

sports

Mecom pegs Nolan as fifth Saints coach

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dick Nolan succeeded Hank Stram Monday as coach of the New Orleans Saints — a team that never has had a winning season in its 11 years in the National Football League.

Nolan is the fifth head coach hired by team owner John Meacom Jr. None of Nolan's predecessors produced better than a 5-9 sea-

son.

Nolan, who was head coach for the San Francisco 49ers for eight years, said he was not afraid of taking a team with a losing tradition.

"At San Francisco, when I came there in 1968, they hadn't won in 25 years," he said. He moved to San Francisco from Dallas, where he was defensive coordinator. As

a head coach at San Francisco, he compiled a 54-53-5 record and won three division championships. However, after successive losing seasons in 1973 and 1974, he was fired.

He moved to the Saints as an assistant last season.

Mecom said he started with a list of a dozen possible replacements for Stram, talked to five of them, then settled on Nolan — all in 11 days.

Neither Meacom nor Nolan would discuss the terms of the new contract.

Mecom was known to be unhappy with Stram's spending habits, but he said it was failure to produce a winner that led to Stram's firing after two seasons as head coach.

Although Meacom didn't actually say so, he indicated that another reason for his unhappiness with Stram was that Nolan was not made full use of as an assistant. Under Stram, Nolan coached linebackers.

"Dick Nolan was brought in to coordinate the defense," Meacom

said. "As time went on, that did not happen. The input was not there, as was the design when he was brought here."

Nolan said his first priority will be to rebuild the Saints' defense and that he's hoping to do so through the college draft. But he didn't rule out the possibility of making trades — even trades involving established players.

"Any club, if it has the situation where a trade will help the football team, doesn't have anyone on the roster who is untouchable," he said.

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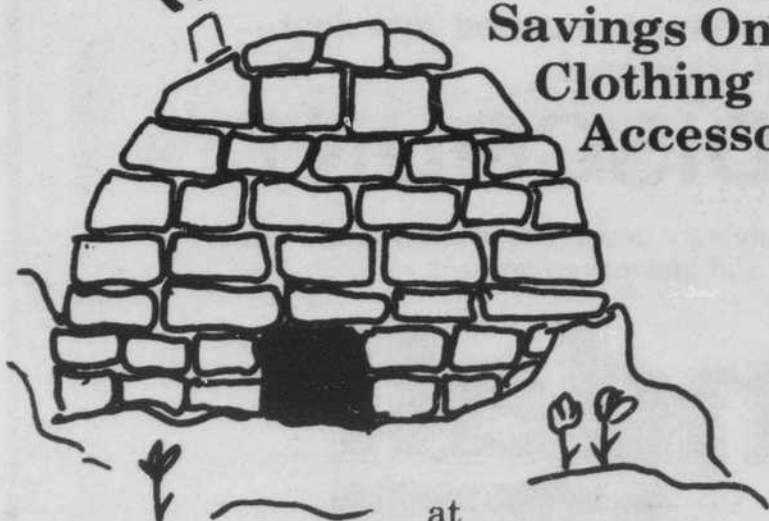
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Naber wins award as top amateur

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olympic swimming champion John Naber, an ambassador of goodwill for non-professional athletics, was named Monday as winner of the James E. Sullivan Award as the nation's outstanding amateur athlete.

Naber, 22, won four Olympic gold medals and one silver at Montreal in 1976, but won his 1977 award off his victories for the University of Southern California where he returned for his senior year despite big money offers to turn professional.

"It was a great shock for me to win because my amateur career was over in late April," the gregarious 6-foot-6-inch swimming star said.

He had been runner-up to decathlon champion Bruce Jenner a year ago.

Naber, a backstroke record holder, has been the high-point man in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships the past four years and won a record 10 NCAA individual titles.

He won with 2,500 points, compared with 1,343 for the runner-up, Edwin Moses, a hurdler from Morehouse College and 626 for diver Cynthia McIngvale of Dallas.

Naber became the 48th recipient of the Sullivan Award, which the AAU lists as honoring the nation's outstanding amateur athlete.

Naber said there was no doubt he would return for his senior year at Southern Cal, explaining, "I made the decision halfway through my freshman year that I would finish there, and I do not regret coming back for my final semester."

Naber thanked his parents,

Southern Cal Coach Peter Daland and his Christianity for making the Sullivan Award possible.

"This is the most meaningful award I've ever been voted," he said. "My most thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Naber."

"Mom got up at 5 a.m. to see that I had hot food before going to practice and Dad had a knowledgeable insight into what makes a champion swimmer," said Naber, who now is a marketing

representative at Disneyland, pursuing the public relations career he envisioned even as a champion swimmer.

Both his mother, Joan and his father, Phillip, were on hand for the presentation ceremony and the latter said, "Neither of us are swimmers. We can stay afloat but we don't go forward."

At the 1977 NCAA championships, Naber won both the 100- and 200-yard backstroke.

sportfolio

Cycle Club holds meeting

The University Cycle Club will hold its first organizational meeting this Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the EMU, room to be announced. All interested people are invited to attend. For more information, contact Tom Carter at 484-0313.

Volleyball team sweeps three

The Oregon men's volleyball team lost only one match in a three-game sweep of Western Washington, Seattle Pacific, and Washington on their first road trip of the season.

The wins leave Oregon at 3-2 in the Pacific Northwest Volleyball League, with the two losses coming at the hands of favorite OSU.

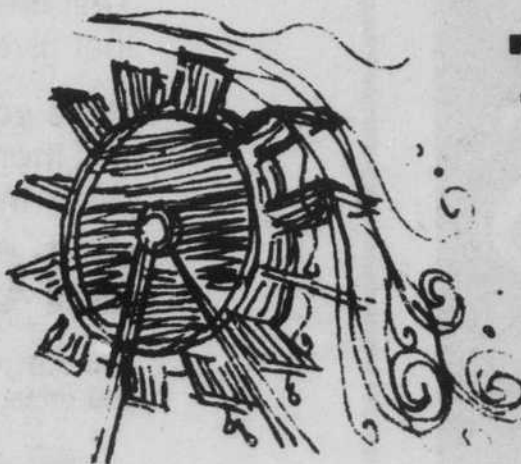
Oregon travels to Corvallis this weekend for the Dad's Day Invitational, and returns home on Feb. 17.

Ski meet this weekend

The Oregon ski team is sponsoring a ski meet at Mt. Bachelor this weekend, Feb. 10-12. A meeting will be held Tuesday at 4:30 in the EMU, site to be announced.

The competition will include the teams from Oregon, Idaho and California, and all persons interested in helping are asked to call 686-8147, or leave a message at the Club Sports office.

All gate keepers, timers, starters and typists will receive a complimentary sack lunch. The three-day meet includes a giant slalom Friday, a dual slalom on Saturday, and cross country on Sunday.



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