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STREAMLINING TO VICTORY

WRITTEN BY KAITLIN SCHULER. DESIGNED BY BROOKE ANDERSON.

After beginning their new year with a fourth consecutive title at the Orange Bowl Classic in Key Largo, Florida, the men's swim and dive team was ready for the final stretch of their season. Prior to winter semester, the men had collected seven first place titles out of eight scoring competitions. LSA freshman swimmer Dylan Bosch described his first season with the Wolverines as inspiring. "The team has shown great character and I'm sure it has inspired the whole team to become better at everything we do. The sense of team that is displayed here at Michigan is something I believe no other team in the nation displays." Bosch's teammate, Business sophomore Justin Glanda echoed the importance of the team to the Michigan swimmers and divers. Although he has been swimming since he was eight years old, Glanda said that the culture at the University is what brings them greatness. "This team has a rich history of consistently being ranked among the top 10 programs in the NCAA. With 36 Big Ten championships and 18 National Titles, everyone on the team recognizes the expectations that are necessary to carry on this tradition and to continue to hang banners in the rafters. At Michigan, the camaraderie, intensity, and commitment to success are unmatchable." He continued that each member of the team understands that no specific person is more important than another. "In times of hardship, we call on the power of the team to find strength. In times of happiness, we celebrate Michigan by celebrating with each other. In an environment such as this, the energy of the team can propel an individual to achieve what would otherwise be unattainable."

The team may be most important for these men, but the number of outstanding athletes that make up this group cannot be overlooked. As of December 2012, the team was ranked number one. Bosch claimed four Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors before the New Year and teammate LSA senior Miguel Ortiz was named Big Ten Swimmer of the Week and Co-Swimmer of the Week. Ortiz is also a four-time Big Ten champion, two-time All-Big Ten team member, and three-time NCAA All-American Honorable Mention. Engineering junior Connor Jaeger — who participated in the 2012 Summer Olympics — and LSA sophomore Richard Funk have also been named Big Ten Swimmer of the Week. LSA junior Jack Lee was named Big Ten Diver of the Week in October. The men racked up wins and awards in the 2012 and 2013 season, attributing their success to their strength as a team. "We all understand that team goals always take priority over individual goals," Glanda finished. "While individual goals are both important and meaningful, the team always takes priority. Individual swimmers or divers do not win championships; a team wins championships."

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1 With a Twitter hashtag reading "#TeamFunky" across his chest, LSA sophomore Richard Funk celebrates during the University's first-ever Water Carnival. The event was designed to make men's swim and dive more spectator-friendly and showcase events that typically would not be seen at traditional competitions. Photo courtesy of Media Reps.

2 Kinesiology freshman Dylan Bosch exudes determination and focus during a race. He was a five-time Big Ten Freshman of the Week by January 2013. Photo courtesy of Media Reps.

3 The men huddle in to share team spirit before a competition. Their focus, during the 2012-2013 season especially, was to build their team bond and focus on encouraging one another to push for greatness. Photo courtesy of Media Reps.

4 LSA junior Ryutaro Kamiya competes rigorously in a meet against Wisconsin. Kamiya received the U-M Athletic Academic Achievement Award in 2011, an honor presented to individual athletes with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, or two consecutive terms of at least a 3.0 GPA. Photo courtesy of Media Reps.

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