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Program for "Doug Russell Day" ceremonies at UTA

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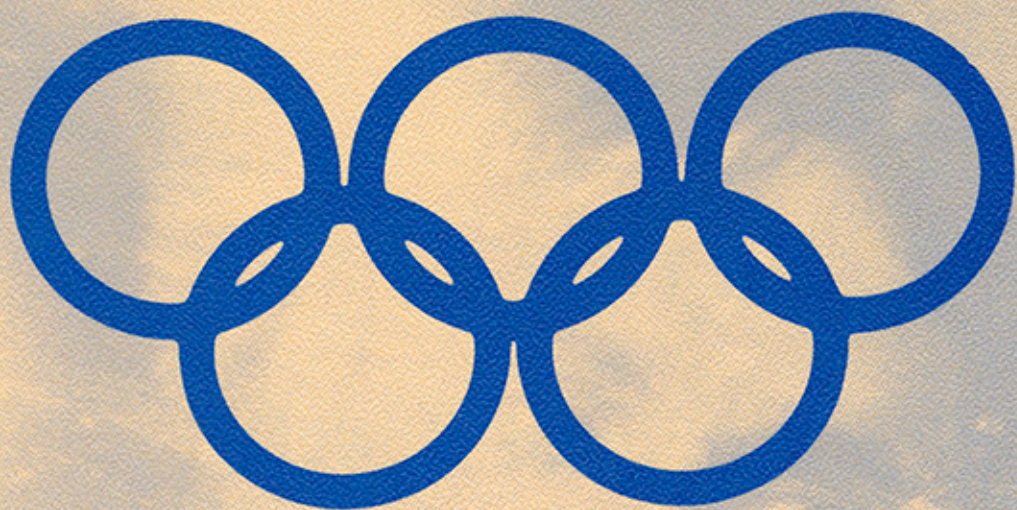
Recommended Citation

"Program for "Doug Russell Day" ceremonies at UTA" (2024). *Jack R. Woolf Papers*. 23.
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DOUG RUSSELL

DAY



Texas

Hall

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce
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Rebel Club
UTA Student Activities Board

Nov. 15,

1968

Today's Program

- Alma Mater. UTA Band
Jack Mahan, director
- Master of Ceremonies. Tom J. Vandergriff
Mayor, City of Arlington
- Official Welcome. Dr. Frank Harrison
President, UT Arlington
- Introduction of Honored Guests. Tom J. Vandergriff
Claude R. Gilstrap, UTA Director of Athletics
Don Easterling, UTA Swim Coach
Film Clips of Russell's Races in Olympics
- Response. Doug Russell
U.S. Olympic Champion from UTA
- National Anthem. UTA Band
- A reception and autograph party honoring Doug Russell
will begin immediately following this program and continue
until 3 p.m. in the Robert E. Lee Room of E.H.
Hereford Memorial Student Center.

Honored Guests

Mrs. Betty Jane Russell
Midland, Texas

Mrs. Miriam Johnson
Midland, Texas

Don Foglesong
Hurst, Texas

Wade Whitley
Midland, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Russell
Fort Worth, Texas

Ronnie Mills
Fort Worth, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Mills
Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor McGruder
Midland, Texas

UTA Swim Team

Doug Russell: Champion

There can be no question that two gold medals in the Olympics represents the pinnacle of his swimming career, but Doug Russell points to a race he lost as one in which he also takes great personal pride.

It came in the NCAA University Championships at Dartmouth last spring. Doug missed a turn in the 200-yard individual medley prelims, ripped off a fingernail and didn't qualify for the finals. But he came back strongly in the consolation finals to post the second-fastest time of the entire meet and take seventh place in the overall race standings.

"I think it would have been easy for me to give up because there was nothing at stake," Doug recalled later. "It was just a matter of personal pride to swim badly in the prelims and then come back and do my best."

That points up one of the keys to Russell's success—a burning personal pride and desire to excel and the ability to drive himself to achieve his goals.

In that same NCAA meet, Doug won the 100-yard butterfly in a record 49.5 seconds, then teamed with Rick Nesbit, Ernie Siefert and Charlie Smith as the Rebels captured the 400-yard medley relay championship.

Oddly, Doug seems stuck on two gold medals in national and international meets. He won those two at the NCAA, two more at the 1967 Pan American Games, another pair at the 1967 World Student Games in Tokyo and two more at the International Swimfest in Bremen, Germany, last spring.

In addition to his two golds from the Olympics, he also brought back an Olympic record of 55.9 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly and a share of the world and Olympic record of 3:54.9 in the 400-meter medley relay.

Indeed, Doug was primarily responsible for the U.S. victory in the relay. He was behind by two yards when touched off, yet gave anchorman Ken Walsh a yard and a half lead going into the final leg. Doug's relay split was a blistering 54.6 seconds, a full second below the listed world record and the fastest 100 meters of butterfly ever recorded. However, it will not go into the records since it came on a relay leg.

