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SUNYAC hit by Blue Wave

Geneseo men claim 10th consecutive title, women win first since '03-04

BUFFALO – The Geneseo men’s swimming and diving team won its 10th consecutive State University of New York Athletic Conference championship while the Geneseo women claimed their first SUNYAC crown since the 2003-04 season at the Burt Flickinger Aquatic Center at Erie Community College. The Knight men – also known as the Blue Wave – scored 892.5 points while the Lady Wave earned 801. Geneseo coach Paul Dotterweich was named as both the SUNYAC Men’s and Women’s Coach of the Year.

Other honorees included **Michelle Coombs** (Newburgh/Newburgh Free Academy) of New Paltz and Fredonia’s **Kelly Sponholz** (Alden/Alden), who were the meet’s Most Outstanding Swimmer and Diver, respectively. Oswego’s **Greg Doyle** (Ulster Park) was the Most Outstanding Men’s Swimmer while fellow Laker Kevin Morgan was the meet’s Most Outstanding Men’s Diver. The Grace Mowatt Award was given to two co-winners – Geneseo’s **Justine Diaz** (Staten Island/Notre Dame) and Cortland’s **Amy Jones** (Burnt Hills/Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake). Morgan won the James Fulton Award.

During the competitions, the Lady Wave won 10 of 20 women’s events while the men’s team claimed seven titles. Geneseo dominated the free relays, winning all six. The women set new championship meet and SUNYAC records in the 200-, 400- and 800-yards relays while the men inked new meet and conference marks in the 200 and 400 relays.

The Lady Wave’s **Natalie Thorpe** (Lakewood/Southwestern) was Geneseo’s most decorated individual performer, winning the 200 and 400 individual medleys and the 200 backstroke. Her winning time in the 400 IM was both a meet record and SUNYAC record (4:34.55) and earned her NCAA provisional status. She also set the meet record and claimed an NCAA provisional in the 200 IM (2:10.16). Her time in the 200 backstroke was 2:10.37.

Michelle Rodriguez (Yorktown Heights/Yorktown), **Jessie Cocco** (Batavia/Batavia-Notre Dame), **Daina Bouquin** (Colden/Springville-Griffith) and **Lindsay Dressel** (Buffalo/Kenmore West) also won individual golds for the Geneseo women. Cocco set new SUNYAC and meet marks in the 200 breaststroke, finishing with a provisional time of 2:25.33. Rodriguez won the 500 freestyle (5:13.93), Bouquin was first in the 100 butterfly (:59.57) and Dressel claimed gold in the 200 butterfly (2:10.66).

Charlie Hake (Akron/Akron), **Russell Sullivan** (Sanborn/Niagara-Wheatfield) and **Chris Norton** (Wyoming/Notre Dame) were individual winners for the Geneseo men. Hake’s winning time of :20.73 in the 50 free was both a meet and SUNYAC record. It was also an NCAA provisional time. Sullivan won the 200 backstroke (1:56.35) and Norton was first in the 200 butterfly (1:56.43).

Geneseo's men also won four of five relays, led by the 200 and 400 free relay teams. Hake, **Clint Sugnet** (Penfield/Penfield), **Sig Culhane** (Rochester/Brighton) and **John Zolna** (Floral Park/Floral Park) swam the 200 relay in 1:23.33 while **Drew Rogers** (Williamsville/Williamsville South), Culhane, Hake and Zolna won the 400 relay in 3:06.35. Both winning times were NCAA provisionals that set meet and SUNYAC records.

The Knight men's other winning relays were the 800 free team of Rogers, Hake, **Dan Szajta** (Alden/Alden) and Culhane (7:00.28) and the 400 medley squad of Sullivan, **Andrew Gorcica** (Eden/Eden), Norton and Zolna (3:30.43).

The Lady Wave's three winning relay teams swam NCAA provisional times while setting the new records. **Jennifer Anthon**e (Williamsville/Williamsville East), **Katie Linehan** (Schenectady/Guilderland), Cocco and Rodriguez won the 200 free relay (1:36.72). The 400 free team consisted of Rodriguez, Linehan, **Maren MacDonald** (Lockport/Lockport) and Anthon (3:33.24) while the 800 free relay team included Anthon, Thorpe, MacDonald and Rodriguez (7:50.40).

