

Swimmers see best season yet

photo by Norm Robbins

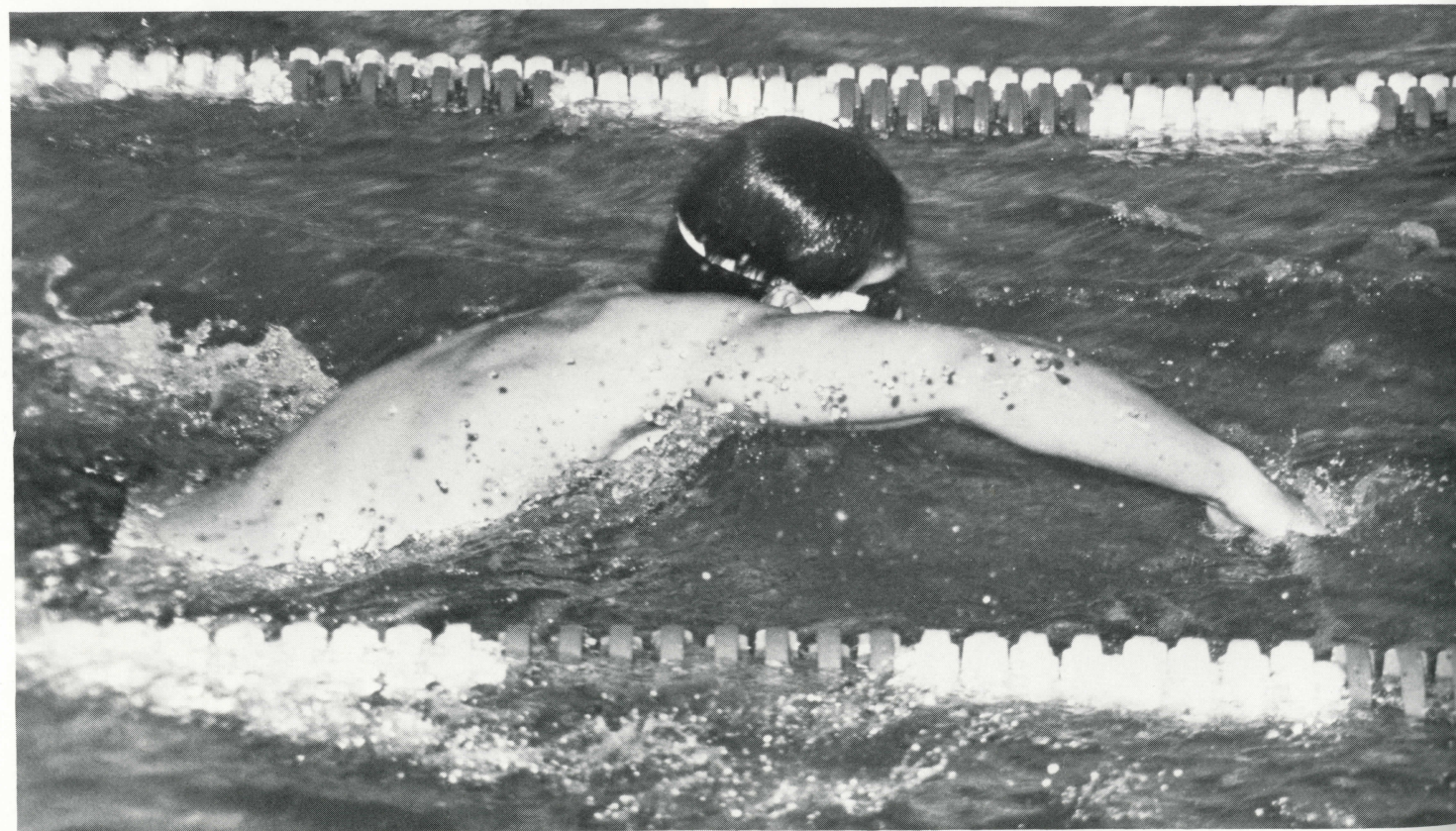
By David Coules

It will go down as the finest season ever for the Ferris swimming and diving team. It was a season which produced many broken records and several exciting meets.

