

2/24/04

Dear Prospective Slugs, Parents, Coaches, and Supporters;

Let me start with a quick summary of our Conference meet.

*4 NCAA A-cuts  
23 NCAA Provisional B-cuts  
7 New School Records  
37 New Changes to the All-Time Top Times List  
259 New Changes to the Seasonal Top Ten List  
6<sup>th</sup> year in a row of scoring more points at the Conference Championships  
110 more points for the women than 2003(684)  
82 more points for the men than 2003 (626.5)*

I think it is fair to say that we had a pretty good meet. The team results and times are included in this newsletter along with the season best times to date.

Our **NCAA Automatic Qualifiers include;**

**Kara Holzwarth** 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, 200-400 Medley, 400-800 Free Relays

**Stephanie Miller** 400 IM, 500 free, 200 fly, 400-800 Free Relays

**Lauren Smith** 200 free, 500 free, 1650 free, 800 Free Relay

**Mollie Lewis** 100 breast, 200 breast, 400 Medley Relay

**Laurel Fink** 800 Free Relay

We will know our additional qualifiers in the next day or so. We have to wait until the entries are received and the computer determines who gets into the meet. These additional qualifiers include;

**Kaitlyn Youtz** 100back, 200 back, 400 Medley Relay

**Jillian Ruppenstein** 100 fly, 200 Medley Relay, 400 Free Relay

**Sara Cartwright** 100 Fly, 200 Medley Relay, 400 Medley Relay

**Kimberly Onken** 100 breast, 200 breast, 200 Medley Relay

**Dana Morton** 200 Free Relay, 400 Free Relay

**Sarah Gehringer** 200 Medley Relay

**Ben Neuwirth** 100 fly, 100 back

Many of you are now in the waiting process to see what schools you will be accepted to. The waiting is hard but there is not much you can do about it. What is harder than the initial waiting is when you have the 2-5 schools that you are accepted to, and you are trying to decide between them. I can remember my own experiences when during the last week to decide, I changed my mind about a dozen times. I was fortunate enough to have several scholarship offers at the time, and I had just finished my final high school meet with very good results. The offers kept changing, and so did my mind.

Looking back I would have been just fine at any of the schools that were on my final list. They were all good schools, they all offered good swimming programs, and all were financially acceptable. So what were the reasons why I decided what I did? I am still not sure exactly why I decided to go where I did. I can give you reasons but these same reasons could have been used if I had attended many of the other schools. What my decision finally came down to was that I just felt better about one school than another. I still can not rationalize it, but that is what it was. It was the biggest decision of my life (up to that point), and I was deciding it by a gut feeling. Well, that's life. Most big decision will come down to just that. Try not to agonize about this decision too much. Much of the decision will be decided by finances, being accepted-or not, logistics, and even feelings about being far away from family and friends. Try not to let your ego get involved. Many of our recruits will have the option to receive some scholarship money. Most of you will not be offered full rides, but smaller scholarships that feed the ego more than anything else. Coaches that have scholarship money to offer know this and will offer some token amount so that you can say that you are "going to school on a scholarship".

We can't offer scholarships, but UCSC is still one of the best educational values in the country; and we offer you the chance to swim your best. Ranked as one of the best Universities in the country it is getting increasingly difficult to get accepted. If you are denied in the next month or so, contact me right away. I can at least look at your application and help determine if you can appeal. If you get into school, and we are your choice, please contact me so that we can start putting together our list for next fall. Good luck.

We will be sending out one more Newsletter following NCAA's. I hope I have good news at that point. As always, if you have any questions e-mail or call me. I will be happy to answer any questions.

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