Stary - for your information —

University of Puget Sound

TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98416

April 5, 1974

To:

Gary Chase, Pacific Lutheran University
Chet Hall, University of Idaho
Paul Savage, Simon Fraser University
Bob Gregson, Central Washington State College
Lee Howard, Southern Oregon College
Jack Pomfret, University of British Columbia
Garland Tryznka, Portland State University

In 1973, following the abandonment of competitive swimming by Washington State University and the University of Alaska, and the downgrading of swimming by the Big Sky Conference, I wrote a number of Northwest coaches regarding an association of colleges to promote intercollegiate swimming. The interest was at a low level and I received only one response.

During the past week Oregon State University has eliminated national competition in swimming as well as in four other sports, and the budgets of these sports have been drastically reduced. The coaches of these five sports have stated that this move will effectively eliminate even the ability to compete on a regional and conference level considering the strength of Pac-8 swimming, and other sports.

At the same time competitive swimming at the college division level (NCAA Division II and NAIA) in the Northwest -- particularly at SFU, CWSC, PLU, SOC and UPS -- appears to be relatively healthy and even growing in strength.

I feel more than ever that the stronger the association between our schools, and the keener the competition, the better it will be for our swimming programs and the greater the rewards of our coaching efforts.

As you may have read, four schools have recently joined to form the North Pacific Baseball League -- Seattle University, Portland State, University of Portland, and University of Puget Sound. A league champion will be determined through an annual playing schedule, and it is felt that this association will be beneficial to college baseball in the Northwest.

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A PROPOSAL:

I propose the formation of a North Pacific Swimming Association, to be formed in the immediate future and to become active beginning in the 1974-75 swimming season.

Invited to join as charter members would be Pacific Lutheran, Simon Fraser, Central Washington, Southern Oregon, British Columbia, Portland State and Puget Sound.

Purposes of the association would be:

(1. To provide for an annual dual meet schedule on a home-and-home (alternate years) basis.

(2. To provide for a championship meet at a time convenient to the member schools.

(3. To promote intercollegiate swimming on the college division level in every way possible.

This association would be entirely separate from all other conference and independent affiliations to which the schools might be committed.

The Far West Conference (Chico State, UC Davis, etc.) considers itself the strongest college division conference in the nation. I personally feel that the North Pacific Swimming Association, as I propose it, would be the strongest swimming conference on our level in the country. It would be hard to equal.

Considering our past associations, and the competitions between our schools, I think such a conference would develop almost "instant tradition," and that a championship meet involving all of our schools would result in excellent performances from our swimmers, provide one of the best opportunities for national qualifying, and give more of our swimmers the chance to swim in both prelims and finals.

Such a meet could replace the present "Northwest Championships" for those of us who participated, or could be scheduled so as not to conflict with this meet.

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The University of Puget Sound would like to host such a college division championship meet on February 13-14-15, 1974, in the hope that this will become an annual event, either in our pool or on a rotating basis among member schools.

Please seriously consider this proposal, and let me know sometime before the end of April what you think -- even if it's just a postcard or obscene phone call.

Don