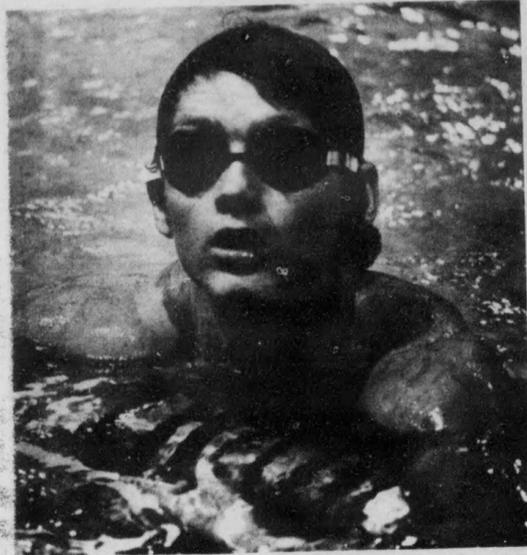


Balla gold, Banks bronze

Swim team hits paydirt at nationals



Dave Banks, bronze medal winner at the Nationals.

After a slow start in September, the UNB swimming and diving teams have finally finished off their seasons at the national championships. For the first time, in several years, members of the swimming component of the team brought home medals from that contest.

Danielle Balla won the first gold medal that has ever been won by a Mermaid, that being in the 200 individual medley. Balla won the event in a time of 2:28.54 touching out Rosanne Naroski of McGill.

Balla also took a ninth in the 100 fly and a tenth in the 50 free.

Dave Banks, returning to the team after a long absence showed that hard training pays off as he took a bronze in the 200 IM and a fourth in the 400 IM and 400 free. Banks was edged for the third place finish in the 200m IM by 1/100 of a second.

In the 400 IM, Banks was left behind at the start after a false start by the starter was not called back. After collecting his wits and being behind the pack by as much as five seconds with half the race to go, Banks dug in on the breaststroke and freestyle legs of the race to pull up to the bronze medal spot.

In the 400 free, Banks set a conference record of 4:06 in taking fourth place.

Other members of the team which traveled to the nationals included Laura Kirkpatrick, Randi Stangroom, and Kathy Gaul for the women and Bruce Williams, Warren Saville, Rob Davsi, Bill Curtis and Iain Sinclair for the men.

Divers who qualified for the meet were Gary Kelly for the men and Andrea Baker and Celeste Smart for the women.

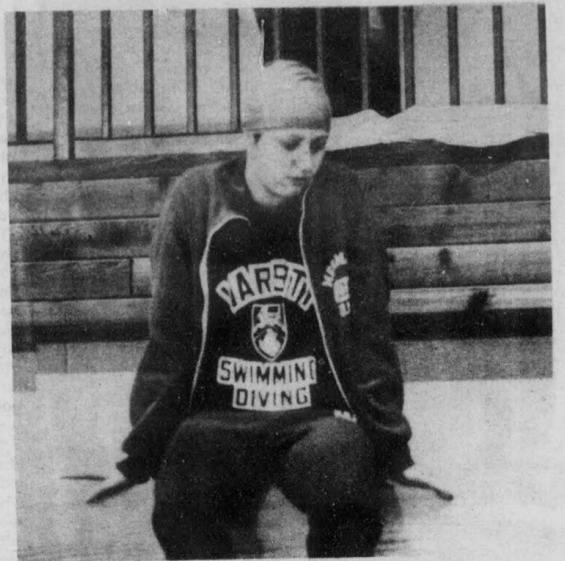
Kirkpatrick placed 12th overall in the 100 back while Stangroom and Gaul performed well in the sprint freestyles.

Williams put on a strong showing in the 100 back placing fifth overall and winning the consolation finals. He also placed 11th in the 200 back.

Davis and Curtis were head to head in the breaststroke events while rookie Saville put on a strong show in the individual medley events.

Gary Kelly, who two weeks previously had pulled off the biggest upset of his life and of the current year in intercollegiate diving by swamping national champion Daniel Marcoux in the conference championships, placed ninth on three meter and 11th on one meter.

Although they did not make finals, Smart and Baker put on a strong performance on both boards.



Danielle Balla, UNB's first gold medal winner in swimming.



Kathy Gaul at the start of the 50 freestyle.



Four year veteran Randi Stangroom.

The women's 400 free relay showed considerable strength in coming up for a fifth place finish in their competition.

The men's 400 meter medley relay team consisting of Williams, Davis, Banks and Sinclair finished seventh, while the same team finished eleventh in the 400 free relay.

Banks showed his ability as he qualified for four events in the PanAm games trials. Also qualified are Sinclair, Davis, Curtis and Williams. This will be the first relay that New Brunswick has ever sent to a national competition and will be the largest and fastest representation that the province has had for the Canadian Swimming Association nationals.

The Atlantic conference showed its strength particularly in the men's swimming as they placed three teams in the top ten in the competition Dalhousie, who won the conference championships, was fifth while UNB and Acadia tied for ninth.

The women in the conference proved to be no slouches either as Acadia placed sixth followed by Dalhousie in sixth. Memorial University of Newfoundland finished 12th while UNB was 14th overall.

the top swimmers of the year also came from this conference as

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