

VOLS FINISH THIRD IN SEC

UT Claims Seven Individual Titles

The Tennessee swimming and diving squad claimed third-place at the 2000 Southeastern Conference Swimming and Diving Championships in Auburn, Ala. After leading the first two days of competition, the Vols fell into second on day three and finished in third. Despite the disappointing team finish, the Vols produced career-best swims in numerous events and recorded 25 times that cracked the UT all-time top ten list.

The Volunteers claimed seven event championships, including five individual events and a pair of relay events. Three Vols successfully defended their 1999 titles. Gabi Chereches repeated in the three-meter and platform diving events while Michael Gilliam won the 100 backstroke title again and Zane DeWitz produced another 200 individual medley title. The Vols also captured both the 200 medley and 400 medley relay titles. Gilliam, Jeremy McDonnell, Raphael Thuin, and Brent Owen combined to win the 200-yard event while the 400-yard relay consisted of Gilliam, McDonnell, Joel Shapiro and Owen.

The Vols set two SEC Meet records and five school records. The first SEC Meet record came on the first evening of competition as the 200 medley relay squad reached the wall in a time of 1:25.59 to set the SEC and UT school records. The second SEC Meet record came on the Thursday as Gilliam turned in a 100 backstroke split of 46.37 on the first leg of the 400 medley relay to establish the SEC and school mark. Another school record performances came from DeWitz in his 200 individual medley win as he reached the wall in a time of 1:45.56. The 200 freestyle relay squad also finished in a school record time of 1:17.97 in finishing in second place.

Following the meet, Chereches won his second consecutive Commissioner's Trophy as the meet's top scorer. Gilliam shared the Performer of the Meet award with three other swimmers.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Tennessee took the early lead at the SEC Championships on Wednesday night. The Volunteers set an SEC meet record in winning the 200 medley relay and claimed first and second in three-meter diving. The Vols also finished second in the 200 freestyle relay with a school record time. After three events, Tennessee led the meet 111 team points. Florida ranked second with 82 points.

UT opened the meet with a strong performance in the 200 freestyle relay as the Vols took second place in the event. Jeremy McDonnell, Raphael Thuin, Brent Owen, and Michael Gilliam reached the wall in a school record and NCAA automatic qualifying time



Senior Co-captain Ross Powells finished third in the 100 and 200 backstroke events and helped the 800 freestyle relay to a third-place finish as well.

of 1:17.97.

From that point, the Volunteers changed the momentum of the meet with a one-two finish in the three-meter diving event. Vol juniors Gabi Chereches, the 1999 SEC three-meter champion, and Shannon Roy, the 1998 SEC three-meter champion, dueled for the title with Chereches taking the victory with his final dive. Chereches scored 595.40 points to Roy's 589.05 to defend his title.

John Trembley's squad then made a bold statement by establishing an SEC meet and school record in the 200 medley relay. Gilliam, McDonnell, Thuin, and Owen posted a time of 1:25.59 to capture the crown. The foursome's time beat the previous SEC meet and school mark set by Craig Gilliam, Jeremy Linn, Jeff Elder, and Adam Engle at the 1997 SEC meet that still stands as the American record in the event. The time is not an American record because Thuin is a native of Brazil.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Tennessee stayed on top of the heap after an exciting night at the SEC Championships. Tennessee won the first three events and set an SEC record and three school records to stay a step ahead of the field. After two days of competition, Tennessee stood in first with 272 points. Florida was second with 235 points

and Auburn was third with 221.

Tennessee kicked off the second evening of competition with a pair of inspired performances in the 500 freestyle. Volunteer sophomore Brett Tannhauser came from the middle of the pack to win the 500 freestyle in dramatic fashion. The sophomore posted a career-best time of 4:20.42 that ranks third in UT history and automatically qualifies him for the NCAA Championships. In the consolation finals of the 500 freestyle, freshman Greg Simpson came on strong in the final two lengths to capture second in the race and 10th overall with a time of 4:23.84 that ranks eighth in UT history and provisionally qualifies him for the NCAA's.

Zane DeWitz, feeling the energy of his fellow Volunteers, kept UT rolling by defending his title in the 200 individual medley and setting a school record with his time of 1:45.56.

"My teammates are really inspiring. Everybody on our team is swimming fast and I wanted to do it for them. That's what motivated me."

Vol freshman Ben Brink scored in the 200 I.M. as well with a 15th-place time of 1:50.53. DeWitz's time qualifies automatically for the NCAA's while Brink's prelim time of 1:49.97 met the provisional NCAA qualifying standard.

