

Fifty 'Swimming Ducks' take to water

A large turnout, a strong nucleus and a number of talented incoming freshmen characterize the University men's and women's swim teams as they prepare for competition this year.

Dan Cole, in his fourth year as varsity coach for both teams, welcomes 50 swimmers to initiate the 1984 season — 30 men and 20 women. Cole says that this is the largest turnout of women in a long time.

Cole will be assisted by Dan Winant, Quentin Hogan and Jerry Andrus.

The Duck swimmers are presently working out three mornings and five afternoons each week, in addition to lifting weights three days a



week.

"We have a good group of young people who are thus far highly motivated and enthusiastic," says Cole. "We're all looking forward to a good year."

Not only do the Ducks have the numbers this year, but the personnel as well. Sophomore Steve Nichols tops the returning list for the men's squad. Last year, Nichols broke the oldest standing school record, held since 1967, in the 50-meter freestyle; in addition to also capturing records in the 100-meter and 200-meter freestyle events.

Junior Mark Cannard, record holder in the 100-meter backstroke, also returns, in addition to veterans Rex Watkins, Chris Doyle and Brian Flick. Freshmen Mark Duvall, from Springfield, and Vince Hirayama, from Bellevue, Wash., will provide the youth for the men's team this season.

Despite finishing at the bottom of the Pac-10 Conference last year, the Ducks had nothing to be ashamed of. The conference competition is tough as is indicated by the fact that the top six finishers in the conference finished among the top 15 teams in the nation at the NCAA championships last season.

"In terms of the Northwest, we've done pretty well," Cole says referring to the men's second place finish at the Pac-West Championships in Eugene last year.

According to Cole, the men will be strong depth-wise in terms of the distance freestyle events.

As for the women, returnees Babette Brundage and Gwen Roedel will lead the team in its quest for contention among the top three in the Nor-Pac Conference. Last year, the Ducks wound up in third just behind California and Washington.

"It was pleasing to be third with such a small crew," says Cole. "We were fortunate to have some conference champs also."

Brundage and Roedel, both distance freestylers, will be supported by a cast of talented freshmen: Lori VanMeter, last year's high school diving champion and All-American from Lake Oswego; Patricia Lorys of Portland, who placed second and third in the 500-meter and 200-meter freestyle events in the state last year, and Virginia Wharton, from Wenatchee, Wash.

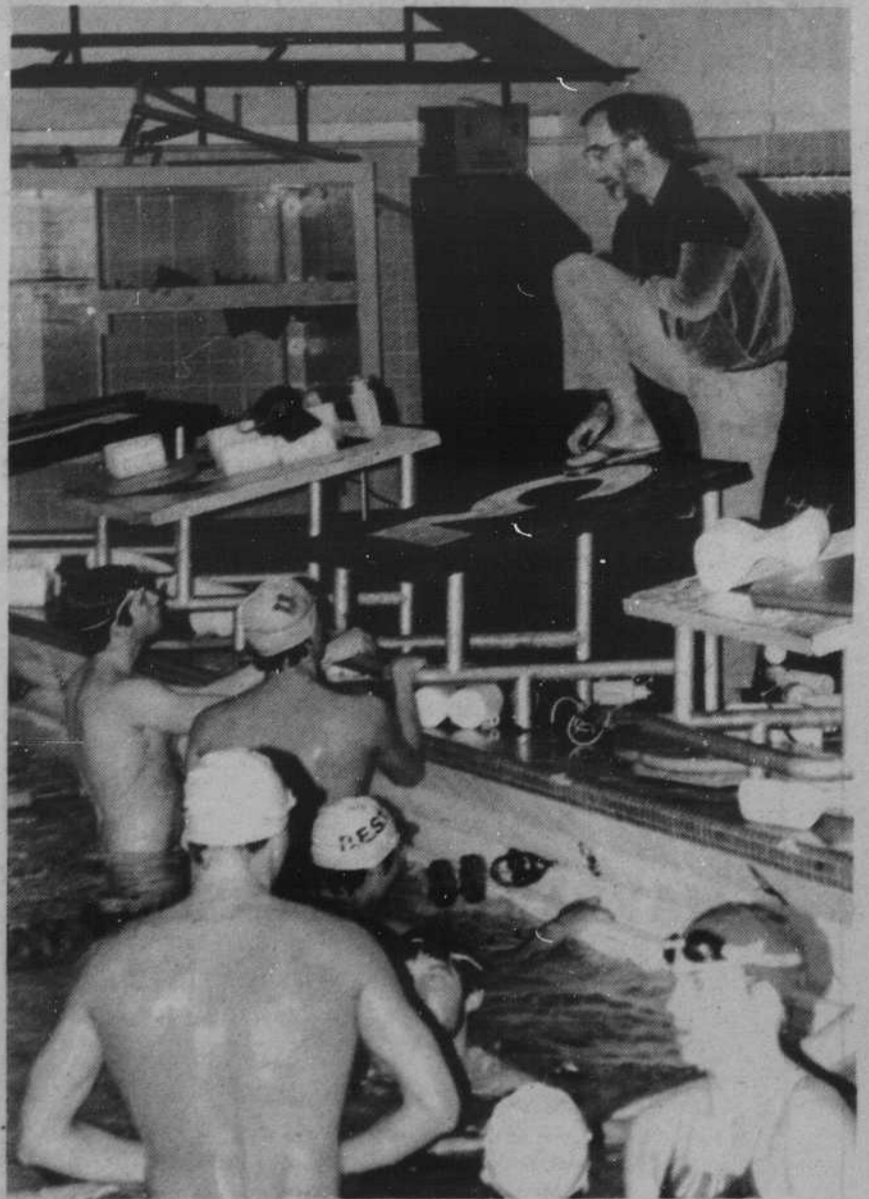
The women's team will again see stiff competition from both California and Washington.

