

# Sports

## Oregon swimmers dive into the season with Huskies

By Jeff Lutzky  
Of the Emerald

Optimism reigns supreme as the swimming team prepares for the opening of the season Friday, at 7 p.m. against Washington at Leighton Pool.

"We can beat any team in the country with the same budget," assistant coach Jamie Hetzel says. "The women have a decent chance to take second in the NorPac, but the men will probably finish around seventh in the Pac-10. You have to remember, though, that those six teams ahead of us are all nationally ranked."

Top among the men who Hetzel has high hopes for is junior Steve Nichols, who qualified for the NCAA's last year in the 50-yard freestyle and holds the school record for the 50- and 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly.

Nichols was the first swimmer to qualify under head coach Dan Cole, who is in his fifth year.

According to Hetzel, Nichols should be able to qualify for the NCAA's in his three specialties this year.

But Nichols isn't the only swimmer the men have.

Hetzel stated that they expect senior Rex Watkins, one of only three seniors on the team and school record holder in the 200-yard freestyle, to qualify in the 200- and 500-yard freestyles.

Senior Brian Flick has a shot to qualify in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly as does junior Chris Doyle in the 200-yard freestyle.

Oregon also expects to qualify all three relay teams, the 400- and 800-yard freestyle and 400-yard individual medley for the men.

On the women's side, Hetzel is even more optimistic, pointing to six different swimmers with shots at qualifying for the NCAA's in March.

Leading this batch of swimmers is junior Gwen Roedel, MVP the last two years for the women and school record holder in the 1650-yard freestyle.

Roedel is expected to qualify in the 500- and 1650-yard freestyle. Hetzel also expects Babbette Brundage, the only senior on the team, to qualify in the 200- and 400-yard individual medleys.

Sophomore Kristin Read in

the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, freshman Heather Hockett in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, freshman Amy Hathaway in the 200- and 400-yard individual medleys and sophomore Patricia Lorys in the 1650-yard freestyle have the best chances to qualify for the NCAA's besides Roedel and Brundage.

Hetzel also expects the 200-, 400- and 800-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley relay teams to qualify for the women.

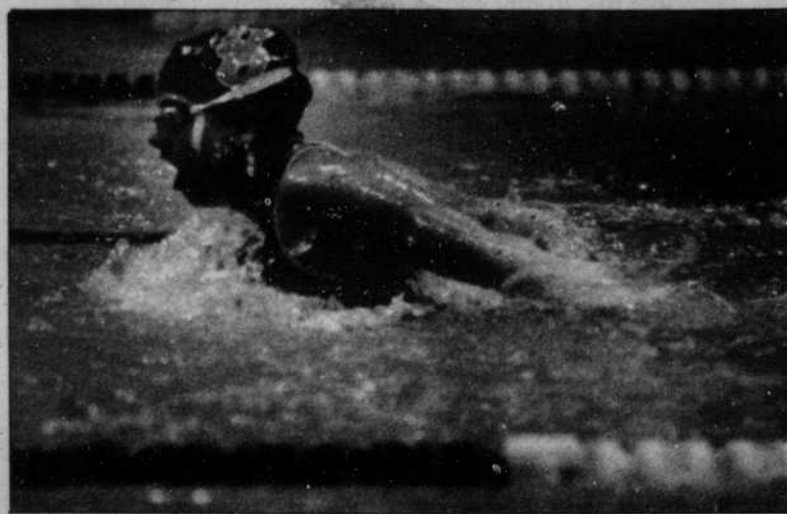
Hetzel attributes the team's new found strength to the training regime they've instituted.

"We train twice a day, for four hours total," Hetzel says. "Strength Coach Mike Clark has also worked out a program for us, so we're lifting weights three times a day. I don't think any sport at the University can match our training time."

Following the Washington meet, the Ducks will have a dual meet against Willamette University Saturday at noon at Leighton pool.

"This meet (Willamette) gives people a chance to swim other events. It's a fun meet," Hetzel says.

The Ducks have no more scheduled meets until January.



Oregon swim coach Dan Cole looks over a recent practice as the Ducks prepare to open their season against the Washington Huskies this Friday at 7 p.m. at Leighton Pool.

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Ross Martin

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