

SWIMMING

Graphic by Varsity Red Swimmer Thom Giberson



Walking the AUAA tightrope

After another outstanding season, the Varsity Red swim team already have their sights set on the CIAU Championships in Victoria, B.C. March 12-13.

However, a more immediate task is at hand. This weekend UNB hosts the AUAA Championships at the Sir Max Aitken Pool. Several UNB athletes are expected to medal at the meet but it's the overall team standings that have coach Andrew Cole concerned.

"If we swim the men conservatively, I don't think they should have any trouble capturing the title. However, we're going to have to take some chances with the women if we want a chance at the overall gold medal."

Strategy comes into play when the competition regulations for the meet are taken into consideration. For example, each athlete is only permitted to swim four events in the run of the weekend.

Figuring that some athletes are seeded first place in more than four events it is important that, through careful planning and understanding of the competition, these athletes are used in the events where they are most needed in order to prevent the opposition from gathering more points than necessary.

Such factors to consider in this weekend's wom-

en's competition, Mount Allison dominates the sprint butterfly and freestyle events, while Dalhousie is the major contender for the backstroke and breaststroke events.

Overall, Dalhousie will provide the most competition in both men's and women's competitions. UNB tied Dalhousie in the overall women's standings after the regular season with 4 meet wins and 1 loss. UNB dominated the men's field with a perfect 5-0 record while Dalhousie trailed with a 3-2 record.

"I've spent between 30 and 40 hours contemplating strategy for this weekend's meet," says Cole. "It's very important that we try and take away as any points from Dal as we win for ourselves, particularly in the women's events."

If this sounds sly it's because it is. But no more sly than the strategy that Dalhousie is cooking up for UNB. Ultimately, it will determine the AUAA Championships, a title that is very important to both teams.

Regardless of who wins the title, the ensuing three weeks will be very busy for Mr. Cole and the Varsity Reds. They will head to Victoria on March 3 for the Commonwealth Games trials and will remain there until the National Championships from March 11-13.

Iona Allen

2nd yr. Bachelor of P.E.
Home: Halifax, N.S.

Iona had an excellent season this year nabbing 4 gold medals at the AUAA Invitational meet hosted by Dalhousie and a healthy collection of dual meet medals. She is riding a triple gold medal performance at last summer's Canada Summer Games and a 6th place at the World Student games. Currently ranked as the 25th all-time female swimmer in Canada and as defending 400 IM National Champion, Iona will be a force to be reckoned with at both the AUAA's and the CIAU's.



Iain Tennent

3rd yr. Bachelor of Sc.
Home: St. John's, NFLD

Iain is yet another of the exceptional athletes on the UNB swim team. He nabbed a gold medal for Newfoundland at the Canada Summer Games and helped last year's Beavers swim team to the AUAA title before claiming a silver medal at the National Championships. Iain dominated the men's classification at a dual meet against Dalhousie taking three events and can be looked upon to lead the men to the conference title this weekend.



Michelle MacWhirter

1st yr. Bachelor of P.E.
Home: Stephenville, NFLD

After competing at the Canada Summer Games with the Newfoundland swim team, Michelle arrived at UNB this year ready for a career season. She has already qualified for the CIAU National Championships and has picked up a series of gold medals from AUAA competition this year including four gold medals at the AUAA Invitational meet. The five time provincial champion could prove to be the difference between silver and gold for UNB women at the AUAA's.



Jason Lukeman

3rd yr. Bachelor of Sc.
Home: Port Hawkesbury, N.S.

It is difficult to deny that Jason is a gifted athlete. He holds every AUAA Games record from 50 to 200 meters in the freestyle event, has been named Nova Scotia Swimmer of the Year for the past three years, was an AUAA All-Star and qualified for the CIAU's last year. Jason has already qualified for the Nationals again this year and should have a very strong showing this weekend at the AUAA's. All this and he is an Academic All-Canadian with a 3.6 GPA.



AUAA Championships Meet Schedule

Friday, February 18

Opening Ceremony 6:30 pm

- Women's 200 IM
- Men's 200 IM
- Women's 20 Free style
- Men's 50 Freestyle
- Women's 400 Freestyle
- Men's 400 Freestyle
- Women's 200 Breast
- Men's 200 Breast
- Women's 100 Fly
- Men's 100 Fly
- Women's 50 Backstroke
- Men's 50 Backstroke
- Women's 4x100 Medley relay
- Men's 4x100 Medley relay

Saturday, February 19

competition begins at 6:30 pm

- Women's 200 Freestyle
- Men's 200 Freestyle
- Women's 100 Breaststroke
- Men's 100 Breaststroke
- Women's 100 Backstroke
- Men's 100 Backstroke
- Women's 400 IM
- Men's 400 IM
- Women's 50 Fly
- Men's 50 Fly
- Women's 4x200 Freestyle relay
- Men's 4x200 Freestyle relay

Sunday, February 20

competition begins at 6:30 pm

- Women's 200 Fly
- Men's 200 Fly
- Women's 100 Freestyle
- Men's 100 Freestyle
- Women's 200 Backstroke
- Men's 200 Backstroke
- Women's 800 Freestyle
- Men's 1500 Freestyle
- Women's 50 Breaststroke
- Men's 50 Breaststroke
- Women's 4x100 Freestyle relay
- Men's 4x100 Freestyle relay

Closing Ceremonies at 9:30 pm

All events take place at the
Sir Max Aitken Pool

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