



KALAMAZOO COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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Kalamazoo swimmers win conference championships
In both MIAA and WMIAA action;
Wrestlers take third

Kalamazoo College's women swimmers tallied up 100 points to take the title in the first all-conference competition in the history of WMIAA women's swimming. The meet was held on February 25 in the Kalamazoo College natatorium, and the teams placed as follows: Kalamazoo (100), Albion (82), Calvin (68), Alma (58), Adrian (20), and Hope (17).

There were 14 events in the meet. Kalamazoo qualified for 11 of these events, and placed first in 7 of them.

Freshman Corinne Lewis (Waterville, Oh.) claimed championships in both the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly with times of 5:36.309 and 1:04.235. Julie Redner (Orchard Lake), another strong freshman swimmer, swam past all challengers in the breaststroke category with wins in the 50- and 100-yard events. Her final times were :33.587 and 1:12.661, respectively.

Sophomore Julie Chappell (Battle Creek) took the 200-yard freestyle championship with a 2:09.152 clocking. Patty Wotila (Sylvan Lake) placed second in the 200-yard freestyle, and also came in second in the 100-yard freestyle event.

To no one's surprise in the WMIAA, the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relays were also taken by Kalamazoo teams. Redner, Lewis, Chappell, and freshman Pam Hemp (Trenton) were responsible for the medley relay championship with a time of 2:03.676 in the finals, and Wotila, Redner,

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Lewis, and Chappell finished the evening's events with a 1:47.609 time in the freestyle relay.

For most of the Kalamazoo swimmers, the season is over, and Coach Marilyn Maurer has been more than pleased with their performances this year.

"We had a very small team this year," commented Maurer, "but we had a lot of group spirit. We're looking forward to good competition next year."

But the season isn't over yet for the four Hornets who have qualified for National competition for the first time in Kalamazoo College's women's swimming history. Julie Redner qualified in the 50- and 100-yard breast-stroke events; Corinne Lewis in the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard freestyle; and the freestyle relay team (Redner, Lewis, Wotila, and Chappell) has qualified for the 200- and 800-yard relays.

On March 2 these four will travel to Ann Arbor for the Mid-Western (SMAIAW) swim meet, and on March 9-11 they will compete in AIAW competition in Colorado Springs.

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Kalamazoo's men's swim team only gave up two first place finishes in the two-day MIAA swim meet held at Calvin on February 24 and 25. The Hornets' record-setting rampage placed them first in the conference with 177 points, followed by Calvin (95), Alma (78), Albion (27), and Adrian (13).

In the first day of the meet the Hornets set four MIAA records during the finals. Sophomore Don Knoechel (Kalamazoo) started it off for Kalamazoo with a record time of 2:00.14 in the 200-yard butterfly. This clocking

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qualifies Knoechel for national competition.

Pat Nelis (Holland) then set a pool and conference record in the 200-yard freestyle championship with a time of 1:48.36.

Freshman Tom Hessburg (Detroit) bettered his old 100-yard breaststroke record with a time of 1:01.66, and freshman Robert Hildum (Rochester) ended the record-setting for the first day with a time of :57.00 in the backstroke, during the 400-yard medley relay.

In the second day of competition, the Hornets resumed their overwhelming pace and set two more MIAA records: Tom Hessburg took the 200-yard breaststroke at 2:18.28, and Don Knoechel took the 100-yard butterfly at :53.60 - his second national qualifying time for the meet.

"We swam very strong," commented Coach Bob Kent. "We accomplished what we wanted to...everyone's times went down."

The Kalamazoo champions and their times are as follows:

200-yard individual medley 2:01.03

1st Don Knoechel

50-yard freestyle :22.92

1st sophomore Rod Dykehouse (Spring Lake)
2nd Tom Hessburg
3rd Pat Nelis

200-yard freestyle 2:00.14

1st Don Knoechel - NCAA qualifying time
3rd freshman Chris Roberts (Kalamazoo)

200-yard freestyle 1:48.36

1st Pat Nelis - MIAA, pool record

100-yard breaststroke 1:01.66

1st Tom Hessburg - MIAA record

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100-yard backstroke :57.90

1st Robert Hildum
3rd junior Martin Ambrose (Okemos)

1-meter diving 440.65 points

1st junior Dan Slattery (Mt. Morris)

400-yard relay medley

1st Hildum - set MIAA record for backstroke
Hessburg
Roberts
Knoechel

100-yard freestyle :49.83

1st Pat Nelis

200-yard backstroke 2:04.68

1st Martin Ambrose
2nd Robert Hildum

200-yard breaststroke 2:18.28

1st Tom Hessburg - MIAA record

100-yard butterfly

1st Don Knoechel - MIAA, pool record; NCAA qualifying time
3rd freshman Kevin Dempsey (Peoria, Ill.)

3-meter diving 472.9 points

1st Dan Slattery

400-yard freestyle relay 2:20.18

1st Ambrose
junior Rick Kursik (Flint)
Pat Nelis
Don Knoechel

Don Knoechel, Tom Hessburg, Robert Hildum, Pat Nelis, and divers Dan Slattery and senior Robert Kost (Grand Blanc) are all NCAA Division III qualifiers. They will travel to Grinnell, Iowa, for the 1978 nationals on March 16.

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Kalamazoo College placed five of its grapplers in the MIAA tournament on February 23, taking third place behind Olivet and Alma. The team scores were: Olivet (98 3/4), Alma (62), Kalamazoo (47), Adrian (42 1/2), Hope (24 1/2), and Albion (10).

Freshman Rich Ringer (Griffith, Ind.) took third in the 118-pound weight class with a 5-4 decision in the consolation finals. Senior Spencer Krane (Captain; Gary, Ind.) made it to the finals, where he claimed a second place in the 126-pound competition. In the 134-pound weight class, sophomore Steve Crooks (Grandville) fell in the finals to his Olivet opponent 9-6, leaving him with a second place finish. The only Kalamazoo champion was 142-pound freshman Pete Charlton (Battle Creek) who pinned his Alma opponent in 2:49 during the finals. Sophomore Rich Dyer (St. Joseph) surprised many when he won in the consolation finals 5-4, taking a third place.

Freshmen Paul Anderson (Interlochen), Dave Malone (South Bend, Ind.), and junior Gary Pridavka (Niles) all lost in the consolation finals, but still picked up points for the Hornets by placing fourth.

Coach Carl Latora was pleasantly surprised with his grapplers' performances in the tournament. "We beat some teams in the conference that we didn't beat during the season," commented Latora. "Despite the lack of upper weights we got as much as we could out of our players."

Latora feels the team had a "pretty good season", although they were only able to muster five wins out of the twelve-game schedule.

Rich Ringer, Spencer Krane, Steve Crooks, and Pete Charlton will compete in the Division III national tournament at Wheaton March 3-4.