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UT Student Aquatic Center

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During its 37-year history, the University of Tennessee's Student Aquatic Center has gained a reputation as one of nation's most comprehensive training facilities. In fact, the Aquatic Center has played host to no less than eight major national events since its completion in 1967.

The Aquatic Center has hosted six Southeastern Conference Championships as well as the 1973 NCAA Championship and the ground-breaking dual meet between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1982.

In addition, the SAC housed U.S. Olympic training in 1972, 1980 and 1996. An enthusiastic crowd numbering in the thousands turned out in the summer of 1996 for an open workout, as the U.S. men's and women's Olympic squads prepared for their excursion to Atlanta.

"The Site Selection Committee of the Olympic International Division reviewed five prospective sites for 1996 Olympic training. UT head coach John Trembley said. "On the basis of environment, total facilities and proximity to Atlanta, the University of Tennessee and the Student Aquatic Center received the bid to host to the Olympic team as it prepared for 1996."

The facility added to its rich and storied championship history in 1996 when the Southeastern Conference Swimming Championships were held at the center.

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Diving Championships visited Feb. 7-10, despite a blizzard that struck Knoxville the weekend prior. Before a large gathering of Big Orange faithful, Tennessee put on one of its best displays in several seasons on the way to a league. Previous to 1996, the SAC last hosted Southeastern Conference competition in 1988.

The final stage in a three-phase facelift for the Aquatic Center was completed in 1993. Those additions placed the facility back in line as one of the finest and most functional natatoriums in the country.

The final project was the addition of a 10-meter platform in the indoor facility. In 1992, workers literally raised the roof over the diving well in order to make room for the new addition.

That platform was christened during a meet with Georgia and Alabama on Jan. 23, 1993, with the entire diving team including head diving coach Dave Parrington taking a plunge from its lofty heights.

With the completion of the 10-meter indoor platform, Tennessee became the only Division I program with side-by-side indoor and outdoor regulation 50-meter swimming pools and side-by-side indoor and outdoor 10-meter platforms.



The second phase of renovation was completed prior to the 1991-1992 season. The Ray A. Bussard Intercollegiate Pool and the diving well were drained so that workers could retile and repaint the facility. In addition, a built-in tiled deck added for the divers and a new lighting system was installed. The result was a brighter, more modern look to an already premier swimming and diving facility.

The first phase of the reconstruction project was finished in 1990. The regulation outdoor 50-meter pool was completely renovated at a cost of \$1.2 million and is now heated year-round.

In addition to possessing excellent overall facilities, the Aquatic Center has provided the Volunteers with a "home advantage" that can be matched by few venues in college athletics. Tennessee has hammered out 41 consecutive home wins lasting from Jan. 16, 1988 to Nov. 22, 1997. During that time, six consecutive classes left Knoxville with a school home record. After that loss, the Vols have not lost at home since as they attempt to start another winning streak.

"It's particularly nice to have seniors leave Tennessee never having tasted defeat at home," Trembley said. "That's tradition, and it's been a source of pride for the program for many years."

Underscoring UT's prolific home success is the fact that the loss to Texas was the first Trembley has experienced in 11 seasons at the Student Aquatic Center. Trembley, who was an All-America swimmer with the Vols from 1971-1974 and an assistant coach from 1975-1979 and has been in charge of the Vol swimmers since the fall of 1988.

Completed in 1967 at a cost of \$1.7 million, the Student Aquatic Center was paid for entirely by money from student and service fees. In addition to being home of the Vols and Lady Vols swimming and diving teams, the center serves as a recreational area for students and faculty of the University.

The Student Aquatic Center consists of two Olympic size pools, one indoor and one outdoor. Both are regulation size, 50 meters long and 25 yards wide, with separate areas for diving.

The indoor facility features a separate diving well with a five and 10-meter tower, two three-meter boards and two one-meter boards. The indoor pool is named the Ray A. Bussard Intercollegiate Swimming Pool in honor of the legendary coach who brought swimming back to UT in 1968. The indoor facility has a seating capacity of approximately 2000 and features a new Daktronics timing system. The system is considered one of the finest made and provides micro-second accurate timing for collegiate competition. It automatically computes and prints out results and splits for swimming and scores for diving.

