

Schmidt Named To All-America Swimming Team

BY GEORGE MORRIS
Sports Writer

Led by the first All-American in the history of Carolina swimming, USC finished 24th in the nation in the NCAA Championships last weekend at Long Beach, Calif.

Sophomore Tom Schmidt finished eighth in the 1,650 yard freestyle to earn the All-American honors.

Schmidt, a former high school All-America from South Pasadena, Calif., broke his own school record in the event with a time of 15:56.0. Schmidt also has school records in three other events-- the 200, 500 and 1000-yard freestyle races.

Schmidt attributes his improvement in the 1,650 to the tough competition USC faced during its regular season.

"The times got faster as we swam the really good teams," Schmidt said. "We ended up 5-5, but we swam against NC State, who finished seventh in the tournament, Auburn, who finished ahead of us in the NCAA, and North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

Whatever the reason, Schmidt beat his old record by more than 17 seconds.

Carolina did not have the 1,650 freestyle in any of its regular season dual meets, but Schmidt does not think that presented him



Tom Schmidt

with any handicap. "We swam the 1,650 in two championship meets before the nationals (the Southern Intercollegiate and the Southern Independent) and I've swam a lot before so there wasn't any difficulty."

Schmidt was the only Gamecock to score points in the national meet. The best finish a Carolina swimmer had made in the NCAA previously was a 13th place finish in 1969 by Mike Slenker in the 50-yard freestyle.

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