

Athletic Program Evaluation – Women’s Swimming

Being that this is my first year at Adams State University, I find it a little difficult to evaluate the program as my plans are to turn this program around and make it a very successful part of the ASU campus. When I arrived on campus to interview for the head coaching position, there were five returning swimmers to the program. At this point, we are at twelve swimmers with only two seniors scheduled to graduate. During the early signing period, we were able to secure three commitments. I am strongly encouraged by the recruiting process since that time and I feel confident that we will get our numbers up to the conference team limit of eighteen swimmers by the time all is said and done, and we start the 2018-2019 school year. Building a team requires passion and love of the sport. I bring that to the table each and every day and therefore I believe we will grow into a very competitive program in the RMAC and beyond.

Using the criteria given, below is my evaluation keeping in mind my short tenure here:

Criterion # 1: Academic Excellence Student Success – Swimmers tend to be very solid students. In general, they manage their time quite well. The semester prior to my arrival, the team GPA was a 2.7. This past fall semester, we achieved a GPA of 3.3. I strongly push the women on the team to achieve high academic marks reminding them each that the word “student” comes before the word “athlete”. Retention rates will continue to improve within the program under my direction. **Score: 8**

Criterion # 2: Access and Student Athlete Affordability – At this point, our numbers are below the average of fellow RMAC institutions, but I plan to change that quickly. As mentioned before, we have already increased next year’s numbers and we are not done yet. The goal for next year is to be able to field a conference limit team of 18. In future years, I want to make sure we have more than 18 athletes so that the competition for a spot on the conference team exists, therefore creating a stronger team in return. **Score: 4**

Criterion # 3: Institutional Affordability – At this point, we are averaging less than \$ 1,000 per year in scholarship money per team member. The challenge is to convince student athletes to attend here while paying most of their tuition out of pocket. The institution is a receiving a great bang for the buck when it comes to women’s swimming. **Score: 9**

Criterion # 4: Community Relations – Recently Sierra Grande High School started a high school swim team. This move is great for the community. Additionally, Melinda Hunzeker has started Ski Hi Aquatics, a USA Swimming program that is focused on developing swimmers in the valley area. With time, I believe that her program will develop into a very competitive program in the area. Swimming is a life-long sport and the development of our program as well as Melinda’s program will further enhance the success of swimming in the valley. The ASU women’s swim team contributes many hours of community service as well. In addition to taking part in ASU

service days, the women on the team also teach lessons to young swimmers in evening swim class sessions four months out of the school year. **Score: 7**

Criterion # 5 – Program’s Athletic Success – The program has been down the last few years. Low finishes in the RMAC and weak dual meet results have not helped. My goal is to turn this around. By increasing the numbers with additional athletes, our ability to compete in dual meets will be much better. Success breeds success and with success in dual meets, we will be able to compete at a higher level in major competitions as well. This will not happen overnight, but my plan is based on having three very successful recruiting years right off the bat. **Score: 4**

Criterion # 6: Impact – Although not a required sport, we are a women’s sport, thus making Title IX an issue. I have had good success in the recruiting campaign thus far for next season with limited scholarship money. There is zero doubt in my mind that if I had a larger budget I would be able to bring in many, many more athletes into the program. Even having another scholarship opportunity like we have for Texas residents in places like California would help the recruiting process greatly. **Score: 7**

The bottom line for me is that this program will take a couple years to turn around and get to a point where we are extremely successful. I am a strong believer that we will make this happen sooner rather than later.

Total Score: 39 / 50

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