

Dear Prospective Slugs, Coaches, Parents, and Supporters;

For many of you your High School Seasons have started, I hope all is going well. For most of the Slugs the season was concluded at the Pacific Collegiate Swimming Conference Championships last weekend (Feb.16-19) at the Long Beach Belmont Plaza. The Slugs finished 5th in the Men's' race and 6th in the Women's.

Men - Cal State Bakersfield-	1612 (Div.II)	Women – UCSD	1449(Div.II)
UCSD	1131 (Div.II)	Cal Baptist	1131(NAIA)
Cal Baptist	1163 (NAIA)	Loyola Marymount	930(Div.I)
Seattle University	993 (Div.II)	Pepperdine	903(Div.I)
UC Santa Cruz	798.5 (Div.III)	Cal State Bakersfield	902(Div.II)
Last year- 626 year before - 546		UC Santa Cruz	812(Div.III)
Uof Texas-Permian Basin	501.5 (NAIA)	Last year - 684 year before - 574	
Soka University	140 (Div.III)	Seattle University	808(Div.II)
Chapman	33 (Div.III)	Chapman	282(Div.III)
Biola	23 (Div.III)	U of Texas Permian Basin	239(NAIA)
		Cal-State East Bay(Hayward)	216(Div.III)
		Biola	100(Div.III)
		Soka University	64(Div.III)

This is the **seventh year in a row** that the Slugs have scored more points than the year before. The scores for the last two years are listed under this years scores. I am not aware of any team, in any conference, that can make the claim of seven years in a row. You can also see that we are the top Division III school. NAIA, Division II, and Division I are much better funded scholarship schools and can range from just a few scholarships, to a fully funded team. Any time we beat, or even come close, to these schools we know that it is because our swimmers have done a great job.

Included in this newsletter are the updated “seasonal top ten list”, the updated “all time” top ten list, and the results for the Slugs from conference. We are extremely proud of this year's team. There was a lot of adversity, and the team really came together and did a great job.

We have 11 swimmers with A or B cuts. I feel that we have a good chance on getting 6-7 in the meet. It all depends, now, on who enters what events, and how many in certain events. You can see our swimmers with NCAA cuts listed in the meet results.

I have been told that acceptance letters are supposed to go out on March 1st. I have also been told that there may be a delay. I know that this can be an emotional time, but relax and try not to stress out about this whole process. Everything has a way of working out. Some of you may receive notices before others. This is not a concern. For some reason, unknown to the coaches, acceptance notices go out in batches sometimes several days apart. If, in the event that you have been denied, and you feel that there are some circumstances that has changed since you applied, contact me right away. One issue that may help is a jump in your GPA the last grading period. If you are on the bubble and you have a better GPA your senior year, this could help on appeal. If you have a better set of SAT scores, this may also help you on appeal. What admissions looks for is how you have done better, or how you were able to overcome some adversity, yet still do a good job on GPA and SAT's. If you think this applies to you, call right away. If your GPA has slipped (senioritis) and you have been denied, we can't help, unless there has been some extraneous circumstances.

Our next step is to see how many of our recruits have been admitted. We usually get a list from admissions after you have been contacted. From this list we put together a ranking and start to call the recruits to get a better idea of who will be joining us next year. We will be graduating 11 seniors, and are looking to have about 7-8 freshman men and 7-8 freshman women join us next year. Our numbers could be much higher than that based on the number on our recruit list and the percentages that usually come. If it appears that you will have a difficult time making the team, we want you to know that before you make a choice. In the past we have always been able to take all those that wanted to swim. I hope that is still the case, but we need to make plans if a large group shows up in the fall.

As a team, the Slugs have improved greatly. The team is much deeper in all events and becoming very competitive. This trend appears to be continuing (You can see the scores from conference the last three years and how we keep getting better). We are looking for swimmers that are willing to train hard and help the Team to the next level. Our goal is to be a consistent top ten team at the Division III NCAA's.

The next couple of months will be stressful for you seniors. You will be making an important decision, but understand that in the larger scope of things, this is not a life or death issue. It is not uncommon to change your mind several times. That is normal. But at some point you will decide on a school. Once you decide you should contact all coaches that you have been in contact with. Let them know what you decide so that they can plan accordingly. I want to remind you that this is not a life long commitment. If you feel that you have made a mistake you can always transfer. We have had many swimmers, over the years that have transferred to UCSC, after a couple years at what they thought was a better school for them. We have also had a couple swimmers that have transferred because they felt they would be better off somewhere else.

If we are your number one choice, and you are definitely, planning on coming to UCSC, then let us know. A simple e-mail, letter, or call would be great. This would help us plan for the fall. Once the acceptance letters go out we may be calling to find out what your status is if we can not get the information from admissions. You will also have several weeks to decide. When we call we do not want you to feel any pressure. We will just be gathering information for next year.

During this time of making decisions, if you need to talk, or have any questions, feel free to contact us. We will help and give advice even if we are not your choice. We want you to make the right decision, so use us as a resource.

The next newsletter will follow NCAA's. We travel to Holland, Michigan leaving on March 7th.

Sincerely,

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