Three Vols posted career-best times in the 50 freestyle as UT had five swimmers score in the event. Carrying the Vol torch into finals were Michael Gilliam and Chris Hussey. Hussey finished sixth with an automatic NCAA time of 19.79 and Gilliam was seventh with a time of 19.81. Jeremy McDonnell clocked a time of 19.94 to win the consolation finals and take ninth overall. Brent Owen in 12th-place (20.03) and Raphael Thuin in 13th (20.06) joined him in the consolations.

In one-meter diving, the UT divers gave another strong performance with Gabi Chereches finishing third (533.10) and Shannon Roy finishing sixth (480.30).

The 400 medley relay provided tremendous drama for everyone in attendance. Gilliam gave the Vols a large lead as he set an SEC meet and school record time of 46.37 in his 100 backstroke leg. Auburn made up the ground and overtook Owen in the final few yards of the race. An apparent second-place finish became a victory for the Vols as the Auburn relay was disqualified for an early jump from the blocks. Tennessee's time of 3:09.93 set a school record in the event, beating the time set by the 1996 foursome of Craig Gilliam, Jeremy Linn, Jim Rumbaugh, and Ricky Busquets as they won the national championship.

Friday, February 18

UT junior Michael Gilliam successfully defended his 100 backstroke title on Thursday evening as the Vols fell into second place (439 points) and Auburn (506) surged from third to take the lead into the final day of competition. Florida is in third (422.5). Gilliam coasted to victory in a time of 46.83, just off his time of 46.37 posted in the lead off leg of the 400 medley relay on Thursday that set an SEC and school record.

Following his swim, the Nashville native said, "I have to win the SEC title in the 100 backstroke one more time to equal the number of times my father won it. The SEC record feels good, and it came along with breaking the school record."

The 100 backstroke proved to be the Vols' best event on the evening. After a push by Auburn in the first four events, UT was able to keep the Tigers within reach with a strong backstroke performance. Joining Gilliam in the finals of the 100 backstroke was senior co-captain Ross Powells. Powells turned in automatic NCAA qualifying time of 47.93 in finishing third. Three Volunteers placed in the consolation heat of the 100 back. Lance Asti was 12th with a time of 49.50, Matt Parrish was 13th with a time of 49.60 and Brent Owen was 15th with a time of 49.97.

The Vols gave another inspired performance in the 800 freestyle relay to close the evening. Tennessee turned in a time of 6:30.42 to claim third place. Zane DeWitz led off with a time of 1:38.63. Greg Simpson and Brett Tannhauser extended the lead before Powells won the first heat going away. The time exceeded the provisional qualifying time by a significant margin and will probably earn the Vols a spot in the NCAAs.

"We were pumped about that swim," Trembley said. "That gets us in the NCAAs in the 800 free relay for the first time in a while."

Joel Shapiro and DeWitz turned in a pair of strong performance in the 100 butterfly as they finished third and fourth, respectively. Shapiro reached the wall in a time of 47.36 that ranks second in UT history and automatically qualifies for the NCAAs. DeWitz's time of 47.56 ranks fifth in UT history and meets the NCAA provisional qualifying standard.

Tennessee sophomore Jeremy McDonnell became only the second Vol to break the 54-second mark as he finished third in the 100 breaststroke with time of 53.37 that automatically qualifies for the NCAA championships. Fellow sophomore Chris Stewart was sixth in the event with a time of 54.93 after swimming a lifetime best of 54.85 in the morning prelims. UT senior co-captain Allen Jones tied a lifetime-best with his time of 56.07 that was good for 13th place.

Vol freshman Simpson was the top UT finisher in the 200 freestyle with a 10th-place time of 1:37.59. UT sophomore Tannhauser, the 500 freestyle champion was 11th in the 200 free with a time of 1:37.88. Simpson's time ranks 10th all-time for the Vols and both times meet the NCAA provisional qualifying standard.

Tennessee's 2000 SEC Champions

Gabi Chereches - Three-meter diving, Platform Diving
Zane DeWitz - 200 individual medley
Michael Gilliam - 100 backstroke, 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay
Jeremy McDonnell - 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay
Brent Owen - 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay
Brett Tannhauser - 500 freestyle

Post Meet Honors

Commissioner's Trophy (Most points scored) - Gabi Chereches, 56 points
Co-Performer of the Meet - Michael Gilliam

Tennessee School Records Set at 2000 SEC Championships

100 Backstroke - 46.37 - Michael Gilliam (lead off leg of 400 medley relay)
Old: 46.91 (1992 - Tripp Schwenk)

200 Individual Medley - 1:45.56 - Zane DeWitz
Old: 1:46.46 (1990 - Greg Burgess)

200 Free Relay - 1:17.97 - Jeremy McDonnell, Raphael Thuin, Brent Owen, Gilliam
Old: 1:18.37 (1996 - Ricky Busquets, Devin Pietrzak, Craig Gilliam, Jon McGowen)

