

# Winningest Coach Jamerson Came In Last In His Only Race

by Bill Peacock

Dick Jamerson, who has coached Carolina swimming teams to most of their 102 victories, readily admits that he is no swimmer himself, and the only time he swam in competition he finished last.

"It was a kid's race in Dallas Park and I was able to get a fourth because there were only four entries in the race," Jamerson laughingly recalls. "I don't remember what length the race was, but I do remember that I got a jar of peaches for fourth place."

This lack of experience in competition hasn't kept the Texas-born Jamerson from being one of the most successful coaches in Carolina history. His current team won the 100th victory in Tar Heel history (against only 12 defeats) against Georgia a month ago and won its tenth straight Southern Conference dual meet championship a few days later by defeating a strong State team, 49-35.

### State Win Typical

The victory over the Wolfpack was typical of the performances by Jamerson's Tar Heels who respond best when the pressure is on. "I never have to get the boys 'up'—they have a wonderful competitive spirit," says Jamerson. "State had the best team in its history, but we were able to defeat them because each of the boys on our team did his best." Jamerson's ability to get the utmost out of his boys explains his long winning streak which has reached 55 against conference opponents and 25 against all comers.

Jamerson makes it clear that Carolina's fine swimming record was built without the benefit of scholarships. "We have never had a boy on a scholarship," he says stoutly. He explains that Jess Greenbaum (a star sprinter at Carolina from 1944-49) and a friend of Athletic Director Coach Bob Fetzer persuaded All-American Jimmy Thomas to enroll at Carolina.

"We have been fortunate in having wonderful facilities, good schedules, and kids who like to win and have won," says Jamerson. "Joe Verdeur (the world's record-holder in the breaststroke) told Ralph (Ralph Casey, Carolina assistant coach) that he would like to come here, but he needed

a scholarship. We couldn't help him, so he enrolled at LaSalle and became an Olympic swimmer. Does that sound like we're giving scholarships?"

### Thomas Greatest Swimmer

Jamerson's greatest swimmer has been Jimmy Thomas, who holds more records than he can remember. Principally among them are his American and Collegiate records in the 300-yard individual medley.

"Thomas was the greatest competitor and greatest swimmer we have ever had here," says Jamerson unhesitatingly. "Jimmy didn't think anyone in the world could beat him."

Jamerson gives Ralph Casey credit for most of Thomas' success. "He had more to do with Thomas' success than I did; he spent a lot more time working with him. But Jimmy would have been a great swimmer even without instruction; he was that kind of a competitor. Why, Jimmy didn't have much speed—he just worked so much harder than the rest."

### Casey A Fine Coach

Of Casey, Jamerson has this to say: "I'd rather have him working with me than anyone I know. He coaches half the team and I coach half. He's a great coach—you know his freshman teams have won something like 52 of 54 meets. And we've had some other fine men working with the teams—Mike Morrow, Bob Ousley, Erv Straub, and Jess Greenbaum."

Jamerson was a star halfback and fullback and a quartermiler on the track team at Rice Institute in Texas, but never competed in swimming. Upon grad-

uation he went to Columbia and received his Master's while running that school's intramural program.

He went to Oberlin College in Ohio in 1935 as the freshman football, varsity swimming, and assistant baseball coach. "Swimming was part of the job I wanted to get started in college work," Jamerson says.

### Uses Track Methods

Jamerson relied on his experience in track to coach the team at Oberlin. "There is a great similarity between the two sports," he explains. "Conditioning is about the same and working the men under and over the distances in preparation for competition is used in both sports."

Jamerson is quite active in coaching and physical education associations. At present he is president of the College Swimming Coaches Association and on the Rules Committee for the 3rd NCAA district. He was recently elected secretary-treasurer of the College Physical Education Association.

The Tar Heel coach has a whole host of stars here, but he picks this all-star team, of which six members are on this year's team:

Breaststroke—Dick Twining (1948) and Barry Wall (1952); backstroke—Jimmy Thomas (1950), Buddy Baarcke (1952), Denny Hammond (1944); diving—Buddy Crone (1950) and Norm Sper (1950); distance—Thomas, Donnie Evans (1952), and Cecil Milton (1952); sprints—Twining, Floyd Drew (1949), Jess Greenbaum (1950), Steve Osborne (1949), Stan Tinkham (1952), Ben Ward (1944), Buddy Heins (1952), and Percy Mallison (1942).

# Cage Tourney Begins Today

RALEIGH, March 5—West Virginia, seeded number one, and eighth-place William and Mary will open the Southern Conference basketball tournament here tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Conference basketball tournament committee met Monday and announced the first round pairings. Besides the West Virginia and William and Mary game, Maryland will meet Duke at 4 p.m., Clemson will meet George Washington at 7:30 p.m., and Furman is scheduled to meet State at 9:30.

In the semi-finals on Friday

night the winners of the two Thursday afternoon games will meet at 7:30 p.m. and the winners of the two Thursday night games will meet at 9:30. The championship game will be at 3 o'clock Saturday night, with the NCAA tournament bid going to the winner.

West Virginia's 15-1 record topped regular season play with N. C. State copping second place with a record of 12-2. Duke placed third in the conference play with a 13-3 mark. Furman, which finished fifth, will be playing the tournament for the first time.

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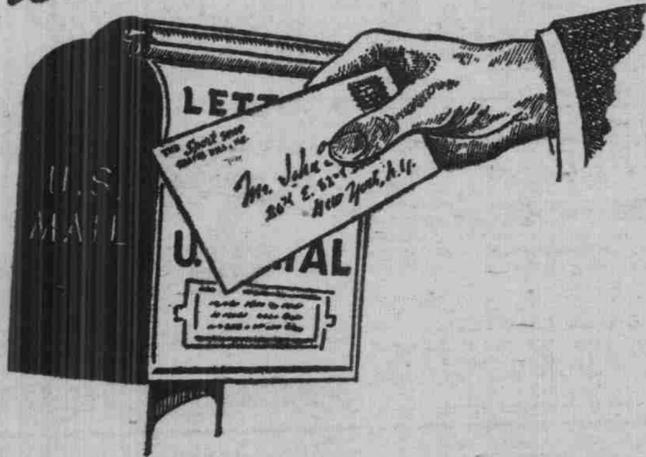


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### Swim Banquet

The Carolina swimming team's annual banquet will be held tonight at 6:30 o'clock in the upstairs banquet room in Lenoir Hall.

The Dick Jamerson Swimming Awards will be presented at that time to the outstanding freshman and senior members of the team. The team captain for next year will also be chosen by the Tar Heels.

This year's swimming team was undefeated in 12 dual meets and was the Southern Conference dual meet champions.

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