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UMD NEWS SERVICE
RA 4-8801 Ext 210
December 4, 1964

DULUTH — The ominous shadow of ineligibility hovers over the UMD swimming team on the eve of its 1964-65 season with Gustavus Adolphus here Dec. 11 (Friday) and St. Thomas Dec. 14 (Monday).

Coach Nick Whelihan will send his swimmers into both meets without lettermen Chuck Paaso, Denny Paaso, Jim Runkle, and Henry See.

Those four plus backstroker Chuck Lindzy, a Proctorite who swam last for the Navy, and Phil Dane, an all-around freestyler transfer from Virginia JC, must await the outcome of fall quarter grades.

Whelihan considers Chuck Paaso, See and Dane as indispensables.

"Paaso along with Bill Swanson are our top divers," said Whelihan. "In last year's NAIA championships he finished 7th and 8th in the 1- and 3-meter events but had never been on a 3-meter board until that day.

"It would be a tough blow if we had to go all season without See. He is one of our very strong short sprinters."

Whelihan rates John Nygaard in the butterfly, freestyler Dave Ruuhela, breaststroker Dan Wiljanen, Dane and the impressive freshman Barry Tomsich, a versatile backstroker from Tower-Soudan, among his best.

"I expect Nygaard to go below 55 seconds in the 100-yard butterfly," said Whelihan. "This won the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) last spring. Right now he's just nine-tenths of a second off his best time a year ago.

"Ruuhela should be among the best in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in the short sprints and Dane should be a tremendous asset not only in the individual races but as a replacement for graduated captain Carl Gawboy on the freestyle relay team.

"Tomsich is going to be a good one. We plan to use him in the individual medley and backstroke events at 200 yards and leading off the medley relay team."

Wiljanen leads a trio of promising breaststrokers that includes freshmen Roger Harriman of Silver Bay and Ted Matson of Duluth. Whelihan feels that both swimmers are "sleepers" and could develop quickly.

Whelihan also feels that letterman Wayne Amendola will be much improved in the butterfly. And he has all his distance men back in Ron Danielson, Dave Kreager and Denny Twite plus freshmen Dave Hall and Bob Roy, both of Cloquet.

Jimmy Anderson of Minneapolis and freshman Greg Swanson of Duluth will back up Bill Swanson and Paaso in diving.

Last year's NAIA champion Macalester continues as the power in the MIAC and Whelihan is confident his swimmers will push them as much as anyone in the conference. The schedule:

HOME—Dec. 11, Gustavus Adolphus; Dec. 14, St. Thomas; Jan. 15, Bemidji State; Jan. 23, Hamline; Feb. 19, Macalester.

AWAY—Jan. 16, Mankato State; Jan. 29, Bemidji State; Feb. 2, Macalester; Feb. 11, St. Thomas; Feb. 13, Hamline; Feb. 26, LaCrosse State; Feb. 27, Stevens Point; Mar. 4-5-6, MIAC Meet at Gustavus Adolphus.