Coombs was the week's standout female swimmer as she won the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle events. She earned an NCAA automatic qualifier in the 200 free, winning the race in 1:53.14. In the 50, she touched the wall in :23.72 to equal the SUNYAC meet record which she set in 2007. The Division III defending champ in the 100, Coombs swam an NCAA provisional time of :51.83.

Coombs was a member of two winning relay teams – the Hawks' 200 and 400 medley quartets. She, **Becky Baker** (Wappingers Falls/Roy C. Ketcham), **Erica Ellis** (Barnevald/Holland Patent) and **Christine Rieth** (North Penfield/Webster) set a new meet and conference record during the 200 preliminaries (1:48.00) and then re-set the record with an NCAA automatic-qualifying time in the finals (1:46.94). The winning 400 medley relay team, which swam a provisional time, included Coombs, **Joelle Hopf** (Vestal/Vestal), Ellis and Rieth (3:58.89).

Sponholz continued her dominance in women's diving as she claimed both crowns for the third straight year. During the 3-meter diving preliminaries, she set a new meet and conference record by scoring 520.15 points. She had only 510.35 during finals. In 1-meter competition, Sponholz scored 461.20 points.

Taylor Houseman (Wellsville/Wellsville) led a trio of Cortland females who left with gold medals. She won the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.89, an NCAA provisional time which is also a meet and conference record. **Elizabeth Neddo** (Syracuse/Fowler) won the 1,650 free (18:12.88) and **Krista Bergquist** (West Islip/West Islip) was first in the 100 back (1:00.57).

Doyle earned golds in the 100, 200 and 500 free events. In the 100, he set a new meet record, touching the wall in :46.03 – a provisional time. He also earned a provisional in the 200 (1:40.59). Doyle won the 500 in 4:41.04.

Morgan completed the SUNYAC grand slam of men's diving records by winning the 1-meter contest with 549.95 points, a mark which set a meet and conference record. Morgan now owns all SUNYAC diving records including six and 11 dives off a 3-meter board and six and 11 dives off a 1-meter board. **Scott Horsington** (Churchville/Churchville-Chili) of Fredonia won the 3-meter event with 466.85 points.

Cortland's **Brett Humphreys** (Amsterdam/Amsterdam) won the 100 and 200 breaststroke events in :58.14 and 2:07.85, respectively. Both winning times were NCAA provisionals. Also, **David Dow** (Port St. Lucie, Fla./Glastonbury, Conn.) won the 1,650 free (16:43.15) and **Drew Hilker** (Ithaca/Ithaca) was first in the 100 butterfly (:51.38). Cortland's winning 200 medley relay team consisted of Matt Young, Humphreys, **Jeff Moessinger** (Buffalo/Iroquois) and Hilker (1:36.11).

The New Paltz men sent three winners to the podium. **Stephen Cozzolongo** (Burlington, Conn./Lewis S. Mills) was first in the 100 back (:53.47), **Zachary Lowenstein** (Brick, N.J./Brick Township) won the 200 IM (1:58.62) and **John Fleckenstein** (Port Jefferson/Port Jefferson) claimed the 400 IM gold (4:13.77).

Additional performances which warranted NCAA provisional qualification included Houseman and Cortland's **Jennifer Thorpe** (Lakewood/Southwestern) who swam the women's 200 breast in 2:26.86 and 2:27.01, respectively. Both swimmers swam times which would have broken the previous SUNYAC record if not for Cocco.

Cocco (1:07.08) and Backer (1:07.42) swam provisional times in the 100 breast while freestylers Anthone and Rodriguez clocked in with provisional times in the 50 (:24.38) and 200 (1:55.24), respectively. On the men's side, Zolna claimed two provisionals. He swam the 50 free in :20.92 and the 100 free in :46.39.

WOMEN'S FINAL

Geneseo	801
New Paltz	607
Cortland	589.5
Oswego	566
Fredonia	359
Oneonta	222
Brockport	134
Potsdam	133.5
Buffalo State	107

MEN'S FINAL

Geneseo	892.5
Cortland	683.5
Oswego	474
New Paltz	472
Fredonia	271
Potsdam	210
Oneonta	203
Buffalo State	169
Brockport	156

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