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Swimming and Diving Capture UMBC's First Am-East Title

Men's Swimming and Diving Get Championship in First Try

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If there was any doubt that UMBC swimming and diving has built a dynasty in the sport, all anyone needs to do is check the new trophy case for the team.

By the end of the awards presentation at the Stanley M. Wallace Pool in Orono, Maine, not a soul could deny that the Retrievers had dominated the meet, virtually unchallenged.

The relentless desire and hunger from the men's team led to a convincing 901-574 team victory over its nearest competitor, Binghamton.

Head coach Chad Cradock, his assistant Tom Himes and the America East coaching staff of the year led the team to new frontiers.

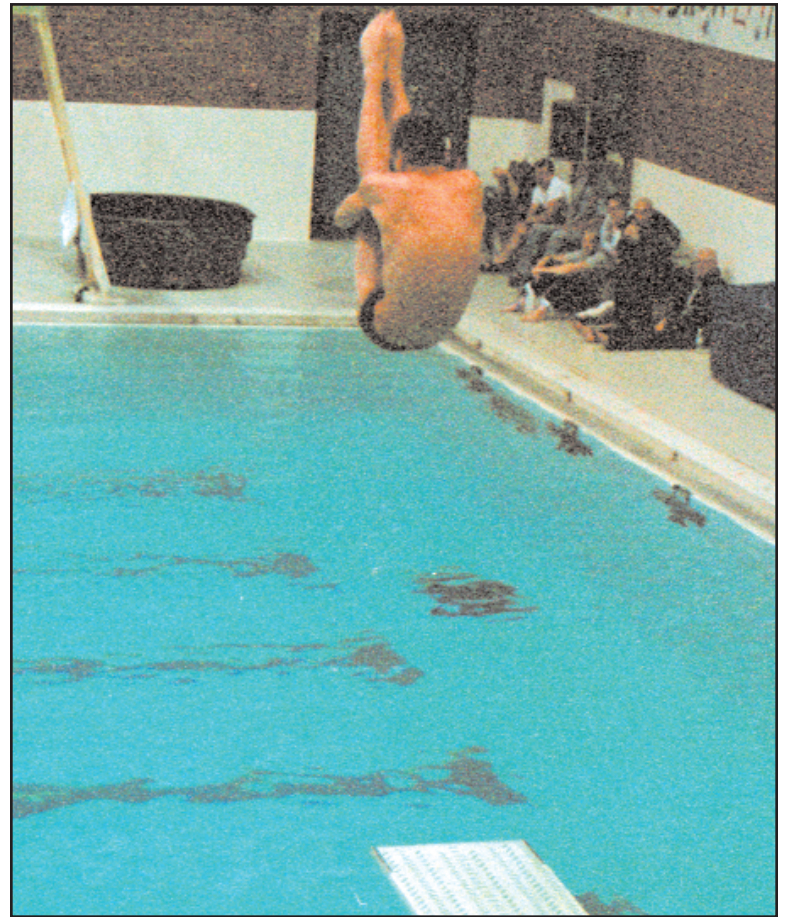
After witnessing numerous records being broken by various swimmers, Cradock said this became the "most exciting" of any of the championships that he had won here.

"The way the team was focused this season, the great drive it had and how close the swimmers were made the season enjoyable," stated Cradock, who couldn't be more proud.

Acolades for men's Swimmer of the Year went to senior team captain Brad Green, who raked in spectacular times like a 51.73 second 100-yard backstroke and a 44.82 in the 100-yard freestyle.

The parade of impressive results from UMBC swimmers included senior Carlos Canepa, junior Jakub Sroczynski, sophomore Ian Carey, sophomore Geza Szabo and freshman Ryan Karrer.

In the 500-yard freestyle event



[Lakin Jones]

The final dive: Senior Jon Gdowik's last dive, a front two and a half pike, earned scores of 8.5 and 9 in his final collegiate meet.

the Retriever arsenal of Canepa, Szabo and Karrer placed third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sroczynski placed second in the 200 IM (individual medley) with a time of 1:52.75.

The men's 400-yard medley relay team placed first, while the women flew into a second-place finish.

In diving, senior Jon Gdowik placed second in the 3-m dive in the final meet of his collegiate career.

The women's swimming and

diving team had the usual cast of suspects that helped the team nearly knock Northeastern off of its perch.

Team captain senior Amanda Otis had a stellar day as she won the 1650-yard freestyle event with a time of 17:37.82 in her last collegiate meet.

Outstanding newcomer, freshman Agnes Stanislawski took first place with a 1:51.26 record-time in the 200-yard individual medley.

Junior Lindsey Prather gave Stanislawski a run for the money with her exemplary times in her respective races. She won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:04.71.

"Everyone stepped up on the team and helped each other. The team got stronger and better as the season went on," stated men's team captain Green on why he feels the team worked so well together this season.

The team captains also played a critical role in how the men performed. "We tried to stay positive and just help the team get the job done," said Green.

The men's team looks forward to forging a dynasty in their new conference next year, while the women already have their eyes on the prize for next year. "We'll have a hard time beating Northeastern next year because we lose so many seniors," explained Jessica Prossen. With underclassmen as talented and determined as this year's, not to mention careful recruiting on the coaches' parts, the dynasty that these seniors built up will never fall.

Contributed to by Brett McKenzie



[All Photos by Lakin Jones]

