

Lewis and Clark College (Portland, Ore.) is the site of the 1978 NAIA Swimming and Diving Championships. This year marks the first time in the history of the NAIA that the championships will be held on the west coast.

Although the location will be different, the top ten teams will be similar in their finish to last year's championships.

Leading the field of competition will be *Simon Fraser University* of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. The Canadians look for their seventh consecutive championship title and, although pressed by several teams, will have too much talent and experience to be seriously challenged.

Returning to Coach Paul Savage's team are ten All-Americans including Butch Batchelor, who won the 400 IM; and D'Arcy Hamilton, the 100 yd. backstroke champion. Others who placed in the top six in their event include Kelly Franks in the 500 free; Greg Davis, 500 and 200 free; John Trotter, 200 free; Rob Grundison, 400 IM; and Mark Hahto, 400 IM. Added through recruiting are several new potential top finishers, notably Bill Burton in the distance events and Tom Killy, a potential subminute 100 yd. breaststroker.

Second place will be a real battle between four teams: Central Washington, coached by Bob Gregson; Eau Claire of Wisconsin, coached by Tom Prior; Drury College, coached by Jack Steck; and Fairmont State of West Virginia, coached by last year's NAIA Coach of the Year, Steve Mahoney.

Central Washington has three 1977 national champions: Roger Coburn in the 200 fly, Eric Tracy in the 50 free and Russ Ferguson in the 100 breast. They also have Craig Weishaar and Craig MacDonald who finished second and third, respectively, in the 400 IM. They have lost, through graduation, All-Americans Ed Walstead and Jerry White.

Eau Claire appears to be as strong a contender for second place as any team in the nation. They will return top freestyle and butterfly Anthony Antonetz, Rich Falster (fifth-place finisher in the 200 IM) and James Harmon, perhaps last year's most impressive NAIA freshman swimmer, who finished second in the 100 free and third in the 200 free. All three of Eau Claire's high-finishing relays will be in full force with no seniors on the team.

Drury, though losing 13 national qualifiers, still has to be considered a serious challenger for second place with a wealth of new talent recruited. Included are Mike Wagon, a California junior college All-American in the freestyle and IM events; Tim Ryan, all-state freestyler from Texas; and two top divers in Cord Orvik and Tim Engstrom. Returning members of last year's national record setting 400 free relay team are Mike Scott and Tom Scheper. The Panthers also plan to challenge for the 800 free relay crown.

Fairmont State, a team that came out of nowhere last season to finish seventh, will be a very strong national contender with the returning personnel of last year's team along with several outstanding freshmen and transfers. Coach Steve



Simon Fraser won its sixth straight NAIA title last year.

NAIA

Simon Fraser Leads the Way Again

By Don Palm
Swim Coach
Southwest State University

Mahoney contends this could be the team to upset Simon Fraser.

Returning is freestyler John Orchard, who won the 200 championship plus second in the 500 and third in the 1650. Incoming leaders Bill Rutsch in the IM events and John Strait in the backstroke events will supply added strength.

The teams battling for the sixth through tenth spots will look somewhat similar to last year's. The junior-senior dominated team of *Southwest State University*, coached by Don Palm, could finish in the top six, although the loss of four-time national champion Jon Stewart will have a very significant effect on the Golden Mustang's ability to score heavily in individual events.

Returning to the Minnesota campus are six All-Americans, led by IM and backstroker Pat Doar and divers Jim Pokorny and Jim Martin. The freestyle relays will be in full force with Jim Norton, Joel Roylance, Steve Binder and Pat Doar together for another season. Transfer students Cam Molloy in the sprint events and Gary Frickey in the distance events will add depth, and Minnesota's 1977 50 yd. sprint champion, Randy Schultz, should place well at the championships.

Looking to place in the top ten will be *Bemidji State University*, coached by Lee Ahlbrecht. BSU has four All-Americans returning—Bruce Sodahl, Dennis Prosen, Kelly Lewis and Reid Gilbertson—all members of the relay teams that finished sixth in the 400 free, eighth in the 800 free and 12th in the medley.

Bemidji has a top freshman, Steve

Boss, who could place well in the IM and backstroke events. Also, sophomore sprinter Ron Bornetun, who was sick during last year's nationals, will be back and could prove to be one of the top sprinters in the nation.

Other teams from last year's top ten include Clarion State, Pacific Lutheran, University of Wisconsin at Stephens Point, Western State of Colorado and Southern Oregon.

Clarion, coached by Chuck Nanz, was fifth in the 1977 championships. With a nucleus of last year's team returning and the depth that Clarion has shown over the past years in diving, the Golden Eagles will again be a contender for one of the top six teams in the NAIA. Both Mike Zucca and Tony Perriello, who went one-two in the one meter board last year, are returning.

Two other teams that will be moving up in the national scene this season will be *Williamette University*, where Coach Jim Brik has had an excellent year recruiting, and *Westminster College of Pennsylvania*, coached by Gene Nicholson, with a potential top-placing sprinter in Jamie Ritter and a mid-distance swimmer, Larry Dillon.

The predictions for the top ten team standings at the 1978 NAIA Championships in Portland, Ore., are as follows: Simon Fraser, Central Washington, Eau Claire, Drury, Fairmont, Clarion, Southwest, Pacific Lutheran, Stephens Point and Bemidji.

The 1978 championships will again be the fastest in the history of NAIA swimming!