



Matt Anderson

**Head Coach
Third Year
(Northern Illinois, '97)**

When Matt Anderson took over the helm of the Youngstown State swimming and diving program in July 2003, he knew his team would have to take baby steps throughout the course of the season as it adjusted to a new coaching style and had only one senior on the squad. What he didn't know was how big those baby steps would be.

In just his first two seasons, Anderson has guided the Penguins to their highest finish ever at the Horizon League Championship, produced two individual conference champions and seen nine school records fall. Now, entering his third season as head coach at YSU, Anderson has begun to implement plan to steadily push the program into the upper echelon of the region and conference.

This season is the first time Anderson has coached only athletes that have competed under his helm in college. With those 14 student-athletes, all of which are eligible to return next season, Anderson has assembled a solid group that will serve as a building block for the future.

Included in the group of returning athletes are sophomore school record holders Julia Darling and Brittany Senn and one of the top flyers and freestylers in school history in junior Becky Bertuzzi.

At the 2005 Horizon League Swimming and Diving Championship, Darling broke the school record in both breaststroke events and had two top-10 finishes. She also swam the breaststroke leg of both of YSU's record-setting relays at the meet. One of those relays - the 200 medley relay - broke a mark that was set in 1984.

Senn finished 10th in the 50 free, 12th in the 100 fly and 18th in the 100 free, and swam the freestyle leg of the YSU record-setting 400 medley relay at the meet. In addition, she ranks third all-time in the 50 free and fifth in the 100 free and 100 fly.

Bertuzzi fell just .44 seconds of the school record in the 200 free with a 12th-place time in the 200 free. She also ranks second in school history in the 100 free.

The 2004-05 season saw the culmination of one of YSU's best-ever recruiting classes as 10 seniors competed in their final seasons. In two years under Anderson's leadership, that group went on to break nine school records and win three individual crowns at the league meet.

At last season's conference championship, senior Erin Carter was part of two record-breaking relays. Individually, she finished fourth in the 400 IM and added a fifth-place finish in the 200 fly.

Jordan Dunn also broke two records at the conference meet. On the first day of the Championship, she broke a 22-year-old record in the 1,000 free. She then broke a 19-year-old record on the meet's final day in the 1,650-free.

Diver Kalyn Leveto also culminated her career by winning the individual conference crown in the 1-meter board and qualified for the NCAA Zone C Championship for the fourth time in her career.

The Penguins also enjoyed regular season success that included a double-dual sweep against Niagara and Vermont and an emotional win over California (Pa.) on senior day.

In Anderson's first year in 2003-04, the Penguins picked up their first ever victory against a Horizon League opponent and tallied five wins against a strong slate of opponents. In addition, three Penguins earned Horizon League Athlete of the Week honors during the year.

Anderson earned his first career victory as a head coach against Radford on Oct. 26 as the Penguins won the final four events of the meet to top the Highlanders 153-143. On Feb. 8, YSU earned its first-ever victory over a Horizon League opponent as it defeated the Butler Bulldogs 86-51 in a quadrangular that also featured Wright State and Xavier.

The Penguins carried the momentum from their Horizon League victory against the Bulldogs into the conference championships to place sixth, the best finish in school history.

Anchoring the sixth-place performance were a pair of conference champions in Carter and Leveto. Carter became the first Penguin swimmer to capture an individual crown at the Horizon League Championship as she won the 400-yard individual medley with a school-record time of 4:33.82. Carter also set the school-record in the 200 IM as she finished fifth. Leveto defended her title in 3-meter diving and added a second-place finish in the 1-meter event to earn Horizon League Diver of the Year honors for the second-straight season.

Anderson's squad also succeeded outside the pool as the team posted the highest grade point average of all of Youngstown State's 18 intercollegiate sports with 3.23 in the fall semester. Leveto and Lena Arens earned Academic All-Conference honors while Arens also became the first YSU swimmer to earn academic all-district honors. The team also earned the Horizon League Outreach Award for Community Service.

Anderson, who is the ninth head coach in the program's history, came to YSU from Ohio State where he was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for four years. He also oversaw the sprint groups for Head Coach Jeanne Fleck, helped run camps, coordinated travel plans, was a key office assistant and was the program's academic adviser. In each of his years, the team's grade-point average increased and was as high as 3.36 in 2002. Also, more than 45 athletes were named OSU Scholar-Athletes and more than 30 were academic All-Big Ten selections.

Before joining the OSU staff, Anderson was the top assistant for the men's and women's programs at Northern Illinois University. At NIU, he spent two years as a full-time assistant developing and coaching all aspects of the Huskies' middle distance swimmers. He served as the program's recruiting and travel coordinator and was in charge of swimming camps and fund raising for the program.

Anderson first became involved in coaching from 1994-97 as a volunteer assistant coach at NIU following his swimming career. From 1990-94, he was a three-time letterwinner for the Huskies, earning the team's most improved swimmer award as a sophomore and being named team captain as a senior.

He earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from NIU In 1997.

Anderson is certified as a member of the College Swimming Coaches Association, a member of the American Swim Coaches Association and a member of United States Swimming.