

U. S. swimmers last, but not discouraged

by Vincent A. Drosdik, III

The Berlin American Aquatics Club finished a distant last in its first meet against local clubs Nov. 19. But Jim Donahue, coach of the AYA team, isn't worried about the showing against Zehlendorf and BSV which scored 292 and 241 respectively, while the U. S. team got 84.

Donahue explains that the team is too transient, with a large yearly turnover, thus not allowing the best training and long-range development of the team.

Other factors are that the German kids have generally been swimming far longer, are more aggressive, have more and better coaches, and train harder and longer. They average five two-hour swimming sessions and another day of pushups and classroom a week, compared with four one-hour swimming sessions a week by the BAAC. Donahue says that the team will be increasing its training in the future.

The two-year-old club recently joined the Deutsche Sport-Verband and will be participating in meets with local swim clubs in the future.

Assisting Donahue in the BAAC program are Hubert Erb on German events; Mrs. Sidney Shacknow on American events; Mrs. David Klein, wife of the American minister; and 1LT Sperry Kaylor who assists Donahue with coaching.



Flying start

Off to a flying start are participants in the recent swim meet sponsored by the Berlin American Aquatics Club Nov. 19 at the Sports Center Pool. The American team finished third in a field of three, but profited by the experience.

(Photo by V. A. Drosdik, III)

the cleat mark

Paul
Maggio