

Swimming and Diving Notebook

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Men's Swimming looks ahead to Washington meet

After a pair of early dual meet victories against No. 3 Michigan and No. 14 Indiana, the No. 1 Texas men's swim team hopes to continue its winning ways in a home meet against Washington on Friday. Though the Huskies are unranked, the team expects a challenging meet.

"They have some stars," senior team captain Sean Patton said. "They just don't have as much depth as we have."

Agustin "Goose" Magruder, a senior breastroker and All-American, looks forward to swimming against Washington in particular because Tommy Hannan, a former Texas swimmer, is an assistant coach there.

Hannan graduated from Texas in 2003, and was a member of three NCAA title-winning Longhorn squads. He won a gold medal in the 4 x 100 medley relay at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and was a 17-time All-American at Texas.

Texas gets verbal commitments from top recruits

For most of the Texas swimming program, November is a time for getting back into competition shape. But for the coaching staff, it is the high season for recruiting.

So far the Longhorns have secured four verbal commitments for the 2009-2010 season. Two of the recruits, Austin Surhoff and Nick D'Innocenzo, finished in the 200-

meter individual medley semifinals at the U.S. Olympic Trials. Surhoff, the son of former Baltimore Orioles outfielder B.J. Surhoff, swims for North Baltimore Aquatic Club, Michael Phelps' old club team.

D'Innocenzo, a *Swimming World* five-star prospect from Andover, Mass., was Texas men's first commitment for next season. After a tough deliberation between his top two schools, he chose Texas over Auburn's impressive program, which has won five of the last six NCAA Championships.

"However, in the end, I think for me it came down to what I want out of swimming," said D'Innocenzo. "I thought long and hard on this question, and I wanted to be a strong contender at the 2012 Olympic Trials, and hopefully a force to be reckoned with in [the 2012 Olympics in] London. I felt that I would be able to accomplish this kind of swimming best at Texas."

Texas Invite details under wraps

The Longhorns are eager to race against the defending NCAA champion Arizona Wildcats in their annual Texas Invite meet December 4-6. Unlike their dual meet schedule, the Texas Invite follows the same format of preliminaries, semifinals and finals rounds of the Big XII and NCAA meets.

"They're our main rivals for this year," said Patton.

What other teams will be making the trek to Austin this year for the Invite?

“[Coach] Eddie [Reese] doesn’t tell us until a lot closer,” Patton said. He thought Arizona State could be a possibility.

The men’s swimming program was one of the three men’s sports the Arizona State athletic program axed last spring in order to maintain compliance with Title IX and the school’s athletic budget. However, generous Sun Devil alumni raised enough funds to get the team reinstated until at least the 2011-12 season.

Junior freestyler Colin Murtagh mentioned Stanford, Texas A&M and Tennessee as potential teams to compete in the meet. All three schools had competed in previous Texas Invites.

Dry season begins

Every year the Longhorns make a commitment to “go dry” after the start of competition season. By going dry, the team vows to abstain from alcohol until the end of the season. Dry season started Nov. 16.

On weekends they take part in gatherings with activities other than drinking.

Patton said that going dry showed the team’s resolve to making the team the best it can be and that it becomes a bonding experience. Despite carrying a 40-person team, he feels the team has a tight chemistry throughout, not just class to class.

“It’s kinda like a no child left behind situation,” said Magruder. “Everyone lifts each other.”