

Monday, December 6, 2004

Men and women swim teams capture Mid-Con title

Both OU's men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured their sixth straight Mid-Continent Conference championship this past weekend. Sophomore Bryon Tansel (Dundee, Mich.) claimed the top honor as the Men's Swimmer of the Year, while senior Line Jensen (Silkeborg, Denmark) was named the league's Female Swimmer of the Year.

Rounding out the individual awards, freshman Kim Bacon (Bolton, Ontario) was named the Mid-Con Newcomer of the Year, freshman Becky Renkola (Oakland, Mich.) took home Diver of the Year honors and Pete Hovland was named Coach of the Year for the women's team. For the men, freshman Zoltan Horvath (Balatonalmadi, Hungary) received Newcomer of the Year honors and freshman Ryan Kish (Rockford, Mich.) was named Diver of the Year.

"I'm very pleased with our six straight Mid-Con victories on both sides," Hovland said. In our program's history, since being associated with any conference (dating back to 1976), we have never lost a conference championship and that's something to be very proud of.

"There was a concern at the beginning of the season about the lack of depth on the men's team, and we knew this meet would be a challenge this year, but our guys rose to the challenge and really showed me something. I'm extremely excited for us about the rest of the year."

Neither the men's nor the women's team gave up their leads throughout the meet as the men topped runner-up Western Illinois by a final score of 808-643. Following those two teams were Centenary (598), IUPUI (573) and Valparaiso (387). On the women's side, the Golden Grizzlies edged WIU, 996-614, followed by Valpo (529), IUPUI (502) and Centenary (271).

OU takes an extended break in action before returning to the pool on Saturday, Jan. 15, to host Eastern Michigan at 1 p.m.

For more information on OU's swimming and diving teams, visit the OU Athletics Web site.

SUMMARY

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