

Aqua Ducks chase title

The men's swimming team begins Pac-10 competition today in Los Angeles and could qualify 12 people for the NCAA meet, says head coach Rich Schleicher.

Realistically, though, Schleicher says he knows the team has to make a big jump before it will make a splash in the Pac-10. "Going into the Pac-10 meet is like being catapulted into the mini-Olympics," he says.

"The Pac-10 conference has some of the top swim programs in the nation. USC, UCLA and Cal-Berkeley have three of the top

programs nationally," says Schleicher. "While Stanford and Arizona State are considered serious contenders."

Schleicher says he expects his team to place sixth in the eight-team field. He says the top five places will go to the California schools and Arizona State, but adds "We hope to battle Arizona and Washington for sixth place."

George Koch (breaststroke), Jeff Smith (diver) and Sam Glass (freestyle-butterfly) are the top contenders for the Ducks, says Schleicher. "We also have a good chance that the three relay

teams will qualify for nationals. Each of them is only one or two seconds over qualifying time."

It's in the qualifying times that Schleicher feels the Ducks have the best chance. "We may not win," he says. "But in this tough of a conference it would be hard not to qualify for nationals and still look decent."

Pac-10 teams hold the fastest times in the nation in all the relay events this year.

"We're going to use those teams to help us qualify," Schleicher says. "After it's all done, it's qualifying for nationals that counts not if we win or lose in the Pac-10 conference."

Koch is the Ducks hope, and a prime candidate to place high in the meet, he adds. "What we're shooting for depends on Koch: if his shoulder is doing fine we've got a good chance."

If the Ducks qualify for nationals, they will travel to Cleveland on March 22.

Women top Vikes, battle OSU tonight

In a tuneup for tonight's game with Oregon State, the women's basketball team traveled up the highway Wednesday and defeated the Portland State Vikings, 88-60, in a Northwest Women's Basketball League contest.

The Ducks are now 11-0 in the NWBL and 19-0 overall, while PSU's league record dropped to 1-10 and its overall mark to 10-13.

"The players may have been looking ahead a bit to the Oregon State game," said head coach Elwin Heiny after the game. "but we didn't play bad tonight. We tried to get some playing time for everyone."

Heiny, in fact gave several

substitutes the starting nod against the Vikings, and Oregon led at halftime, 35-32.

The Ducks, led by Debbie Adams' team-high 19 points and Julie Cushing's 13, crushed PSU in the second half, despite being outrebounded 42-27 for the game. Bev Smith added eight points, all in the second half.

The undefeated women now turn their attention, to tonight's Civil War clash with Oregon State at Mac Court. The Beavers, second in the NWBL's Coast Division with a 7-3 mark (11-4 overall), gave Oregon a tough game in Corvallis last month before losing, 69-57.

Gymnasts seek opponent

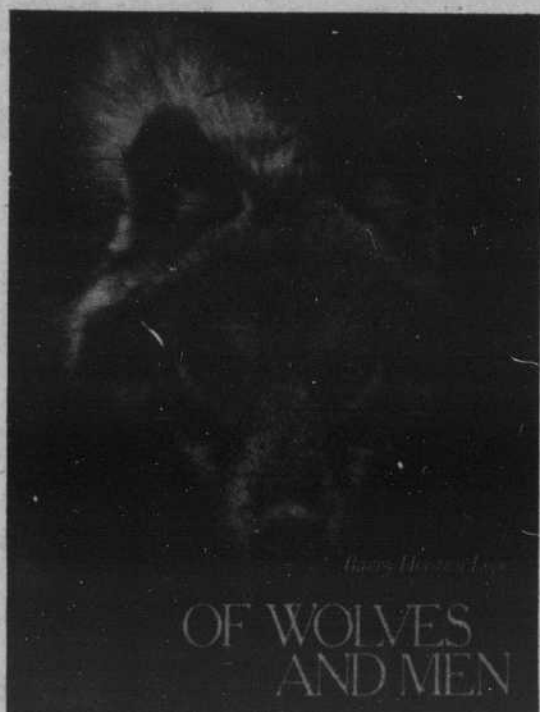
The women's gymnastics meet between the University and Cal-State-Hayward, scheduled for Saturday in MacArthur Court, has been canceled, says Janet Heinonen, assistant sports information director.

Cal-State-Hayward withdrew from the meet when its regional championship meet was moved ahead a week.

The Ducks are now trying to obtain an opponent for Saturday, and may hold an intrasquad meet as a last resort. The meet would start at 1:30 p.m. in Gerlinger Annex.

Next action for the team is the AIAW Region 9 championships, scheduled for March 9-11 in Corvallis. The Ducks are 15-1 for the season.

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