Invite Excitement Highlights National Swimmer-of-the-Week Honors

Somers, WI – Big meets and fast times made waves felt across the nation this past week and are reflected in the National Collegiate Swimmer-of-the-Week (NCSW) honors. Mallory Dietrich (US Naval Academy) and Igor Cerensek (University of Minnesota) claimed NCSW honors for Division I. Molly Polette (Truman State University) and Matej Tomas (Fairmont State University) grabbed Division II NCSW honors this week. While Tina Ertel (Kenyon College) and Lowell Byers (Denison University) took Division III NCSW honors. The six were selected based on their performances November 27-December 3, 2006 by a panel of collegiate coaches and nominated by coaches, sports information directors, conference representatives and CollegeSwimming.com staffers.

Mallory Dietrich, U.S. Naval Academy
Fr., Pittsburgh, PA
Navy defeated Army for the 18th-straight year to improve to its lead in the series 22-4 Thursday, November 30th at Army’s Crandall Pool. Dietrich won three individual events against the Black Knights making her a combined 25-0 on the season. Her first victory came in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.94) breaking four records in the process. Dietrich broke the Navy record, the Army-Navy record, the Crandall Pool record, and the Patriot league record. It is also a NCAA “B” cut to top it off. She also took the 200 breaststroke (2:19.34) with a new meet record and won the 100 butterfly (56.38) breaking the meet and pool record with the swim. She also swam a leg on the 200 Medley Relay (1:44.69) which broke the meet, pool and team record.

Igor Cerensek, University of Minnesota
Sr., Zagreb, Croatia
Cerensek posted seven event wins including two individual wins (100 and 200 free) and swam on all five of Minnesota's victorious relays, anchoring four, at the Ohio State Invitational. He was involved in one NCAA automatic qualifying time, seven NCAA B cut times and set six new pool records. His top individual performance came leading off the 400 freestyle relay, where he clocked an NCAA “A” time in the 100 freestyle (43.50). He earlier won the 100 freestyle (44.46) before posting the NCAA “A” cut. He also had an NCAA “B” cut time in winning the 200 freestyle (1:36.93). His only second place finish came in the 50 free (20.29), behind teammate Ales Volcansek, who broke the pool record in 19.89. All of the Gophers five relays that Cerensek anchored had NCAA B cut times (two of which aren't listed above: 200 medley relay, 1st, 1:27.64 and 400 medley relay, 1st, 3:13.79). Minnesota cruised to a win at the OSU Invitational with 1,193.5 points.
Molly Polette, Truman State University
Jr., Wildwood, MO
The Bulldogs scored 1452.5 points at the three-day meet, to finish second to a powerful Miami (Ohio) team that racked up a total of 1873.5 points. Molly Polette led the women’s squad, scoring a fourth-place finish in the 1,650 freestyle (17:19.32) earning her a NCAA “A” cut time. The Truman women’s team also secured a large chunk of points via a second-place finish in the 800 freestyle relay (7:35.50) with Polette anchoring relay grabbing another NCAA “A” on the evening.
Polette continued her strong performance at the meet, scoring a second place podium spot in the 500 freestyle (5:01.11), good enough for a NCAA “A” cut in the event. Polette’s previous best time in the 500 freestyle was 5:10.28.

Matej Tomas, Fairmont State University
Sr., Zagreb, Croatia
The Fairmont State University men's swimming and diving team placed fifth at the eight-team James E. Longnecker Invitational Saturday night, finishing the two-day event with 365 team points. On day one Tomas led off the 400 Medley Relay (50.66) swimming to a NCAA “A” cut time, along with a new pool, meet, and team record in the 100 backstroke. He also turned in two more NCAA “A” cut times in the 200 backstroke (1:50.51) and 100 butterfly (49.86). His time in the 200 backstroke was a new meet and pool record. Tomas wrapped up the meet anchoring the third place 400 freestyle relay (3:15.03, split – 45.71).

Tina Ertel, Kenyon College
Fr., Halle, Germany
Overcoming a 53-point deficit, the Kenyon College women's swim team slipped past two Division I opponents Saturday evening at the KAC Natatorium and won the Nike Cup Invitational with 1,026 points. Ertel set the tone right from the start of Friday’s competition by being a part of the winning 200 freestyle relay (1:35.47) and second-place 400 medley relay (3:52.33), both in NCAA automatic qualifying time. Ertel registered another second-place finish in the 200 freestyle (1:50.86) with an automatic qualifying time. Ertel kept the fast times coming by posting a win in the 200 individual medley (2:05.58), which was also an NCAA ‘A’ time. Ertel then added another automatic qualifying time, tying for first place, in the 100 butterfly (57.29).

Lowell Byers, Denison University
Sr., Chappaqua, NY
The Denison Big Red men's swimming and diving squad completed a dominating weekend at the Miami Invitational by keeping the pedal to the metal and cruising to a 302 point victory at the nine team, three-day championship meet on Saturday at Corwin Nixon Natatorium. Byers enjoyed an outstanding weekend, logging five first place finishes, four ‘A’ cut times, one second place, two thirds and one fourth place finish in his nine events. Byers cruised to a victory in the 100 fly (49.39). He also won the 50 freestyle (20.76) and placed second in the 100 backstroke (51.33). Byers was a part of three first place, 'A' cut relay teams. Those relay victories came in the 800, 400 and 200 freestyles.