



Friday, October 19, 2001

Swimming, diving teams begin new season

The Oakland University **men's** and **women's** swimming and diving teams are hoping that their talent and depth will pay off in the 2001-02 season. The men added key acquisitions in the off-season to help defend the Mid-Continent Conference (Mid-Con) Championship and to establish Oakland as a household name. The women are looking to improve on last year's 5-4 dual meet record and come closer to achieving the ultimate goal of being a top 30 team in the country.

Both teams begin competition in Bowling Green on Friday, Oct. 19. The relays begin with diving at 11 a.m. and swimming at 5 p.m. The women's first home meet of the year is Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. against Michigan State. The men's and women's teams will face Wright State on Saturday, Nov. 3, at noon at OU's Aquatic Center.

Besides defending its Mid-Con championship, the **men's team** is striving to improve on its 5-3 dual meet record and finish higher in the National Independent Conference (NIC). OU finished third in the 2001 NIC Championship behind Southern Methodist University and University of Cincinnati.

A new season brings new faces, new hopes and old goals.

"Every year we set our sights on the same three goals," said head coach Pete Hovland. "First we want to focus on the Mid-Continent Conference Championship, which we have won the past two years. That is our first priority. Our second priority is to continue to climb the ladder at the NIC's and be able to compete with teams like Southern Methodist and Cincinnati. If we can accomplish the first two goals, then I think we'll be able to achieve our third goal, which is to be a top 30 team in the nation."

Leading the way for OU will be tri-captains Jim Kanak, Andy Schmidt and Josh Smith. Kanak will help out in the breaststroke and butterfly events. Last year Kanak finished second in the 200 breast with a time of 2:06.84 in the Mid-Con Championships. Kanak garnished first-team honors in the Mid-Continent Conference last year.

Schmidt will captain the squad for the second straight year and will swim the freestyle events for the Grizzlies this season. Schmidt finished first in the 1650 free in the NIC's with a time of 15:35.69 earning him a place on the Mid-Con first-team. The La Mesa, California, native also finished third in the 100 free with a time of 9:36.40 against the Bearcats of Cincinnati.

Smith will help in the freestyle and butterfly events for the Grizzlies. Smith's top finish last year came in the Mid-Con Championships as he finished second in the 200 fly with a time of 1:54.02 placing him on the All-Conference second-team.

Leading Oakland freestylers are Eric Allshouse, Sean Broadbent, Doug Drazin, Doug Fiore, Marc Gray, Dave Hartzel, Brad Holmes, Jeff Travis and Joel Wallace.

Senior Mark Quinn will lead the breaststroke for OU this year. The Skipton, North Yorkshire, England, native finished 10th in the 100 breast with a time of 57.83 in the NIC's. Also competing in the breaststroke will be Kanak along with freshmen Michael Kozakiewicz and Martin Moen.

Leading the Grizzlies in the butterfly will be senior Colin Dolcetti. Also contributing in the butterfly will be Kanak, Josh Smith, Wallace, Sullivan and freshman Blaine Dolcetti.

Seniors Nick Sosnowski, Can Kulduk and Dave Hartzel will swim the backstroke. Rounding out the single swimming events is the individual medley. Swimming the IM for the Grizzlies this year will be Sosnowski, Blaine Dolcetti and Haskins.

Oakland will look to sophomore Chris Gawronski as its only veteran diver to provide big points in diving for the Golden Grizzlies. Freshman Chris Rousseau was added to OU's diving program to assist Gawronski.

The **women's team** established itself as the team to beat in 2000-01 as the Grizzlies won the Mid-Con Championship and finished second behind Cincinnati in the NIC's. Oakland finished last year with a 5-4 dual meet record and 4-1 at the OU Aquatics Center.

"The girls had an exceptional season last year -- one of the best in a long time," Hovland said. "We set numerous school records and with winning the Mid-Cons and finishing second at the NIC's, I think the girls are headed in the right direction. In OU

swimming & diving, we have three goals every year. First we are going to focus on the Mid-Con Championship, second we want to climb the ladder at the NIC's and if we do that we will be closer to the third goal, which is to become a top 30 team in the country."

Leading the Golden Grizzlies in the 2001-02 season will be seniors Sara Harley and Tamara Swaby and junior Danielle Ward.

Harley, a three-year letterwinner for the Grizzlies, will swim in the backstroke and freestyle her senior season. The Rockford native finished second in the 100 back at the Mid-Con Championship with a time of 1:00.24. Harley's top finish in the freestyle came at the Mid-Con Championship in the 100 free as she finished ninth with a time of 56.16.

Swaby, a three-year letterwinner from Jamaica, will swim in the butterfly and freestyle events her senior season for OU. The Kingston, Jamaica, native was named the Mid-Continent Conference Swimmer of the Year in 2001-02 for her outstanding efforts. Swaby's top times include finishing third in the 50 free at the NIC's with a time of 23.83. Swaby finished first in the 200 fly at the Mid-Con Championship with a time of 2:05.96.

Ward, a two-year letterwinner for the Grizzlies, will return as OU's top freestyle swimmer in 2001-02. The Brighton native broke four school records last year in the 200, 500, 1000 and 1650 freestyle events. She finished second at the NIC's in the 200 and 500 free with a time of 1:49.56 and 4:51.64, respectively.

Leading the Oakland freestylers will be Kelly Carlin, Heather Kelly, Jessica Lau, Kristen Lesnau, Jordan Longhurst, Angela Simekosky, Anita Stefanovic, Oksana Strelets, Swaby and Ward. Newcomers Karoline Freytag, Holly Miller, Christina Mocerri and Kelsey Withrow also will contribute.

Leading Oakland in the breaststroke is sophomore Shelley Aurit. Also contributing in OU's breaststroke events are Jessica Lau and freshman Lindsay Unrath.

Top returners in the butterfly are sophomore Tanya Korniyenko and junior Jennifer MacDonald, along with tri-captain Tamara Swaby.

Marla McKenzie will swim the backstroke and provide senior leadership during the 2001-02 season. Also in the backstroke will be freshmen Tara Berringer and Renie Green.

In diving, the Grizzlies will look to senior Devon Cunningham to leadership. Also diving will be junior Leslie Purucker and sophomore Katie Livingston.

For rosters, schedules, statistics and detailed season outlooks, visit the [men's](#) and [women's](#) swimming and diving pages on the [Oakland University Athletics](#) Web site.

SUMMARY

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