

Newcomers add splash

Swimmers making waves

By ELROY ASHMORE
Of the Emerald

The women's swim team has set its sight on both the regional and national championship this year.

This year's team is the largest that coach Virginia VanRossen has had in her 11 years here and maybe the best, she says.

Last year's team compiled a perfect 7-0 dual meet record, and broke all but three of the women's team's records. Two were set in 1976 by Michelle Menkins who graduated last year. She was the only swimmer lost to graduation last year.

The team consists of 11 returning swimmers, 10 freshmen and four transfers, with three freshmen and one transfer comprising the diving team. Debbie Sill, a sophomore

transfer diver from Pacific Lutheran, is a major addition to the team diving coach John Lloyd says. Last year she won the one meter board and placed third on the three meter board at the Northwest College Women's Sports Association meet.

"Debbie is a very talented athlete," Lloyd says. "She was a high school All-American in swimming, diving, and basketball and last year was without any coaching, so this year she should do real well."

Freshman Lisa Maronich was the Montana state diving champion last year. "Lisa is inexperienced, but she has lots of talent and is more determined to learn new dives quicker," says Lloyd.

Cindy Light, a freshman from Tigard, placed ninth in state high school diving in 1977.

"Cindy was without a diving coach in high school, and this is the first time she has been expected to perform, but she is very enthusiastic," states Lloyd.

Colleen Meagher, a freshman from Eugene, placed fourth in the district 5AAA meet. "Colleen has a natural diving ability. In the next four years she should be one of the top divers in the northwest," Lloyd says.

There are six on scholarship — Tina Helm, Holly Pate, Kathy Hemmer, Kelly Peyton, Tama Cuddeback, and Robin Wheeler.

Helm competed in the AAU outdoor meet last year and placed 20th in the 200 meter backstroke.

Pate is a three time high school All-American, in both the 50 and 100 yard butterfly.

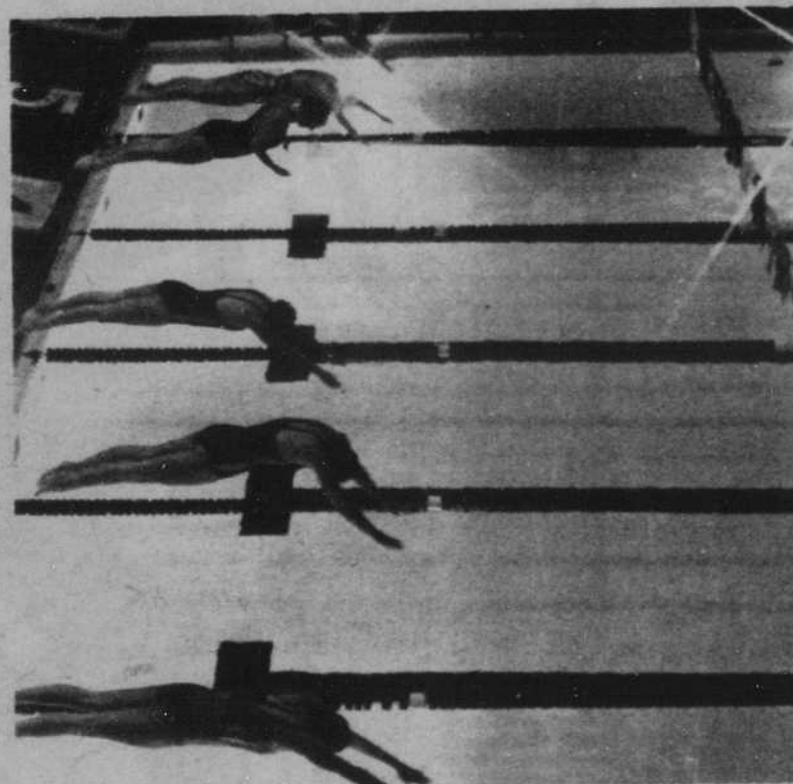


Photo by Cathi Cornille

Adding 10 freshmen and four transfers to the 11 returning swimmers gives women's swim coach Virginia VanRossen her largest and possibly best team ever. Many of the newcomers have already set school records this year.

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