

Program History

Championships, their highest finish ever. In '96, despite taking only four swimmers to nationals, ASU took ninth, its highest finish since '91. Freshman Francisco Sanchez became the third ASU male swimmer to win a national title, claiming the 50 free title and setting a school record in the event (19.32). In addition, Sanchez finished second in the 100 free, teammate Felipe Delgado took third in the 50 free and three relay teams finished in the top eight. The Sun Devils placed 11th at the NCAAAs in 1997. Francisco Sanchez, Felipe Delgado, Craig Hutchison, and Nelson Vargas were all named All-Americans.

Mona Plummer arrived at Arizona State in 1957. When she departed 22 years later, she had built the premier women's swimming program in the country.

The Sun Devils won the national championship six times from 1967 to 1974, missing the title only in '69 and '72. Kendis Moore Drake, who set the world record in the 200-meter butterfly in '65, enrolled at ASU and became the first-ever collegiate champion in three events — the 50 back, 100 back and 100 fly. Libby Tullis

was a four-time All-America from '72-'76 and set a national record in the 100 back.

Maryanne Graham-Keever helped ASU to that '74 crown, then broke an American record in the 200 back at the U.S. Olympic Trials, earning a spot on the '76 squad. Sally Tuttle, another four-time All-America, won the 100 free in '74 and '75. Also in '74, Peggy Tosdal became the first female athlete at Arizona State to receive an athletic scholarship. She earned it, capturing national titles in five events as a freshman.

ASU then hosted the AIAW Championships in 1975, finishing second to Miami (Fla.).

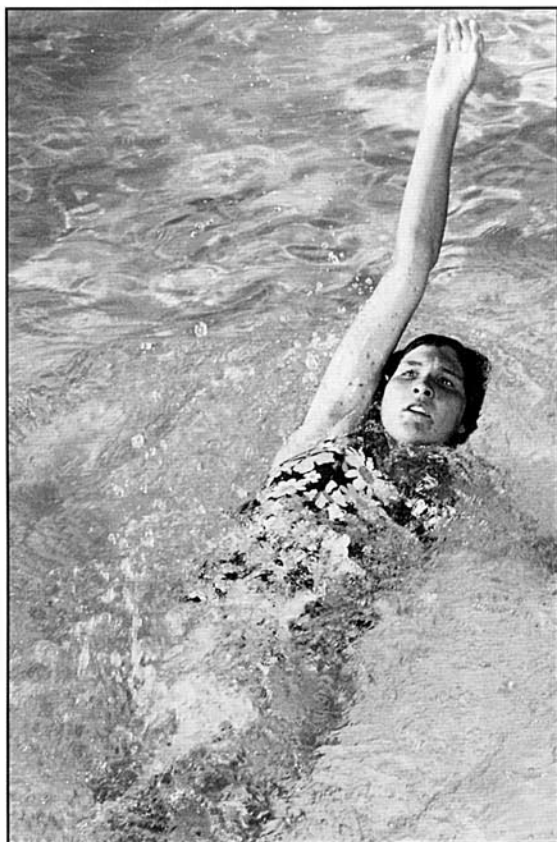
The Sun Devils reclaimed the AIAW title in Providence, R.I., in 1977, 141 points ahead of second-place Stanford. Melissa Belote, who captured three gold medals at the '72 Olympic Games in Munich, won three events, claiming the individual point title. ASU also won the championship the following season.

In 1979, Plummer stepped down and Bill Rose shouldered the responsibility of leading the Sun Devil women. In his second season, Rose led ASU to its only Western Collegiate Athletic Association title. Gail Amundrud won two national titles under Rose, after claiming six under Plummer. Cheryl Gibson, who will be inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame this fall, won a silver for Canada at the '76 Games, then won six national crowns as a Sun Devil.

Diver Tracy Cox swept the 1 and 3-meter conference titles in '87, then went on to represent her native Zimbabwe in the '88 and '92 Olympics. Janae Lautenschlager took the bronze at the '91 Senior Outdoor U.S. Diving Championships in '91 after two straight years as an All-America.



Prior to current Sun Devil Francisco Sanchez' 50 free national championship in 1996, Mike Orn was the last Sun Devil to win a national championship with a 200 free victory in 1982.



Melissa Belote won five national championships from 1976-79.

Tim Hill was named head coach in 1985 and the following season led the Sun Devils to the first of four successive top-10 national finishes. In '94, Hill and O'Connell were honored as Pac-10 Coach of the Year. In '95, ASU's Beata Kaszuba won two national titles, setting NCAA records in the 100 and 200 breast. In '96, seniors Chris Jeffrey and Joanne Currah became the 16th and 17th ASU female swimmers to garner All-America honors all four years. The '97 campaign once again added to the Sun Devils list of All-Americans, with Carolyn Adel and Casey Murphy achieving All-America status. In all, 49 Sun Devil women have won one or more AIAW or NCAA titles and 81 women have achieved All-America status.

Arizona State's storied swimming and diving past is rivaled by only the elite national programs. The Sun Devils of the present train hard to sustain the excellence initiated more than 30 years ago by Schlueter, Smith and Plummer.