The Ducks began the season Friday with an intrasquad "green and gold" meet. They will open the dual meet season Nov. 9 at Leighton Pool against the Tualatin Hills Swim Club of Beaverton.

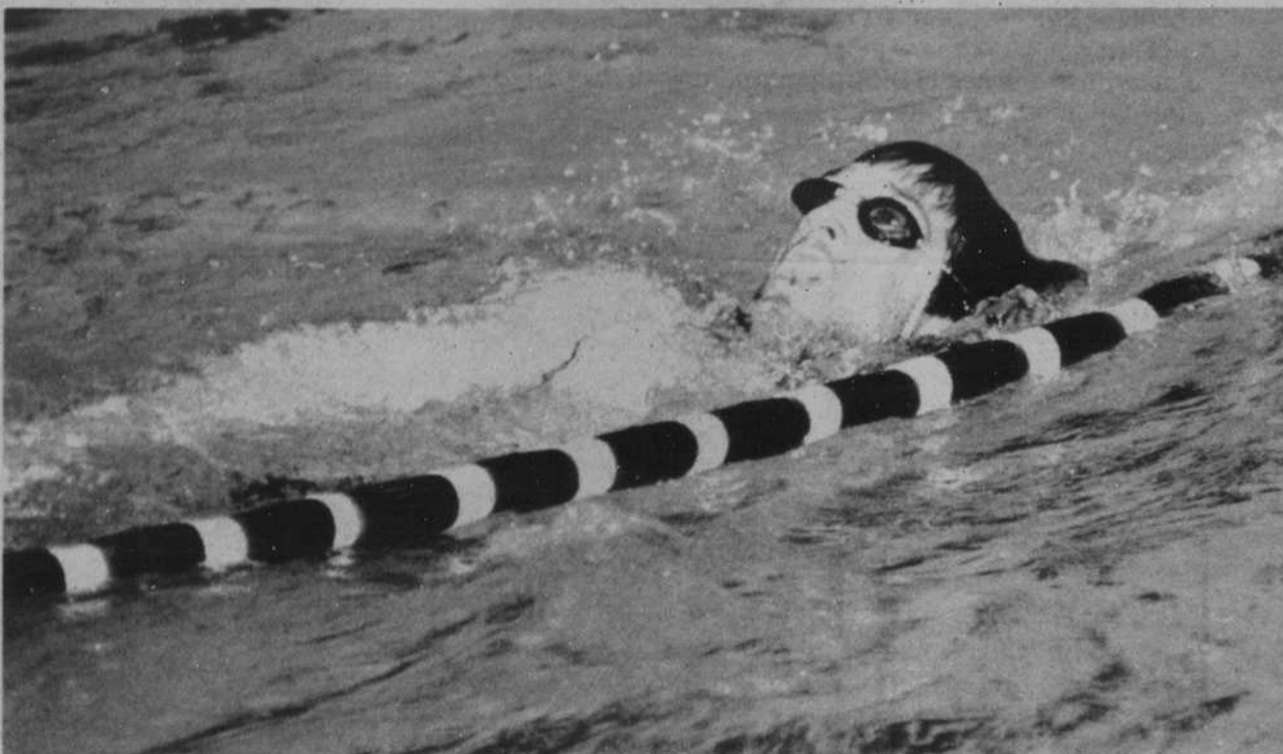
The swimmers will then travel to Corvallis to compete with Oregon State and Idaho, Nov. 16-17.

"We're going to try to have another winning season dual meet-wise," says Cole of both his teams. "We'd like to see the women move up in the Pac-West Championships and also get some people qualified for the NCAA's. We have people who are qualified, and we'd like to see them get the chance."

Story by Capi Lynn
Photos by Lisa Svanevik



Dan Cole is beginning his fourth year as coach of the University's men's and women's swim teams.



The University's "Swimming Ducks" open their 1984 dual meet season Nov. 9 at Leighton Pool against Beaverton's Tualatin Hills Swim Club.

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