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DULUTH — The UMD swimming team, having recorded faster times than last year in all events, figures to spring a few surprises in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Meet Thursday, Friday and Saturday at St. Peter.

The schedule calls for 1 p.m. preliminaries and 8 p.m. finals all three days in the Gustavus Adolphus pool.

Although Coach Nick Whelihan holds little hope of surpassing defending champion Macalester, he does feel his swimmers are capable of taking second place and setting a few records along the way.

"We have always turned in our best times of the year in the conference meet," said Whelihan. "Our swimmers always seem to reach their peak for it and, unlike meets during the regular season, they'll be kept fresh for their strongest events."

Whelihan knows his swimmers must produce their best efforts of the season to break through in many events but believes they're ready to do just that.

He rates Dave Ruuhela and Henry See at 60 and 100 yards and Phil Dane at 500 yards as solid contenders in freestyle with John Nygard a threat in both the 100- and 200-yard butterfly.

Freshman sensation Barry Tomsich should bid for honors in the 100- and 200-yard backstroke, according to Whelihan. He also will swim the 160-yard individual medley.

Dan Wiljanen, Roger Harriman and Ted Matson are Whelihan's power in breaststroke while Bill Swanson, Chuck Paaso and Jim Anderson could dominate the diving competition.

"Both our relay teams should be strong, too," said Whelihan.

"Tomsich and Ruuhela will see double duty with Wiljanen and Nygard joining them in the medley relay and See and Dane swimming the freestyle relay.

"Then I feel the other members of our team are going to fill in the other places between fourth and eighth and bring in a lot of team points," he added.