



GIRL SWIMMER—Laurie Morgan shows the form that enabled her to win the 1,000-yard freestyle against UC Riverside. It was the

freshman's first collegiate win. Morgan is the first girl on the Mustang swim team and is the first to compete in CCAA.

photo by JERRY HERNANDEZ

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Poly dolly vies with swim team

by FRED VULIN

At the beginning of the school year, swim coach Dick Anderson was approached by a freshman girl who wanted to know if she could work out with the swim team.

Anderson, momentarily stunned, asked the girl what kind of times had she recorded. The girl in question rattled off some times and Anderson approved.

Laurie Morgan was now working out with Mustang swim team. The freshman from Walnut Creek wanted to stay in shape for her A.A.U. team. And for good reason.

Laurie has been on a girls relay team that holds three American records in the 15-17 age group.

Working out was fine, but as the fall quarter wore on, Laurie was getting bored just working out and not competing. So when the swim season rolled around, Laurie asked Anderson if she could compete. The coach said that if she wanted to, she could.

Laurie jumped at the chance and is now the number-one 1,000-yard freestyle on the team. Saturday she recorded a time of 10:51 in the marathon event; breaking 11 minutes for the first

time this season and winning her first intercollegiate race.

Laurie has been swimming for the A.A.U. for only two and a half years. She realized that when she competed on the Mustang team, her only chance of winning would be in the distance events.

A.A.U. coach Larry Cruger got Laurie interested in swimming on a competitive basis two and half years ago. She credits him with giving her a real interest in swimming.

The interest in swimming has made Laurie the only girl on the Mustang team and in the entire CCAA conference. Laurie says that members from opposing teams look at her and seem to say, "Oh that's the girl on their team."

The mechanical engineering major said she has not received any hassles from either teammates or from spectators. Swimming in a pool filled with men does not bother Laurie at all.

During A.A.U. practices, both men and women share the pool at the same time. She said that the guys on the team had to make adjustments because they were used to swimming on high school teams without women on them.

Laurie says that assistant coach Charlie Hauner and Anderson have been exceptionally nice to her.

"They really made an effort to make me feel welcome; they've really been great," said Laurie.

One of the problems Laurie encounters as the only girl on the team is the separate dressing facilities.

She uses the women's bathroom near the pool to change her clothes. There's no shower there, but she doesn't mind. It was suggested to Laurie that some women's liberationists might complain about the separate facilities.

"I don't care one way or another—as long as I have a place to change," she shouted.

Is Laurie Morgan a women's liberationist? "No, definitely not. I do not like it at all. I swim because I like to swim," she states firmly.

Questioned further about the different standards for men and women in athletics, Laurie made this observation:

"Ideally, I would like to see a single team where men and women competed in separate events, but where both groups contributed to a single score."

Laurie admits that there is quite a difference in the times of men and women in swimming, especially in the sprints. She points to the Olympics to prove her point.

Regardless of the differences in standards, Laurie Morgan spends quite a bit of time on swimming—20-24 hours a week counting workouts, time for lifting weights and the day of the meet.

"You have to be devoted. You can't do it half-way," Laurie says. But she does admit to getting tired of the same old routine.

"I don't want to make a fool of myself with all the attention that is given me," admits the freshman.

Laurie's experiences with the A.A.U. team in Pleasant Hill has given her some "neat trips." She has travelled to Dallas and Cincinnati and lists travel and competition as the main inducements for remaining on the swim team. With all the swimming Laurie does, one would expect her to quit if the pace gets too hectic. "I'll keep on doing it till I get tired. I like to swim—that's my problem."