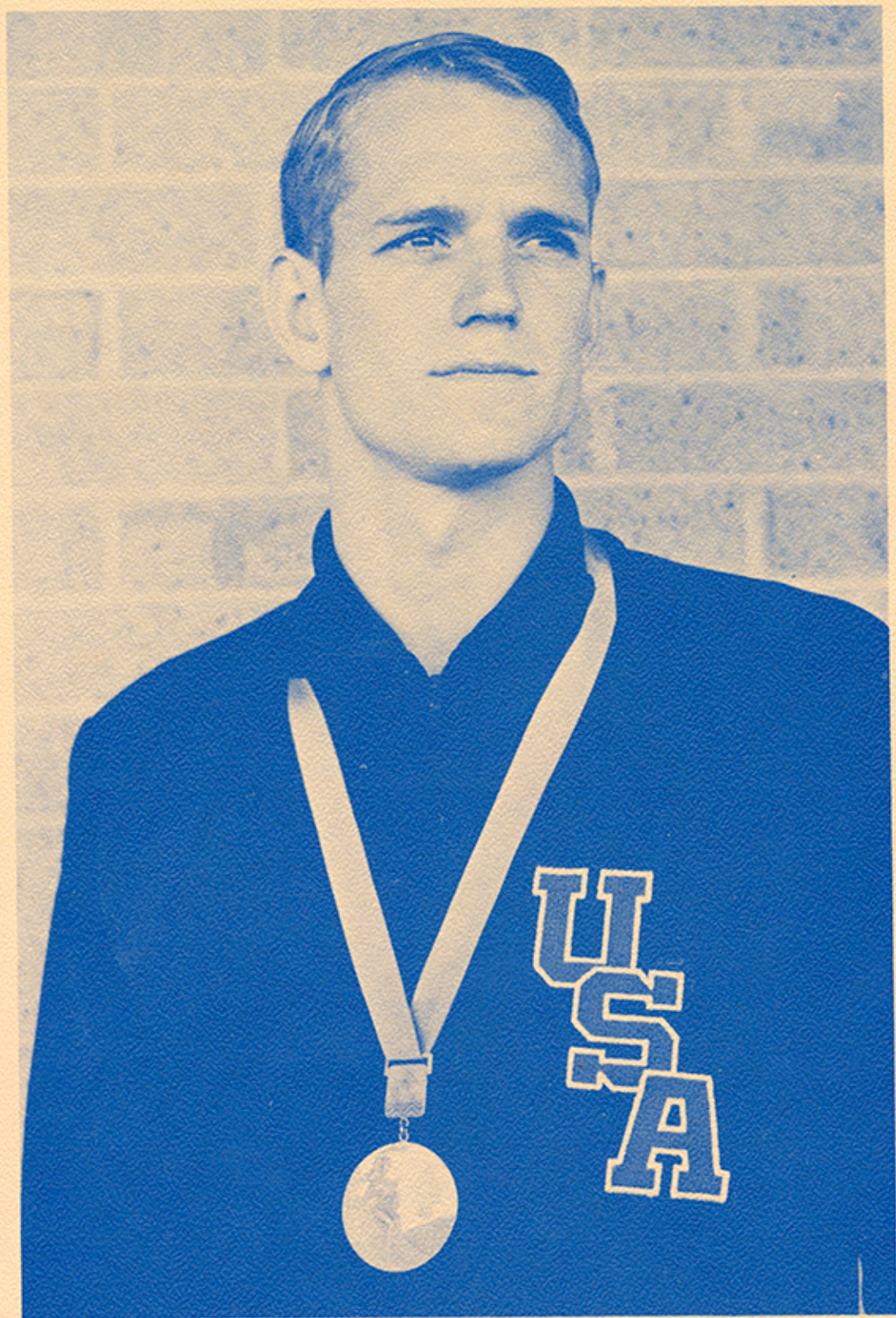
At one time or another, Doug has held or shared three world records although his share of the Mexico City medley mark is the only one still standing. In NCAA competition for the Rebels, he has won nine national championships, holds five national marks and has earned 18 All-America awards in every stroke except the breaststroke.

But neither Doug or Coach Don Easterling believe in instant success. They point to thousands of hours and thousands of miles swam in practice over more than a decade plus the help and encouragement of countless numbers of people over the years.

"I didn't do this on my own," Doug said after his first Olympic victory. "There are so many people over so many years who are responsible for it."

In high school at Midland, Russell earned three schoolboy All-America awards in swimming and also found time to double in basketball where he won two letters, was all-district and team captain. At UTA, he is majoring in history and hopes eventually to teach and coach.

Because of the Olympics, Doug missed the fall semester and will not compete this spring so he may have his full senior year of eligibility in 1969-70.



UTA's DOUG RUSSELL

2 gold medals in Olympics