200 Medley Relay - 1:25.59 - Gilliam, McDonnell, Thuin, Owen
Old: 1:25.76 (1997 - C. Gilliam, Jeremy Linn, Jeff Elder, Adam Engle)

400 Medley Relay - 3:09.93 - Gilliam, Joel Shapiro, McDonnell, Owen
Old: 3:09.97 (1996 - C. Gilliam, Linn, Rumbaugh, Busquets)

SEC Meet Records Set at 2000 SEC Championships

100 Backstroke - 46.37 - Michael Gilliam (lead off leg of 400 medley relay)
Old: 47.28 (1998 - Robert Brewer, Georgia)

200 Medley Relay - 1:25.59 - Gilliam, McDonnell, Thuin, Owen
Old: 1:25.76 (1997 - Tennessee -C. Gilliam, Linn, Elder, Engle)

In the 400 individual medley, Volunteer freshman Ben Brink and Jason Baxter finished 11th and 12th, respectively. Brink posted a 3:54.95 in the finals after a time of 3:53.74 in the prelims that met the provisional NCAA qualifying time and ranks ninth in UT history. Baxter reached the wall in a time of 3:57.74 that ranks as a career-best.

Saturday, February 19

The Tennessee swimming and diving fell into third place on the final day of the SEC Swimming and Diving Championships as Florida came on strong to move ahead of the Vols into the second spot. Auburn, who trailed the front-running Vols after the first two days of competition, extended their lead to claim the team title. Tennessee finished with 637 points, Auburn with 752 points and Florida with 680.5.

Commenting on the meet, UT head coach John Trembley said, "Florida swam a great competition. Our team enjoyed the battle and we look forward to the NCAAs."

Ross Powells turned in the second fastest 200 backstroke time in school history. His time of 1:44.22 was good for third-place. Also scoring in the 200 backstroke were freshman Greg Simpson and sophomore Matt Parrish as they finished 10th and 16th, respectively.

Jeremy McDonnell posted a 200 breaststroke time that ranks third in Vol history

in finishing fourth in a time of 1:58.51. Chris Stewart won the consolation heat to finish ninth in a career-best time of 2:01.12. Freshman Ben Brink was not far behind in finishing with a 10th-place time of 2:01.64. Senior Allen Jones rounded out the foursome of scorers in the event with a 12th-place time of 2:02.30.

In the 200 butterfly, Joel Shapiro clocked a career-best time of 1:45.61 to finish fourth while Zane DeWitz, who was second in the event last season, finished fifth with a time of 1:45.90. Jason Baxter finished in a time of 1:49.16 to take 13th place.

A pair of Volunteers placed in the finals of the 100 freestyle. Junior Michael Gilliam, who won the 100 backstroke last night, was fifth with a time of 44.01 after a prelim time of 43.93. Joining him in the finals was junior Chris Hussey who placed sixth with a time of 44.05 after a morning swim of 43.74. Brent Owen of Knoxville placed 10th in the event with a time of 44.16.

In the final event of the evening, Tennessee finished third in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 2:55.19. Hussey, Greg Simpson, Owen and Gilliam combined to produce an NCAA Automatic Qualifying time and finish the meet for the Vols.

2000 Southeastern Conference Swimming and Diving Championships

James E. Martin Aquatics Center -- Auburn, Ala.

Final Results

50 Freestyle

1. Aaron Ciarla	Aub.	19.35\$
2. Greg Busse	Aub.	19.53
3. Matt Busbee	Aub.	19.73
6. Chris Hussey	Tenn.	19.79
7. Michael Gilliam	Tenn.	19.81
9. Jeremy McDonnell	Tenn.	19.94
12. Brent Owen	Tenn.	20.03
13. Raphael Thuin	Tenn.	20.06

100 Freestyle

1. Nathan Summers	Fla.	43.39
2. Greg Busse	Aub.	43.65
3. Aaron Ciarla	Aub.	43.74
5. Michael Gilliam	Tenn.	44.01
6. Chris Hussey	Tenn.	44.05
10. Brent Owen	Tenn.	44.16

200 Freestyle

1. Malcolm Hosford	Aub.	1:36.72
2. Greg Busse	Aub.	1:36.85
3. Rodrigo Castro	L.S.U.	1:36.88
10. Greg Simpson	Tenn.	1:37.59
11. Brett Tannhauser	Tenn.	1:37.88

500 Freestyle

1. Brett Tannhauser	Tenn.	4:20.42
2. Kevin Clements	Aub.	4:20.89
3. Ricardo Monsterio	Fla.	4:21.35
10. Greg Simpson	Tenn.	4:23.84

