

D2 Swimming and Diving Recap - Wednesday

Ashley St. Andrew was standing in a group huddle with her teammates after stepping down from the medal stand. A short discussion turned to picture time.

For good reason.

Her Wayne State teammates were there on the medal stand with her at the top. And that's where her team is now, too, after the first day of the NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving Championships Wednesday at the University of Houston's Recreation Center Natatorium.

Wayne State was the beneficiary of Drury's disqualification in the final event, where 40 points were lost in the 200 medley relay. WSU finished second in the event, moving the Warriors to the front of the team standings after the first full day of competition.

Wayne State had 114 points ahead of Drury's 82.5. Ironically, the men's 200 medley relay also witnessed three DQs when Drury, UC San Diego and Tampa's quadrant were eliminated from securing team points in the event.

But anyways, back to the top of the podium, where St. Andrew set a school record in the 1000 freestyle in 9:54.97. Her time beat Incarnate Word's Paulina Alexander by roughly six seconds.

"I really can't believe it," St. Andrew said. "I've been waiting for this moment for a really long time."

Waiting to stand on top of the nation, where three of her teammates also joined her on the medal stand, also claiming All-American status. Needless to say, it was an accomplishment that her in "photo opps-only" mode after stepping down with a trophy and championship emotion.

"To have three other teammates up there with me was really special," she said as Wayne State's Catherine Leix, Melissa Duff and Natalia Buso became St. Andrew's championship companions.

Truman State's Kate Aherne broke her own record in the 200 IM, clocking a 2:00.61. She finished ahead of Drury's Yuan Qing Li, whose 2:01.19 was also better than Aherne's previous best. Aherne won the event last year in 2:03.67.

Drury's Eunata Garro won the 50 freestyle in 22.80, out-touching Aherne by one one-hundredths of a second. West Chester's Jackie Borkowski was third in 22.89.