Swimming Team Enters Official SWC Struggles

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Swimming is again to become an official intercollegiate sport at Rice University, beginning with the annual Southwest Conference Relays in September.

The swimming team, under Coach Fred Breekwoldt, plans to compete as much as possible in the Southwest Conference meet in the spring. The team is composed of 25-30 boys and two girls, who work out daily in the gym. Special hopes are placed on Steve Coenen as a swimmer and diver.

“Obviously we cannot hope to match SMU, Texas, and Texas A. & M. right away, since ours is strictly a volunteer program with no scholarships,” says Breekwoldt, but we aim to establish a foundation for a strong program.”

Members are still being recruited for the team. “As long as they can swim two lengths of the pool, we can shape them up,” claims the coach.

The new Owl swimming coach, a graduate of Springfield College, Mass., competed under Red Sylvia, a coach of the 1965 U. S. Olympic team, and was a teammate of Olympic Gold Medal winner, Bill Yorsek. For the past few years he has been a seasonal aide to Phil Hansel, of Houston’s Shamrock Hilton team.

Breekwoldt is a biology teacher and coach at St. John’s School of Houston, in addition to his duties as new Rice swimming coach.