

OU Swimming & Diving Celebration
President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz Remarks
April 20, 2023

PRESIDENT ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ

- First of all congratulations to the Men's Swimming and Diving for winning its 45th consecutive conference championship....
- And congratulations to the Women's Swimming and Diving for winning its 29th straight conference championship.
- I don't want to go too far out on the limb, but I think it's safe to say that winning is a tradition here with Oakland University's Swimming and Diving teams.
- Your effort and success in swimming, diving and academics make all of us so proud.

- I'd like to take just a moment to congratulate those who have received awards for their outstanding accomplishments....

- Elle Chalifoux, the 2023 Horizon League Championship Special Awards as Women's Diver of the Meet

- *Susan LaGrand*, co-Women's Swimmer of the Meet

- Marko Khotynetski, Men's Swimmer of the Meet

- Larry Albright, Women's Diving Coach of the Year

- Pete Hovland, Women's Swimming Coach of the Year

- And Susan LaGrand, who qualified for the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive year.

Other notable accomplishments include...

- The men's team finished 5th...and the women's team finished 16th at the CSCAA (College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America) National Invitational Championship
- We are extremely proud of the 8 student-athletes named to the College Sports Communicators All-District All-Academic Team. They include:
 - Christian Bart
 - Andrew Bernsdorf
 - Sam McKenzie
 - Ben Rojewski
 - Taylor Bailey
 - Susan LaGrand

- Sohvi Nenonen

- Jordyn Shipps

- In addition, 13 Oakland Swim and Dive student-athletes were named to the Horizon League All-Academic Team

- The Swimming and Diving teams are a central part of the Oakland University tradition and identity...

- The Swimming and Diving teams embody all that we stand for at Oakland University – hard work, integrity, commitment to excellence, selflessness...and of course....teamwork.

- There is a reason so many of us follow sports teams....

- Sports is a metaphor for the “game of life.”

- And the traits that make each of you great competitors are the traits that will make you a great success outside of the pool ... in the game of life.
- Congratulations on your impressive accomplishments...
- We appreciate the standard you have set... and for representing Oakland University with such grace, style and distinction.
- Thank you for making us all so proud.