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Jan. 15, 1981
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Six Eastern Illinois University swimmers from suburban Chicago qualified for the NCAA II National Swimming Championship in several events recently at the Illinois Intercollegiate in Chicago.

The six qualifiers, who will represent the Panthers at the NCAA II finals March 19-21 at Youngstown State, are Jim Hall (McHenry), Dave Gibson (South Holland-Thornwood), Mike Roessler (Lake Zurich-Arlington Heights), Al Cymbal (Buffalo Grove), Ted Soltys (Elmhurst-York) and Tim Bird (Evanston-Elk Grove).

Hall, a junior All-American, won both the 500 and 1650 freestyles in 4:42 and 16:31, respectively, and also swam a leg of the winning 800 free relay which qualified for nationals in 7:07.9. Both of Hall's times were also personal bests.

Gibson, also a junior All-American, won the 200 butterfly and was second in the 100 butterfly in 1:56 and 52.34, respectively. However, his 200 fly qualifying time was 51.96 in the prelims.

He also swam legs on the 800 and 400 freestyle relays which qualified. Both of Gibson's individual events were personal bests.

Roessler, a senior All-American, qualified with a first in the 200 breaststroke and second in the 100 breaststroke in 2:11 and 1:00.8, respectively.

Bird, another junior All-American, won the 100 butterfly in 52.16 and swam on the qualifying 400 medley relay (3:35), which was second.

Soltys, junior All-American, swam legs on three qualifying relays, the 800 free, 400 medley and 400 free. Cymbal reached the NCAA II by finishing third in the 3-meter diving.

"We swam the best mid-season meet since I've been here," said Coach Ray Padovan, in his 15th year. "Besides winning nine of the 18 events, we had 14 cutoff times for the national meet . . . it wasn't something we pointed to.

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"It's just that we have a more mature group this year . . . mostly juniors and seniors. Once the first couple qualified, everyone just picked up on the momentum."