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## Swimming and diving teams set high expectations

Oakland University's **men's** and **women's** swimming and diving teams set new standards for excellence in 2002-03. With each squad's returning swimmers and divers and high-quality recruits, the Golden Grizzlies are looking for even greater achievements in 2003-04.

Last year was the most successful for the swimming and diving program since Oakland made the transition to Division I in 1998. Both teams were represented at the NCAA Championships, where the men's team scored 17 points to finish 27th. The women's team won its second consecutive National Independent Conference title, and both teams won a fourth consecutive Mid Continent Conference Championship title.

The contingent of freestyle swimmers remains a strong asset for the **men's team**. Of the 11 freestylers, six are returning and four were named first team All-Conference in 2002-03. Junior Chris Sullivan leads the group. He became one of the most decorated athletes at Oakland last year when he set two individual pool and school records while swimming in three school record setting relays. Sullivan swam in the NCAA Championships in the 50 free, 100 free, 100 fly, 200 free relay, 400 medley relay, 200 medley relay, and 400 free relay, helping Oakland become a team nationally ranked in the top 30. At the NIC Championships, Sullivan won the 50 (19.63) and 100 freestyle (43.27) events, and set pool, meet and school records. He also placed second in the 200 butterfly (48.50) and was a part of the winning 200 free and 200 medley teams and the second-place 400 medley. Sullivan also was named Mid-Con Athlete of the Week five times last year.

Senior Sean Broadbent and sophomore Eric Lynn are essential to the freestyle contingent. Both competed at last year's NCAA Championships and swam in the 200 free relay with a school record breaking time of 1:19.47. Broadbent also swam the 400 free relay at the championships and swam a leg in the school record setting relay. Broadbent, a first team All-Mid-Con selection in 2002, took three titles at the championships, winning the 50 free, 100 free and 200 free.

Heading the Golden Grizzlies' mid-distance and distance freestyle events are sophomores Nick McCollum and James Sewell. At last year's Mid-Con championships, McCollum finished first in the 500 free (4:37.28) and Sewell took top honors in the 1650 free with a time of 16:20.74.

Sullivan and junior Blaine Dolcetti lead the men in the butterfly. Sullivan swam the 100 fly (48.41) at the NCAA Championships in 2003 after qualifying for the championships in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events at the NIC meet. His season-best time in the 100 fly came at the NICs, where he swam a time of 48.50 to finish second in the race. Dolcetti was an All-Mid-Con honoree last year after finishing second in the 200 fly with a time of 1:55.87. He is expected to make bigger contributions this year as the team tries to move up the NCAA ladder.

Junior Martin Moen will lead the breaststroke contingent. Moen was a Mid-Con selection last year, and will provide senior leadership to the young squad of five. Oakland is without Scott Dickens, last year's Mid-Con Newcomer of the Year and Co-Swimmer of the Year. He chose not to return in order to train for the Olympics for his home country of Canada.

Seven swimmers are vying for the team's top spot in the individual medley event. McCollum, a first team All-Mid-Con selection, is expected to lead this year's group after capturing the 400 IM (4:03.75) title at the Mid-Con championships last year and swimming runner-up in the 200 IM (1:55.47).

Lynn, who plays an integral role in Oakland's medley relays swimming the backstroke leg, is striving to top his third place finish at the Mid-Con championships last year in the 100 back (52.36). He is joined by Sewell, who is expected to have a strong recovery from an injury last year.

Sophomore divers Rafael Fauza and freshman John VanPortfleet will attempt to improve on last year's performance. Fauza, who competed in the latter half of the 2002-03 season, had his top performance of the year against Notre Dame, when he had two fifth place finishes in the 1 meter (6) (134.40) and 3 meter (6) (148.05) events. VanPortfleet will strengthen this year's squad after receiving All-State, All-Conference, and All-American accolades in 2003 as a high school senior.

Senior Oksana Strelets leads the freestyle swimmers for the **women's team**. She is the school record holder in the 50 free with a time of 22.99, set in 2002. That same year, Strelets became the first female swimmer since the transition to Division I to

compete at the NCAA Championships, where she finished 19th in the 100 free (50.35). Backing Strelets in sprint freestyle events are freshmen Tracy Caruss and Jenna DeJonge, sophomore Line Jensen, and junior Holly Miller. All four swimmers are expected to contribute in the individual and relay events.

Leading the group of mid-distance and distance freestylers are senior Angela Simetkosky and junior Karoline Freytag. Simetkosky had a breakout year in 2002-03, when she set Mid-Con records in the 500 free (4:59.29) and 1650 free (17:08.66) on her way to being named first team All-Mid-Con. She also won both the 500 and 1650 free events at the NIC championships, swimming season best times of 4:56.86 and 17:00.91, respectively. Freytag became a mainstay in mid-distance and distance swimming last year. She finished in third place in both the 500 free and 1650 free at the Mid-Con and NIC championships. She also swam a leg in the 200 free relay (1:32.62), 400 free relay (3:21.23), 800 free relay (7:26.57), and 200 medley relay (1:43.43), which set new OU Aquatics Center pool and school records.

Seniors Tanya Korniyenko and freshman Melissa Jaeger lead this year's butterfly swimmers. Korniyenko was named Mid-Con and NIC Athlete of the Year for 2002-03 after breaking two Mid-Con records and setting pool and school records in the 100 fly (55.15) and 200 fly (2:00.08). Jaeger is a highly celebrated All-America and All-State freshman and is expected to be one of Oakland's swimmers of the future. As a senior captain in high school, Jaeger won the state championships in the 100 fly and swam on the relay team that set a new high school national record.

Shelly Aurit, Lindsey Unrath, Maria Musialczyk and Amanda Burwell bring a mixture of youth and experience to the breaststroke swimmers. Aurit, a senior first team All-Mid-Con in 2002-03, is the top returning swimmer in this event, with consistent first place finishes in the Mid-Con and NIC championships over the last two years. Unrath, a junior, swims the 100 and 200 breast and continually finishes in the top five in her races. Sophomore Musialczyk was last year's Mid-Con 100 breaststroke champion (1:07.51) and first team honoree. Burwell is one of this year's top freshmen. She has strong club and high school backgrounds and is expected to be ready to compete at the collegiate level.

Sophomore Line Jensen leads OU's individual medley swimmers. She burst onto the scene during the second half of last season and broke two school records in the 200 IM (2:02.38) and 400 IM (4:24.77). In the three months in which she competed, Jensen finished first place three times and was always among the top five in each of her races.

Juniors Tara Berringer, Renie Green and Holly Miller will lead the backstroke group for Oakland. Berringer, a first team All-Mid-Con selection last season, captured the Mid-Con and NIC titles in the 100 and 200 backstroke events. Miller finished third at last year's NIC championships.

Sophomore Linda Keskey was named Mid-Con Diver of the Year for her performances on all levels last year. She finished first place in both the 1 meter (6) (390.40) and 3 meter (11) (479.10) boards at the Mid-Con Championships and at the NIC championships, she finished second on the 5 meter platform while setting a new school record of 321.70. She was also named first team All-Mid-Con.

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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