace and team leader Vernon Dallas, Wyoming had little hope for any kind of success in the coming years.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Wyoming	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	13
Colorado	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	62

Wyoming	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		FR			
Whitehead	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Croft	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hill	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Laughlin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Smith	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	13

Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR		FR			
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	7
Debenham	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	7
Sims	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Benight	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Jensen	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Murray	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Pingrey	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Aikens	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Clelland	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Cowan	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nagel	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Story	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Hazlette	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hinderlader	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Neusteter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	62

Northern CO 11, Colorado 51 - Feb 11, 1931

This iteration of the UNC squad was essentially Milholland and the Baby Bears. The team had lost core contributors Howard Akers, Fred Binneweis, and Fred Litchman to graduation.

To make matters even worse, in a devastating blow, John Fuqua was barred from competition just before the season. Apparently, Faqua failed to remember the student aspect of student athlete and fell out of academic standing.

That meant entering the meet, UNC brought back just one of their top 4 scorers from the year before.

While no meet results exist, Milholland once again put on a clinic, winning both the 150 backstroke and the 220 freestyle. The effort went to waste as the other freshman swimmers contributed nothing more than their active participation as Colorado destroyed the Bears

It was now Northern Colorado's fourth year with a swim team, and they had yet to show any semblance of meaningful progress outside of a few strong athletes.

With the departure of Milholland after this year, they would continue to tread water as a distant third-best team in the conference.

Colorado 44, Colorado St 31 - Feb 14, 1931

Valentine's Day saw two star crossed lovers, Colorado and Colorado State rematch in Fort Collins. While Colorado State put up a much better fight than in January, they were no match for Colorado's depth.

Pingrey was easily the meet's top performer. Together with Debenham and Murray, he lowered the team record in the 120 freestyle relay from 59.80 to 57.70 seconds. Pingrey also served as an anchor on the 270 medley relay. The trio, along with Collins and Aikens, achieved another team record in that relay, dropping the time from 3:20.00 to 3:17.50. The only dent in Colorado's performance was a disqualification by Sims for using a scissor kick in the 200 breaststroke.

Colorado State also fired on cylinders that day. Stoddard, the 1930 conference champion in the 220 freestyle, was recovering from an arm infection when he won the 200 breaststroke at 3:04.60. Longmore, not satisfied with his 50 freestyle record from January, set a new conference record at 25.60.

This meet wrapped up Colorado's clean 4-0 sweep of conference opponents. Expanding their win streak to 17. Once again, the Buffs look poised to win another conference championship.

Meet Box Score

Event	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Colorado	8	3	4	6	8	8	1	6	44
Colorado St	4	6	5	3	0	1	8	4	31

Colorado	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Pingrey	2.7	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	9.7
Collins	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	7
Debenham	2.7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5.7
Murray	2.7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5.7
Aikens	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Hinderlider	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Baird	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Cowan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jensen	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Story	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sims	0	DQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8	3	4	6	8	8	1	6	44

Colorado St	RLY	200	50	150	100	DIVE	220	RLY	PTS
	BR	FR	BK	FR			FR		
Longmore	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	10
Stoddard	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Smith	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Green	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Moulton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	4	6	5	3	0	1	8	4	31

RMC East Division - Feb 28, 1931

Event	Total
Colorado	67
Northern CO	23.5
Wyoming	11.5

Last year, the Rams stunned the swimming world with their spectacular draw against the conference stalwarts. Unfortunately, the mighty hands of mother nature had other plans for Colorado State.

On the night of February 27th, the day before the meet. The state of Colorado was hunkered down by a tremendous snow storm. In just 24 hours, over 12 inches of snow buried Denver.

Caught in that storm was the Colorado State swim team. Unlike other teams that had already arrived in Laramie, Coach Tompkins chose to wait until the morning of the meet for his team to depart. Most of the time this strategy makes sense with Fort Collins close

proximity to the University of Wyoming. However, this choice would prove to be disastrous.

By the time that they got their vehicles on the roads, the conditions were perilous. In desperation, they tried to pivot to find a train to the meet. But the weather meant that there were no trains available on such short notice and the Rams were left out in the cold. Forcing the team to return to Fort Collins empty-handed.

The meet continued on despite the weather and Colorado State's absence. While No detailed meet results exist, but based on the final scores, it's likely Colorado won most, if not every event. Northern Colorado and Wyoming offered little rivalry during the regular season, and the championship was no exception.

Despite the exceptional season, Colorado had one thing to worry about. The majority of Colorado State's top swimmers were returning, and their team was loaded with young talent. LoSasso was the sole senior to graduate. The future was bright for Colorado State, and they had excellent chances of winning a championship in the near future.

The Coaching Dominos

After the 1931 season, Ralph Munns resigned his position as the University of Colorado wrestling coach in order to pursue his Master's degree at the esteemed Cornell University ([cite](#)).

Although this decision may not have immediately impacted the swim team, it set in motion a series of events that ultimately lead to Coach Mason departing the team.

Colorado Athletic Director Harry Carlson quickly announced that Tom Kassis, a former University of Notre Dame football player, would replace Munns as the wrestling coach and also serve as an assistant football coach ([cite](#)). Kassis got the job largely due to a strong recommendation from legendary Notre Dame's football coach Knute Rockne ([cite](#)).

It might have been the last time Rockne made such a recommendation as mere two weeks after Kassis landed the role, Rockne tragically perished in a plane crash. To demonstrate how highly regarded Rockne was, President Hoover referred to his death as a "national loss."

While Kassis coached the Buffs offensive line in 1931, he wouldn't actually ever coach wrestling at CU.

Kassis likely backed out of the job as he pursued football coaching opportunities outside of CU. In early 1932, he was rumored for several football job openings, and in February he was the only coach released from his contract when a new [[insert name](#)] head football coach was hired.

Regardless of the reason, with only a few months until the start of the season, the Buffs wrestling squad had no head coach.

Luckily, someone already on campus was very interested in the opening. That man was John Mason.

Even though he had coached the swim team to a perfect record and three championships, Coach Mason's heart was not in the world of swimming, and he jumped at

the opportunity to coach a sport that he excelled at Oklahoma State.

Getting the job, Mason would go on to coach wrestling for the next five years, while continuing to work as an assistant football coach. In 1938, after years of paying his dues, he departed for Colorado School of Mines to be the head coach of the Orediggers football team.

Mason's first two seasons as a head football coach were much less successful than his first two as a swim coach, as he compiled a 6-8 record. However, in his third season, he orchestrated the most successful season in Mines history. The team won the Rocky Mountain Conference and finished with a sterling 8-0 record.

That 1939 season was the pinnacle of Mason's football career. He would coach a few more mediocre seasons at Mines, before taking over the football team at Montana State in 1950. His time with the Bobcats was far from pretty; he won just one game in two seasons, and he still holds the Montana State record for lowest winning percentage by a head coach.

Regardless of his future, his sudden departure in 1931 left a gaping hole in the team.

It was a move that could not have come at a worse time. With the team losing several key swimmers next season and their rival on the rise. The Buffs needed to make a move quickly or risk losing their stranglehold on the conference.