

Divers in NCAAs in both categories

By DAVE STEVENSON
Collegian Sports Writer

The Lions representing the men's swimming and diving team at the NCAA Championships was expanded this weekend as two senior divers placed high enough to move on.

Seniors Steve Zamborsky and Jeff Eagles scored impressively on both boards and, more importantly, high enough on both to qualify for the national championships with decisive performances Friday and Saturday at the NCAA Prequalifying meet at Harvard's Blogett Pool.

Coach Craig Brown, who was voted Men's Diving Coach of the Year for the Northeast region by his fellow coaches, said he was pleased with the solid performance his divers were able to put in throughout their list of 11 dives and credited consistency as the key.

"I was real pumped that we got some people in there and I thought we had a real, real solid event," Brown said. "We made a couple of small mistakes, but the mistakes we made were the kind of mistakes I can tolerate - they were aggressive mistakes because the guys were fired up and they were going after it."

The trip to NCAAs marks the first

time under Brown that the Lions have legitimately qualified a diver for nationals. Last season, D.J. Hill competed at NCAAs on the 3-meter board, but only after Pitt diver John Sharkey was forced to bow out of the competition after failing his drug test.

On the 1-meter board Zamborsky scored 473.70 points in his 11-dive repertoire, enough to place him fourth among the competition and push him into NCAAs for the first time in his four years at Penn State.

Eagles, who had disappointing execution of his dives at Easterns, was able to put together his most solid list of dives all season, capturing first place on the 3-meter board with a score of 517.35, ahead of Princeton's Kenny Iams and Harvard's Chris Naverson.

"I was able to iron my mistakes out and come back focused," Eagles said. "It was a matter of doing one dive at a time and remembering what I had to do."

Freshman Chris Devine, who has been the Lions most consistent diver throughout the season, put together strong performances on both boards but was unable to put a solid, mistake-free list together for this meet and came up just short on both boards, placing fifth on 1-meter and sixth on 3-meter.



Collegian Photo/Joel Bowers

Diver Steve Zamborsky goes into his dive against Villanova. Zamborsky and Jeff Eagles qualified for the NCAA diving championships on the 1- and 3-meter boards.

vonSeelan qualifies in NCAA diving meet

By DAVID PENCEK
Collegian Sports Writer

Senior diver Lara vonSeelen did not want to see her diving career at Penn State end without competing in the NCAA Championships.

So this weekend vonSeelen scored 431.75 points on the 3-meter board at the prequalifying meet at Harvard. The total was good enough for second place and a trip to Indianapolis for the NCAA Championships, which begin Thursday. She joins the 800-yard freestyle relay team of Fran McDermid, Christy Rourke, Janet Worobel and Heather Nicholson, who will also be competing at nationals.

"Lara did what she needed to do," Coach Craig Brown said. "She had great finishes on her dives."

Amy Schmidt and Kristin Tressler struggled this weekend. Schmidt, who qualified for nationals last year, finished 12th on 1-meter and fifth on 3-meter. Tressler only competed on 3-meter and finished 24th.

"I was a little surprised Amy didn't do better," Brown said. "She just couldn't get it on this weekend."

After defending her title on the 3-meter at the Eastern Women's Swim-

ming League Championships, vonSeelen started the weekend by finishing 11th on 1-meter. Brown was disappointed with the team's performance on 1-meter.

During warm-ups for the 3-meter Brown and vonSeelen were thinking of changing her list of dives. They were going to try a more conservative list, but they decided to stick with her tougher list of dives after her warm-ups didn't go well.

"I didn't feel comfortable, and I was doubting myself (when trying the new list)," vonSeelen said. "It definitely paid off."

She'll be sticking with that same list in Indianapolis. Brown and vonSeelen's goal for NCAAs is to get into the top 16. To do that, Brown said she needs to finish off her dives well.

"She's going to have a good time," Brown said. "She's got to get by the tougher dives, and she'll do well."

VonSeelen will be more relaxed for this meet, since there isn't as much pressure on her. But the Garden City, N.Y. native will be looking to make the most of her opportunity.

"It's like a celebration meet for all the hard work that's been done," vonSeelen said. "I'm totally psyched to go."

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