

Club star will follow mentor

TOP-LEVEL SWIMMING COACH FIRED BY TOMAC

Pool Bldg
Br.
Mon-31-91
MN

By JEFF PASQUALE
Sports Reporter

The longest serving swim coach in Ontario was fired by the Mississauga Aquatic Club (TOMAC) this week.

Bill Barton, who has trained TOMAC senior swimmers for 13 years, received the word suddenly on Tuesday morning by the president of the club, Mike Quinton.

Barton had just returned from a two-week stint in Europe with Dean Kondziolka, the best swimmer TOMAC has and one of Canada's rising stars on the international scene.

On Thursday, Barton said, "I was given no notice at all. But it's their club and they can hire and fire as they please. They just decided to exercise their option."

Barton was given no reason for the firing, and said he feels his longevity with the club should earn him at least an explanation. But Quinton refused to discuss the firing.

Quinton told The News, "I really can't talk about it. I'm not going to engage in a public

BILL BARTON

discussion of what we consider a private matter."

Barton's main concern now is what's going to happen to the 14 kids he's leaving behind with the club. Quinton admitted the club doesn't have an outside replacement for Barton, but he said, "there are plenty of coaches

(See FUTURES, page 2)

Futures of 14 swimmers affected by coach's firing

(Continued from page 1)

on staff and we'll make arrangements for the rest of the year."

The one person, other than Barton, most affected by this decision is Kondziolka, the Canadian men's 50-m short and long course champion.

When asked his opinion, Kondziolka said, "The club didn't consider the future of the 14 swimmers now with Barton."

"It's unlikely they'll find a better coach than Barton anyway, but even if they do it won't be right now, in the middle of the season."

All that is left now is a settlement on the contract Barton has with the club. It runs until September 1992, but it includes a clause that allows the club to terminate it with six months notice. The two parties are now working on a severance settlement.

The timing of the move has left a few people scratching their heads. Swimming is just moving from the

short course season to the long course, which carries through to September, the traditional end of the swim season. Most coaching moves come at that time and it may mean TOMAC has to go through the summer without a top name at the helm.

The move may also cost them Kondziolka, a probable representative at the 1992 Olympics. It would have been a feather in TOMAC's cap to be able to claim a swimmer of Kondziolka's calibre under their banner.

"Unless things change, then I'd quit TOMAC," said Kondziolka rather matter-of-factly. "Bill wouldn't abandon me and I wouldn't abandon him."

Quinton didn't seem too concerned about the possibility of Kondziolka moving on.

"If we were to lose Dean we'd be sorry to see that happen, but I can't speculate on whether he'll leave. That's Dean's decision."

Pool Bldg.

March 31 91
MN

BARTON, Bill