Dream season ends in triumph

Swimming, diving make splash
By Vincent Civitillo

Both the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams took the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships by storm this weekend in Baltimore, placing first and second overall, respectively, and setting three new individual records.

Co-captain Melissa Michalov was named the women’s Most Outstanding Swimmer, setting MAAC records in the 1,000 freestyle (10:06.94) and the 200 backstroke (2:06.94) and sophomore Brad Baier winning his fourth MAAC Swimmer, setting MAAC individuals.

“This is definitely a reflection of our hard work and dedication throughout the season. It was a good season.”

For the men, freshman Brandon Pierce, freshman Daniel Burgass and Young, who touched out at 3:08.64. Sophomore Bobby DeSandre and freshman Lindsay O’Shea placed third in the 200 butterfly and 1.650 free with times of 1:53.91 and 17:49.88, respectively.

However, in addition to eight of their members, Michalov, Cohen, Engle, DeSandre, junior Catherine Safford, sophomore Lisa Ferragamo, co-captain Brian Tokarz and junior Andrew Shore, being named to the MAAC All-Academic team, the swimming and diving squads have even more to celebrate, as nearly head out to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships at the University of Pittsburgh, March 1-2.

“It’s a big honor because individuals need certain qualifying times to make it in to the meet,” Michalov said. “For me, being a senior, seeing everybody pull together like we did and do as successfully as a team made my last year with the group just so much better.”

Contributing to the team’s depth were second place finishes by Murray in the 200 breaststroke (2:25.29) and the men’s 400 freestyle relay. Engle, co-captain Brandon Pierce, freshman Daniel Burgass and Young, who touched out at 3:08.64. Sophomore Bobby DeSandre and freshman Lindsay O’Shea placed third in the 200 butterfly and 1.650 free with times of 1:53.91 and 17:49.88, respectively.

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