Office Memorandum • UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND...

TO : Doug McArthur
Director of Athletics

DATE: May 9, 1973

FROM : Don Duncan
Swimming Coach

SUBJECT: Varsity Swimming -- Present and Future Status

I Present Status of Intercollegiate Swimming in the Northwest

Intercollegiate swimming is presently conducted on several levels (irrespective of affiliation):

Level 1: University of Washington. The Huskies have become a national power, are recruiting on the highest level, and show every indication of maintaining this level. They are recruiting world class swimmers, are 4th in the PAC 8 but 5th in the nation.

Level 2: University of Oregon. No longer even remotely in the same class as Washington. Ducks recruit heavily from Oregon and Washington.

Level 3: Simon Fraser University
University of Puget Sound
Oregon State University
Pacific Lutheran University
University of Montana
Southern Oregon College
University of Idaho
Central Washington State College
Weber State College
(Highline College)

The gap between the stronger of this group and the University of Oregon is closing, although the Ducks should be a step above the rest for some time. These schools and Oregon are likely to be trying to recruit the same swimmers.

Level 4: University of British Columbia
Portland State University
Lewis and Clark College
Western Washington
Linfield College
Oregon College of Education
Pacific University
Eastern Washington
Whitworth College
Gonzaga University

Although U.B.C. is clearly the superior team in this group, these schools all suffer in one or more of the areas vital to success -- tradition, budget, facilities, or coaching.

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SUBJECT: Varsity Swimming -- Present and Future Status (continued)

Washington State University has officially dropped swimming from its athletic program as of May 8, 1973. Such a drastic move does not appear likely at any other Northwest college on the basis of present information.

The Big Sky Conference dropped intercollegiate swimming as an official conference sport May 9, 1973. The reason given was that a minimum of five conference schools did not compete in the sport. The result of this action is that there will not be a conference championship meet in swimming.

A great jumble of affiliations is represented within Northwest college swimming (excluding PAC 8 schools). These include the Evergreen Conference, Northwest Conference, Big Sky Conference, NAIA District 1 and 2, NCAA University and College Divisions, Canadian intercollegiate, Canadian independent, and U.S. independent.

Each of the conferences has been dominated by one school -- Montana in the Big Sky, Pacific Lutheran in the Northwest, Central Washington in the Evergreen. The largest group with a common cohesion is the group of schools making up District 1 and District 2 of the NAIA.

Many, many factors, -- differing goals, conference rules, national regulations, personalities -- have combined both in the past and present to prevent the formation of a balanced association of all the stronger college swimming teams.

(Highline College is the only Washington community college which supports a swimming program, and Highline is stronger than many of the four-year colleges. They are stronger than all the teams listed in Level 4)

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SUBJECT: Varsity Swimming -- Present and Future Status (continued)

II Present Status of Intercollegiate Swimming at the University of Puget Sound

Swimming at U.P.S. is in a healthy condition. Budget is adequate at present, and our team is as strong as it has ever been.

Two swimmers will be lost next year (Steve Lougee by graduation, Bayard Johnson by transfer), but with reasonable help from Freshmen, and improvement, the team should be stronger in 1974.

Facility is adequate, but marginal in some respects. The Wallace Pool badly needs adequate lighting and soundproofing, but is generally a fast course. We may get some lights this year.

III How About The Future?

Scheduling:

Our present approach to scheduling has been quite successful, and I feel we should continue with this. I hope to continue scheduling our traditional opponents in the Northwest, with one longer trip to either the San Francisco or Los Angeles area. I would like to consider a trip in another direction as a possibility. There are some strong College Division schools developing in Colorado (Northern Colorado, Western State College) for example. We would also fare well against Arizona and Arizona State. These are just thoughts, however, and may not necessarily go along with our idea of competing in areas where many of our students come from. (We have never swam a meet in California without having UPS alums, or relatives of swimmers present.)

Budget:

Our budget at present is adequate to support our schedule. However, it will be severely strained when youth fares are abolished on the airlines on June 1, 1974. We have successfully (more or less) juggled our travel commitments to Vancouver, B.C., Missoula, Portland, Ashland, and Pullman-Moscow in alternate years in order to allow for the extra expense for the California trip. This may be much more difficult unless the budget can be "stretched" in alternate years, but then again it may work out OK.

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SUBJECT: Varsity Swimming -- Present and Future Status (continued)

Financial Aid:

Without any doubt, if we are to maintain the present level of competition, financial aid must be available at about the same level as during the past several years.

NCAA Championships:

I hope that participation in the national championships will continue to be important to us, and will always be a part of our program. Our goal is always to qualify as many as possible and to place as high as possible.

Conference Affiliation:

My long-range goal is to see all the Northwest colleges organized into one group, with a championship meet as well as dual-meet records. This group would have to cut across conference and NAIA/NCAA boundries to further the goals of competitive swimming for all concerned. This goal appears to be extremely long-range at the moment.

NWCSA?

On May 9, I talked with Chet Hall, coach at U. of Idaho, who informed me that the Big Sky Conference had on that day dropped swimming as an official conference sport since "there were not a minimum of five schools participating."

I suggested that we form a Northwest Collegiate Swimming Association This would be a relatively informal association of colleges without conference championship meets (at least to start with.)

The immediate members would be Puget Sound, Idaho, Montana, Portland State, and British Columbia. (Weber State if they choose.) I have offered to host the first championship meet of this association next Spring, if it comes about.

Eventually, I would like to see other teams ask to join our association, rather than the other way around.