

# Hargis excited about incoming recruits

By Mike Still  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Four high school All-Americans. Eight standout recruits. Penn State swimming and diving coach John Hargis will get a very talented group of swimmers when his 2010-11 women's swimming recruiting class steps onto campus next year. But ultimately, he's most anticipating the arrival of a group of all-

around great student athletes. "This is a group full of young ladies that are extremely driven to compete at the highest level," Hargis said. "They're very well-rounded."

Highlighting the stellar class are All-Americans Claire Singley from powerhouse Carroll Senior High School in Southlake, Texas; Chelsea Howard from Durham,

N.C.; Hailey Campbell from Lakeville, Minn.; and Gabi Shishkoff from Franklin, Mass.

Also coming to Happy Valley next fall are highly decorated butterfly and individual medley specialist Chelsea Weedman from Poway, Calif.; freestyle and backstroke standout Leah Davis from North Carolina; Becky Yokosh from Oconomowoc, Wisc.; and a fast butterfly and freestyle sprinter, four-star recruit Mackenzie Powers from Sycamore, Ill.

Hargis is not only pleased with the talent of his incoming class,

but with its character and high interest in quality academics too.

The coach added that a few of the recruits have already been accepted into Schreyer Honors College.

Because of NCAA rules, Hargis was not allowed to release the names of which recruits were accepted, but he confirmed that two had been accepted and one more was waiting to find out.

"These are girls that have been brought up and developed in environments that have developed good young women," he said. "It's

a very deep group of young ladies — young ladies that really want to step in and make a difference from day one."

Hargis' current swimmers are just as thrilled to have such talented teammates joining them next year.

"We're getting girls who will help us toward the ultimate goal of winning Big Tens," freshman Amy Modglin said. "It's really exciting for the future of Penn State swimming."

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Hargis

# Lions mindful of Big Ten meet

By Margaret McAvoy  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Written on a white board inside McCoy Natatorium is a countdown until the Big Ten Championships meet.

Today marks 36 days until the Penn State women's swimming and diving team heads to West Lafayette, Ind., to compete in the meet that ultimately means everything to it.

For a Penn State team looking to win its first conference championship since 2005-06, West Lafayette is all that matters.

As they head into this weekend's meet against Pittsburgh, Maryland and Villanova, the Nittany Lions aren't changing anything in their strokes.

Senior captain Michelle Myers said the practice regime will remain the same, other than reducing yardage.

"Everyone knows Big Tens are right around the corner," senior Lindsey DeForrest said.

"That's why we are focusing ahead — focusing on our racing abilities."

The Lions are using this weekend's race to prepare for the big one in February.

With the annual winter trip to Naples, Fla., behind them, the Lions are relaxed and actually happy to be back inside the natatorium.

The training program in Naples is a Penn State tradition,

designed to take away the stress of everyday life, get away from the cold, incorporate team building and mainly focus on swimming.

"It's a chance to bring the team closer and concentrate on swimming and swimming only," freshman Amy Modglin said.

But conditions down south this winter weren't exactly normal in the sunshine state. With temperatures in the 40s, the team still swam outside in a non-heated pool.

Myers said it was freezing but was surprised with how well training went.

Even with two practices a day and tough conditions in the water, the Lions came out of Florida feeling relaxed and ready for what lies ahead.

