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BIG EAST SWIMMING AND DIVING NOTEBOOK October 18, 2005

Providence, R.I. – Last week in BIG EAST swimming and diving, a pair of Georgetown swimmers qualified for the BIG EAST Championship and Louisville defeated a Big Ten opponent for the first time in school history. The BIG EAST swimming and diving notebook will be released every Tuesday, highlighting team and individual accomplishments throughout the 2005-06 season.

Cincinnati

The Cincinnati swimming and diving teams will begin their 2005-06 season Oct. 29 when they face off against Oakland in a dual meet. Last season, senior **Ann Degenstein** was named the Conference-USA Swimmer of the Year. Degenstein captured two victories at the C-USA Championships and was the only Bearcat swimmer to place at the 2005 NCAA Championships. At the national championships, she placed 11th in the 100 fly, and 14th in the 200 fly.

Connecticut

The Connecticut swim team opened its season Oct. 15 taking 21 of 28 events at the Husky Invitational. Sophomore **Tristan Jones** picked up wins in the 100 freestyle (46.95), 100 breaststroke (58.27) and the 200 IM (1:57.05). Senior **Ryan Smith** and freshman **Lisa Shelps** both added two wins each. Smith was victorious in the 100 backstroke (57.24) and 200 breaststroke (2:25.14), while Shelps won the 50 (24.80) and 100 freestyle (53.38). The Huskies return to action Friday when they travel to Fordham.

Georgetown

Two Georgetown swimmers qualified for a pair of BIG EAST Championship events this weekend during a dual against Boston College. Freshman **Goran Bistic** and senior **Corrine Rhodes** both recorded qualifying times. Bistic qualified in the 100 and 200 yard men's backstroke, while Rhodes met standards for the 100 and 200 women's breaststroke. The Hoyas will hit the waters again Oct. 29 against Delaware.

Louisville

On Oct. 15, the Louisville women's swim team defeated Illinois 172-128. The win marked the first time that Louisville, as a team has defeated a Big Ten opponent. The Cardinals started the event with a victory in the 200 medley relay when **Lauren Grimes**, **Johanna Nyysti**, **Jenny Schimenti** and **Melanie Greyling** came from behind and edged out the Illini. In diving, the UofL swept the one meter board with **Marianne Bradford** finishing first and **Sarah Sandroni** and **McKenzie Long** finishing second and third, respectively. The Cardinals' next meet will be Oct. 21 when they host Tennessee.

Notre Dame

The Notre Dame men's and women's swimming and diving teams began the season with victories in the Dennis Stark Relays on Oct. 7. The Irish men claimed the victory with 254 total points, winning 10 of 13 events while breaking six meet records. The Irish women were equally as dominant, accumulating 240 points and nabbing 10 victories in 13 events as well as breaking two meet records. The Irish women won seven events in the middle of the meet while the men's team closed the meet with six wins in seven events.

The ND men return to the pool on Oct. 21 when they host Texas A&M at 6:00 p.m. The women resume competition on Oct. 28 when they host California at Rolf's Aquatic Center; racing is slated to begin at 5:00p.m.

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh hosted the annual Blue/Gold Meet on Oct. 14 to kick off the season and en route broke ten meet records. **Kristen Brown** shattered three records for the Panthers, while **Amy Miteff** and **Jason Miller** improved records they had previously set in the 100 and 200 fly. Pitt is idle this upcoming weekend and returns to action Oct. 28 against St. Bonaventure.

Providence

The Providence College men's and women's swimming & diving teams begin the 2005-06 campaign on Oct. 22. PC will host Fairfield beginning at 1:00 p.m. in Taylor Natatorium. The Friars continue to build a strong program under the direction of third-year head coach Jonathan Caswell. With both programs coming off their most successful seasons under his leadership, the Friars return a strong core of five seniors on the men's team, and three seniors on the women's team, including **Annie Nemeth**. Nemeth set a school record in the 200-yard breaststroke last year (2:23.94) during the ECAC Championships.

Rutgers

The Scarlet Knights opened their season with the annual Red-Black Intra Squad meet. On the men's side the Black team captured the meet, 59-54, while on the women's side the Red team was victorious 63-49. Senior **Kelly Harrigan** captured two individual wins in the 200 (1:51.45) and 500 freestyle (4:54.55) as well as capturing a victory as a member of the Red squad's 400 IM relay (3:54.53). The Rutgers' men's and women's swimming and diving squads will hit the waters again on Oct. 22 when they participate in the Sonny Weberlin Invite at the RU Aquatic Center.

Seton Hall

Seton Hall's swimming and diving program has yet to start their 2005-06 season, but will open the season at Villanova on Oct. 25. Returning to the Pirates' team is senior **Jack Leavitt**. Leavitt enters the 2005-06 season as the defending BIG EST Champion in the men's 100 backstroke. During the conference championships in February, Leavitt captured the 100 backstroke title with a mark of 49.94, which also set a SHU record.

Syracuse

The Syracuse men's and women's swimming and diving teams faced off with Colgate Oct. 14, with the SU men winning 11 events for a 148-88 victory. The Orange women fell 120.5-121.5 to the Raiders. **Pat Mugavin** captured first place finishes in the 100 free (9:58.28) and the 500-free with a mark of 4:47.28. **Patrick White** and **Jeremy Thornton** both came away with victories in diving action. White captured the one meter with a score of 250.50, while Thornton won the three-meter with a 222.23 score. **Lisa Wittich** led the women with first place finishes in the 1000 free (10:28.32), 500 free (5:09.63) and as a member of the 400 free relay squad (3:39.33). Syracuse will return to action Oct. 21-22 at the Army Invitational.

Villanova

Villanova's swimming and diving team participated in the Don Reddish Relays at Utah on Oct. 13. The event was highlighted by a third place finish by the women. The Wildcat women's 1500 yard free relay captured a first place finish with a time of 15:31.77. The team was comprised of **Kaitlynn Osborn**, **Kristina Lennox** and **Jenny Somerville**. VU returns home Oct. 25 to face off against conference foe Seton Hall.

West Virginia

West Virginia's swimming team saw two sets of action last week. Thursday, Oct. 13, the WVU swim team fell to Penn State 165.5-67.5. The dual was highlighted by individual wins by **Chris Hagedorn** (50 yard free, 20.92), **Pablo Marolejo** (200 yard fly, 1:49.05) and **Nick Delic** (100 yard free, 46.42). The Mountaineers returned to action Saturday when they hosted the WVU Relays. In the event, West Virginia was victorious over Fairmont State, California (Pa.) and West Virginia Wesleyan. This week WVU will face off against Marshall on Oct. 22.

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