

Sports News

The University of Scranton

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EVANS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Tomm Evans, head men's and women's swim coach at The University of Scranton for the last 11 years, has notified director of athletics Toby Lovecchio of his decision to retire at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year.

Evans, a native of nearby Dunmore and current resident of Clarks Summit, joined the Royal coaching staff in 1992 as an assistant and served in this capacity for five years before taking over as head coach of both programs in 1997. He has led the Scranton women to 11 straight winning seasons and an overall record of 107-26 (.805), to a Middle Atlantic Conference title in 2004, and to the first-ever Landmark Conference Swimming and Diving championship this past season. His record with the men's program during this span is 65-46 (.586).

"My retirement will allow me more time to focus on professional endeavors," says Evans, who currently teaches in the North Pocono School District. "I hope to continue to further my education and to be able to enjoy more time with friends and family. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at the university and will dearly miss all of the student-athletes that I've had the pleasure of coaching throughout the years. As I have told my teams often and mean from the bottom of my heart, I'm not an extraordinary coach—just a regular coach of an extraordinary team."

"Tomm has been a high quality head coach who has always stressed excellence, whether it is in the pool, the classroom, or the community," said Toby Lovecchio, director of athletics. "His commitment to his student-athletes, coaches and others he came in contact with on a daily basis was truly remarkable. He handled himself with dignity and class, and this was reflected by all of the swimmers whose lives he touched over the past 16 years. He will be sorely missed."

A two-time Middle Atlantic Conference women's coach of the year selection (2002, 2004) Evans and long-time assistant coach Paul DeAngelo were recognized by the Landmark Conference as the women's coaching staff of the year in the conference's inaugural season of competition this past winter.

Individually, Evans coached Sarah Gazdalski, a 1999 all-American (200 backstroke) and 11-time Middle Atlantic Conference individual champion, and University of Scranton Wall of Fame inductees Erin (Kenney) Muzzio and Christine (Lubrano) Benson, along with developing 14 other swimmers who have gone on to win 32 Middle Atlantic and Landmark Conference individual titles.

Moreover, three of Evans' swimmers captured the top individual honors in the Landmark Conference this year: junior **Erin O'Connor (Scotch Plains, N.J./Union Catholic Regional)** was named the female swimmer of the year, freshman **Allison Sampson (Sugarloaf, Pa./Hazleton Area)** was chosen the female rookie of the year, and junior **Joseph Veselovsky** was selected the co-recipient of the male swimmer of the year award. In addition, Gazdalski was twice named the female recipient of the David E. Eavenson Award as the outstanding swimmer of the Middle Atlantic Conference championships (1998, 2000) during his tenure.

Evans has left his mark in other ways. He has coached six of the eight male swimmers who currently hold 14 Scranton individual records and has mentored nine of the 10 Royal female record-holders. In addition, all ten of the Scranton records in the relays were established during his head coaching tenure.

He also placed a high priority on academics. For the past 21 semesters, the Royal women's team has been named Academic all-American by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) while his men's teams reached this achievement 17 times.

Below is a summary of Tomm Evans' head coaching career at The University of Scranton:

Awards, Honors, Individual & Team Accomplishments:

Landmark Conference Coaching Staff of the Year (1)

(2008)

Landmark Conference Championships (1)

2008 (Women)

Middle Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year (2)

(2002, 2004)

Middle Atlantic Conference Team Championships (1)

2004 (Women)

All-Americans (1)

Sarah Gazdalski - 1999 (200 Back)

Landmark Conference Individual Champions (5)

Erin O'Connor (500 Free {2008}, 400 IM {2008}, 200 Fly {2008})

Lauren Hosko (200 IM {2008}, 100 Fly {2008})

Allison Sampson (1650 Free {2008})

Joseph Veselovsky (200 IM {2008}, 400 IM {2008}, 200 Fly {2008})

Lauren Wieland (200 Free {2008})

Middle Atlantic Conference Individual Champions (12)

Kristen Best (1650 Free {2002}, 1650 Free {2001})

Brendan Connors (200 Fly {2004})

Sarah Gazdalski (100 Back, 200 Back, 100 Fly {2001}, 100 Back, 200 Back, 200 Fly {2000}, 100 Back, 200 Back {1999}, 100 Back, 200 Back, 200 IM {1998})

Jill Hamnett (100 Fly, 100 Free {2002})

Beth Kapusta (500 Free {1998})

Christine Lubrano (100 Free, 200 Back {1997})

Rosie Moran (500 Free, 1650 Free {2005})

Erin O'Connor (500 Free, 400 IM {2006}; 500 Free, 400 IM {2007})

Jill Palmiotto (200 Back {2006, 2005, 2004}, 100 Back {2006})

Jayne Smith (500 Free, 200 Free {2002})

Joe Veselovsky (400 IM {2007})

Erin Williams (100 Fly {2004})

**David E. Eavenson Most Outstanding Swimming Award Recipients
(at Middle Atlantic Conference Championships) (1)**

Sarah Gazdalski - 1998, 2000

Landmark Conference Male Swimmer of the Year (1)

Joseph Veselovsky - 2008

Landmark Conference Female Swimmer of the Year (1)

Erin O'Connor – 2008

Landmark Conference Relay Champions (2)

400 Freestyle - 2008

800 Freestyle – 2008

Middle Atlantic Conference Relay Champions (2)

800 Freestyle - 2003, 2004

University of Scranton Wall of Fame Inductees (2)

Erin (Kenney) Muzzio – Class of 2006

Christine (Lubrano) Benson - Class of 2007

Winning Seasons

Men (8)

2001 (7-2), 2002 (6-5), 2003 (7-4), 2004 (6-4), 2005 (6-4), 2006 (8-3), 2007 (8-3), 2008 (6-4)

Women (11)

1998 (9-2), 1999 (7-5), 2000 (11-1), 2001 (9-3), 2002 (8-4), 2003 (11-2), 2004 (10-2), 2005 (9-3), 2006 (11-2), 2007 (11-2), 2008 (11-0)

--ROYALS--