1650 Freestyle

1. Ricardo Monasterio	Fla.	14:59.41
2. Kevin Clements	Aub.	15:13.63
3. James Galloway	Aub.	15:19.21
4. Brett Tannhauser	Tenn.	15:19.42

100 Butterfly

1. Zsolt Gaspar	S.C.	46.58
2. Jeff Somensatto	Aub.	47.21
3. Joel Shapiro	Tenn.	47.36
4. Zane DeWitz	Tenn.	47.56

200 Butterfly

1. Duncan Sherrard	Fla.	1:43.79\$
2. Zsolt Gaspar	S.C.	1:43.99
3. Jeff Somensatto	Aub.	1:44.12
4. Joel Shapiro	Tenn.	1:45.61
5. Zane DeWitz	Tenn.	1:45.90
13. Jason Baxter	Tenn.	1:49.16

100 Backstroke

1. Michael Gilliam	Tenn.	46.83
2. Jon Karr	Aub.	47.83
3. Ross Powells	Tenn.	47.93
12. Lance Asti	Tenn.	49.50
13. Matt Parrish	Tenn.	49.60
15. Brent Owen	Tenn.	49.97

200 Backstroke

1. Matt Cole	Fla.	1:41.76\$
2. Joav Gath	Ga.	1:44.15
3. Ross Powells	Tenn.	1:44.22
10. Greg Simpson	Tenn.	1:47.26
16. Matt Parrish	Tenn.	1:51.94

100 Breaststroke

1. Pat Calhoun	Aub.	52.68
2. Dave Denniston	Aub.	52.80
3. Jeremy McDonnell	Tenn.	53.37
6. Chris Stewart	Tenn.	54.93
13. Allen Jones	Tenn.	56.07

200 Breaststroke

1. Dave Denniston	Aub.	1:55.81
2. Alex Lopez	Fla.	1:57.14
3. Phillip Norris	Fla.	1:58.10
4. Jeremy McDonnell	Tenn.	1:58.51
9. Chris Stewart	Tenn.	2:01.12
10. Ben Brink	Tenn.	2:01.64
12. Allen Jones	Tenn.	2:01.30

200 Individual Medley

1. Zane DeWitz	Tenn.	1:45.56&
2. Malcolm Hosford	Aub.	1:46.36
3. Matt Cole	Fla.	1:47.00
15. Ben Brink	Tenn.	1:50.53

400 Individual Medley

1. Eric Donnelly	Fla.	3:45.00
2. Kevin Clements	Aub.	3:46.92
3. Bryan Kim	Fla.	3:48.96
11. Ben Brink	Tenn.	3:54.95
12. Jason Baxter	Tenn.	3:57.74

200 Freestyle Relay

1. Auburn	1:17.28
(Ciarla, Busbee, Busse, Quevedo)	
2. Tennessee	1:17.97&
(McDonnell, Thuin, Owen, Gilliam)	
3. Florida	1:19.03

400 Freestyle Relay

1. Auburn	2:53.45
(Busbee, Busse, Quevedo, Ciarla)	
2. Florida	2:54.92
3. Tennessee	2:55.19
(Hussey, Owen, Simpson, Gilliam)	

800 Freestyle Relay

1. Auburn	6:27.32
(Boyle, Hosford, Clements, Busse)	
2. Florida	6:27.96
3. Tennessee	6:30.42
(DeWitz, Simpson, Tannhauser, Powells)	

200 Medley Relay

1. Tennessee	1:25.59\$&
(Gilliam, McDonnell, Thuin, Owen)	
2. Auburn	1:26.17
3. Florida	1:27.55

400 Medley Relay

1. Tennessee	3:09.93&
(Gilliam, McDonnell, Shapiro, Owen)	
2. Florida	3:11.31
3. Georgia	3:16.15

One-Meter Diving

1. Jud Campbell	Ga.	582.60
2. Clayton Moss	Ky.	533.65
3. Gabi Chereches	Tenn.	533.10
6. Shannon Roy	Tenn.	480.30

Three-Meter Diving

1. Gabi Chereches	Tenn.	595.40
2. Shannon Roy	Tenn.	589.05
3. Clayton Moss	Ky.	581.80

Platform Diving

1. Gabi Chereches	Tenn.	595.40
2. Hank Richardson	Fla.	576.40
3. Corey Fox	L.S.U.	555.90

Final Team Standings

1. Auburn	752
2. Florida	680.5
3. TENNESSEE	637
4. Georgia	426.5
5. South Carolina	281
6. Kentucky	278
7. Louisiana State	269
8. Alabama	267

A - U.S. Open/American Record

\$ - SEC Meet Record

& - Tennessee School Record