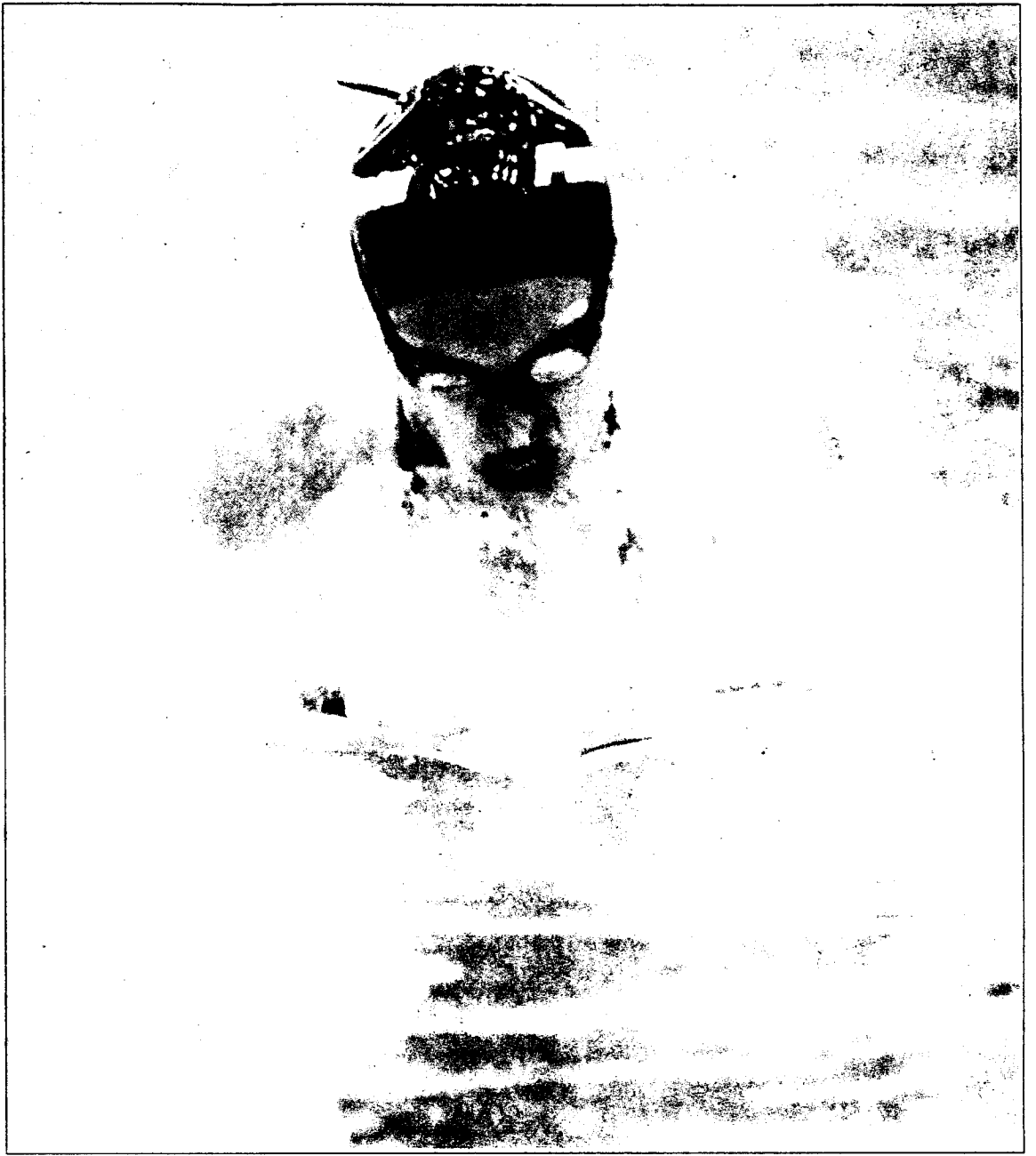
The swimmers expect solid competition this weekend, but Modglin said winning is definitely the goal.

DeForrest said details such as turns and finishes are the things that count at this time in the season.

This time of year is when those white board numbers start shrinking, and that's when the swimmers realize everything counts.

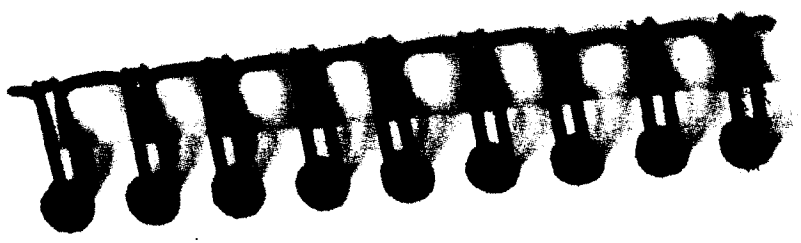
"We know we are going to swim fast," Myers said. "Every day, every set, everything is making us stronger."

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Abby Drey/Collegian

Penn State's Lindsey Smith competes in the girls 200 yard breaststroke during an Oct. meet.



## Writers, Take Note

The Daily Collegian invites students interested in becoming reporters to attend one of the upcoming tryouts. No experience is necessary. You will be asked to write a short news story based on a set of facts.

Whether it's sports, arts, campus events or regional news, your stories will be widely read by fellow students if you are a Collegian reporter.

If you are interested in applying for the Collegian's photography or graphics staffs, watch for upcoming advertisements.

## Tryouts:

Tuesday, Jan. 19

2-3:30 pm

6-7:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 20

2-3:30 pm

6-7:30 pm

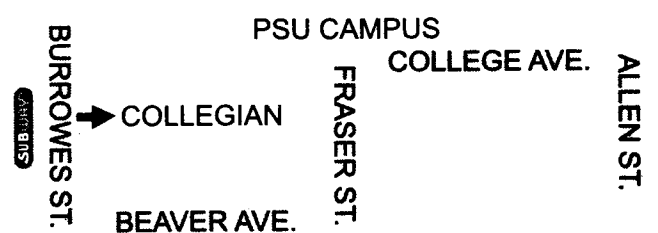
Thursday, Jan. 21

2-3:30 pm

Bring: A pencil and blue exam book

Where: 123 South Burrowes Street

Any questions? Call News Adviser John Harvey at 865-3842



The Daily Collegian