This season the Bulldogs finished 8-1 in dual meet competition, won the Ferris State Invitational and Grand Rapids Junior College Raiders Invitational. The team also finished second at the Great Lakes Conference, (GLIAC), Championship and the GLIAC Invitational, broke 14 school records and had half the team go to the NCAA Division II Championships in Long Beach, Calif.

Also this season, the Bulldogs had a first-ever win against Wayne State; 57-56, but lost to Oakland, 66-47, a second-place finisher at the Division II finals.

Brian Greenlees, junior, broke his own school record in the 400-yard individual medley, while Mike Bouman, freshman, set the 200-yard breaststroke school record at the Division II Championships.



Row 1: Mark Miller, Brian Hendrickson, Tom Tomich, Mike VanderVeer, Rick Bacheller, Mark Stoyka and Brian Hurley. Row 2: Pat Schoff, Mike Bouman, Steve Nelis, Ed Trickle, Jeff Cipice, Jeff McCauley and John McEwen. Row 3:

Coach Rick Kowalkoski, Ray Gosnell, Mark Stasevich, Paul Dudley, Scott Cornell, Steve Rathsack, Brian Greenless and Bill Reber.

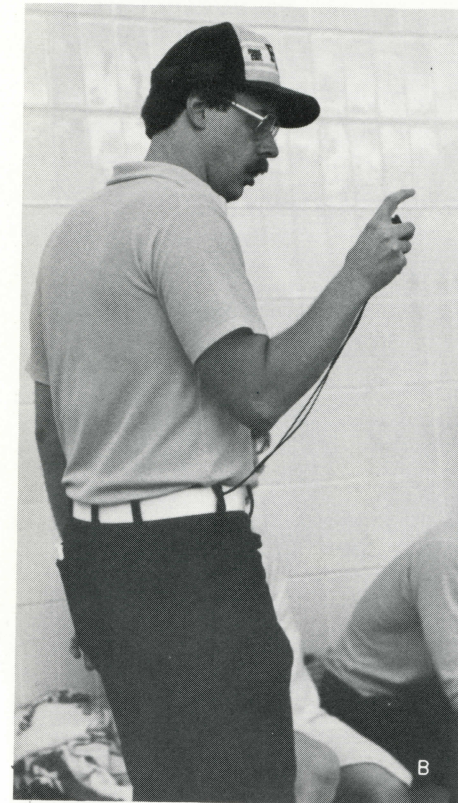


photo by Jeff Steffey

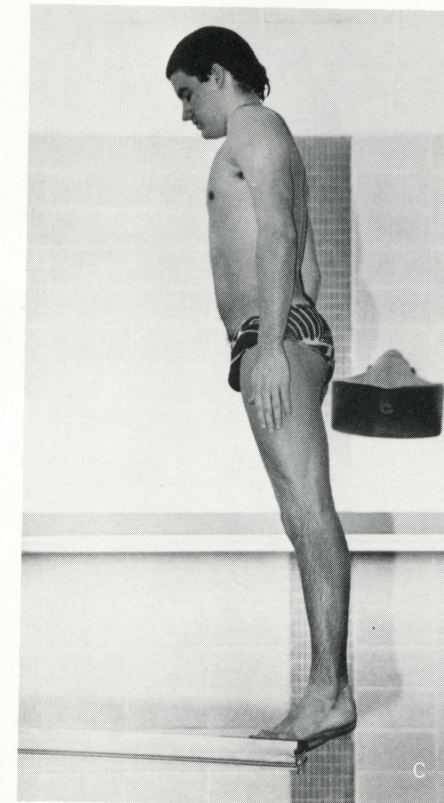


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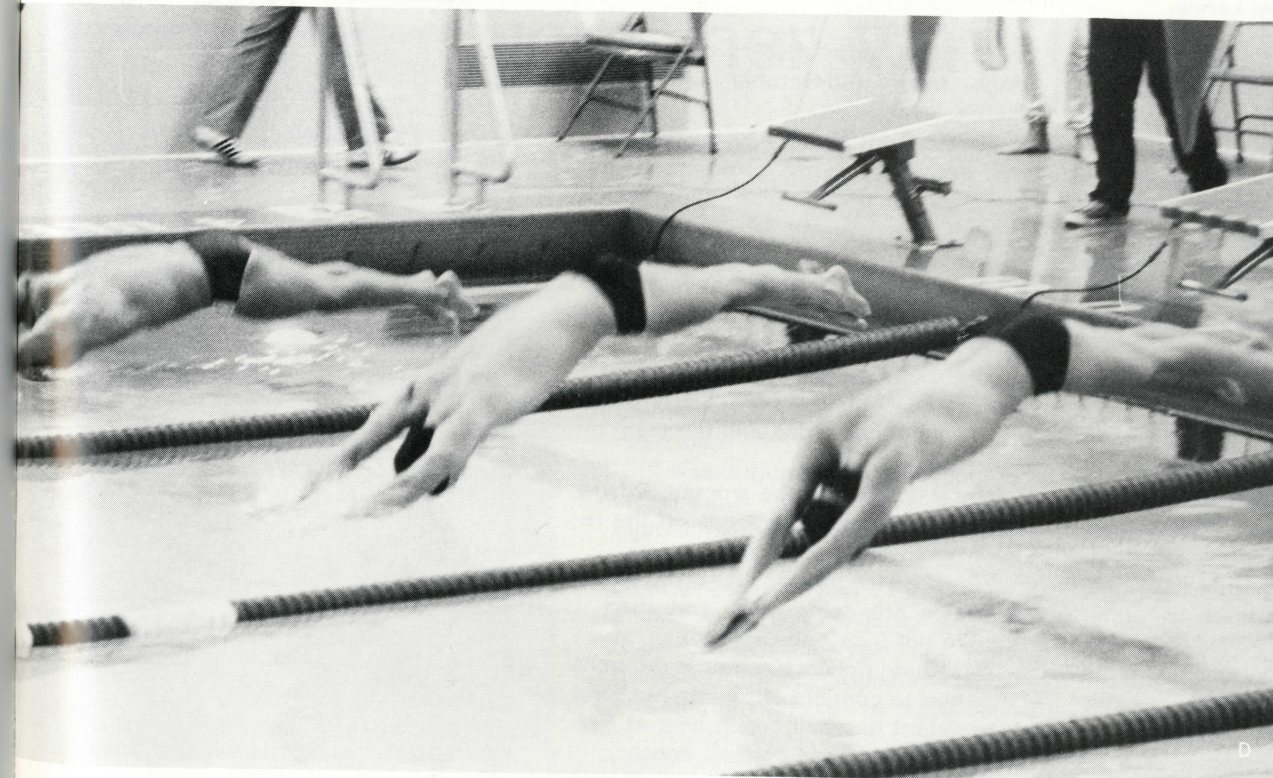


photo by Bob Schaw

The finest finish was turned in by the 800-yard freestyle relay team of Greenlees, Rick Bacheller, Mark Miller and Paul Dudley, who took 13th, just missing All-American standing which is the top 12 places.

"It was a good meet for us, we swam very well," said Coach Rick Kowalkoski. "Some of the best times were turned in at the division finals."

Next year the absence of seniors Bacheller and Mike Vanderveer will have an affect on the team. Bacheller will go out sharing the 400-yard medley relay and 800-yard freestyle team school records. Vanderveer qualified for the NAIA nationals in his sophomore year.

"We will miss the leadership they gave us," Kowalkoski said, "They were always ready to swim. That is the kind of consistency we need next year from the younger swimmers. They always had a very positive attitude going into a meet," Kowalkoski said.

- A. This swimmer appears to be all alone, but it was never that simple. It can be safely assumed that competition wasn't far behind.
- B. Coach Rick Kowalkoski enjoyed his finest season of coaching the Bulldog swim team. Half the squad accompanied Kowalkoski to Long Beach, Calif., to national competition.
- C. Diver Jeff Cipcie demonstrates the concentration necessary to perform each dive successfully.
- D. And they're off!