The outdoor facility, which hosted the 1976 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials, has a tower with platforms at five, seven and ten meters, along with two one-meter and two three-meter boards.

Ample dressing room facilities, along with a weight room featuring Nautilus equipment, are available for men and women. The Vols have a separate dressing room for their All-Americans.

In addition to its service as a center of competitive swimming and training, the Student Aquatic Center also functions as a recreational hub of the campus. Surrounding the SAC are intramural fields as well as tennis, basketball and handball courts. Tom Black Track, host of the 1995 NCAA Track and Field Championships, is only a few steps away from the Aquatic Center.

► DIRECTIONS TO THE AQUATIC CENTER

From airport: Turn north on U.S. Highway 129 leaving airport. After crossing the Tennessee River bridge just outside Knoxville, exit onto Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153). Turn left (south) at the bottom of the exit ramp and follow until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn left onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn left at second stoplight. Follow

Blvd. to next light. Turn right on Temple St. Turn left on Andy Holt Blvd.

From I-40 east (from Nashville) and I-75 north (from Chattanooga): Follow I-40 and I-75 to the junction in west Knoxville. Continue on I-40 east to U.S. Highway 129 south. Follow 129 south to Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153). Turn left (south) at the bottom of the exit ramp onto the road until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn left onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn left at second stoplight. Follow Volunteer Blvd. to next light. Turn right on Temple St. Turn left on Andy Holt Blvd.

From I-40 west (from Asheville, N.C.): Follow I-40 west to the James White Parkway exit and turn left. Follow Parkway to Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153) until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn right onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn left at second stoplight. Follow Volunteer Blvd. to next light. Turn right on Temple St. Turn left on Andy Holt Blvd.

From I-75 south (from Lexington, Ky.): Follow I-75 south to I-275 south just past Merchants Ferry. Follow I-275 to I-40 east. Exit I-40 east onto James White Parkway and follow Parkway to Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153) until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn left at second stoplight. Follow Volunteer Blvd. to next light. Turn right on Temple St. Turn left on Andy Holt Blvd.

Campus Maps
Directions to UT Campus

▶ Student Aquatic Center Records

Free

Distance	Time	Athlete	Date
50	19.45	Ricky Busquets, Tennessee	Feb. 7, 1996
100	43.01	Ricky Busquets, Tennessee	Feb. 7, 1996
200	1:36.67	Mike Heath, Florida	March 4, 1983
500	4:20.67	Paul Robinson, Florida	Feb. 25, 1988
1650	15:08.98	Jason Gorrie, Florida	Feb. 27, 1988

Back

Distance	Time	Athlete	Date
100	47.59	Craig Gilliam, Tennessee	Feb. 8, 1996
200	1:44.91	Michael Andrews, Auburn	Feb. 10, 1996

Breast

Distance	Time	Athlete	Date
100	54.16	Jeremy Linn, Tennessee	Feb. 9, 1996
200	1:59.59	Matt Buck, Georgia	Feb. 10, 1996

Fly

Distance	Time	Athlete	Date
100	46.85	John Hargis, Auburn	Feb. 9, 1996
200	1:43.87	Mike Heath, Florida	Feb. 29, 1988

IM

Distance	Time	Athlete	Date
200	1:46.04	Kurt Jachimowski, Auburn	Feb. 8,

400 3:49.98 Eric Christensen, Florida 1996
Feb. 9, 1996

200 Free Relay

University	Time	Athletes	Date
Tennessee	1:18.50	Busquets, Pietrzak, Gilliam, Wiseman	Feb. 7, 1996

400 Free Relay

University	Time	Athletes	Date
Tennessee	2:54.54	Rindahl, Ebuna, Coan, Newton	March 3, 1979

800 Free Relay

University	Time	Athletes	Date
Florida	6:27.00	Gaberino, Mestre, Boyer, Heath	March 4, 1983


200 Medley Relay


University	Time	Athletes	Date
Tennessee	1:25.86	Gilliam, Linn, Rumbaugh, Busquets	Feb. 7, 1996

400 Medley Relay

University	Time	Athletes	Date
Tennessee	3:10.56	Gilliam, Linn, Rumbaugh, Busquets	Feb. 8, 1996

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