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Men's Swimming And Diving Adds Five More

LeRoy Stevens, Ari Bernstein, Nick Kaczor, Adan Jimenez and Kris Simos sign National Letters of Intent

May 17, 2002

Chicago, Ill. - Looking forward to his second season on the job, University of Illinois at Chicago head swimming and diving coach [Paul Moniak](#) is building a better tomorrow for the aquatics program at UIC.

Today he announced the signing of five area athletes to National Letters of Intent, which will vastly improve the depth of the men's squad.

LeRoy Stevens (Arlington Heights, Ill./Prospect), Ari Bernstein (River Forest, Ill./Oak Park-River Forest), Nick Kaczor (Tinley Park, Ill./Tinley Park), Adan Jimenez (Tinley Park, Ill./Tinley Park) and Kris Simos (Oak Forest, Ill./Oak Forest) will join the 2002-2003 Flames' squad that is increasingly improving.

This set of five joins already signed incoming freshman Jose Lopez-Lago for next year's squad.

"We needed some depth, especially with sprinters and the sprint relays," said head coach [Paul Moniak](#). "With this group, we feel confident that we can improve our standing in the Horizon League."

Stevens, who enjoyed a wonderful senior campaign for Prospect High, finished an impressive fourth-place at the IHSA State Finals in the 50-yard freestyle (21.31) and the 100-yard freestyle (46.87). His prep times would place him in the elite of the Horizon League right now and will come in next year as the Flames' top sprinter. Stevens also runs track for the Knights.

Bernstein, who displayed a large improvement from his prep junior season to his senior campaign, had season-bests of 21.73 in the 50-yard freestyle and 48.23 in the 100-yard freestyle. Bernstein wrapped up his prep career 12th in the 50-yard free and 21st in the 100-yard free at the 2002 IHSA State Finals.

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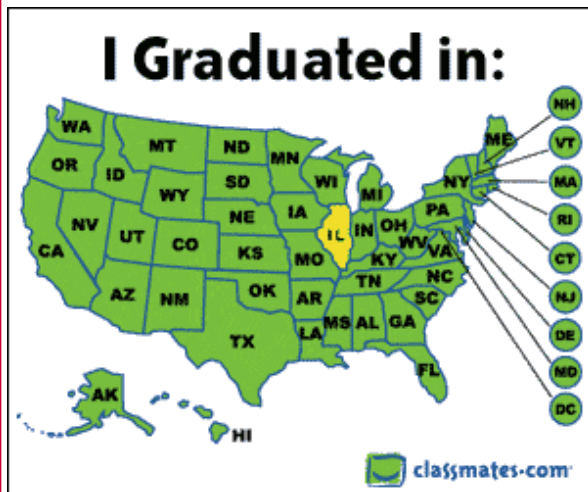
Kaczor will join his older brother, Chris, as a member of the Flames' swimming program. Kaczor was an IHSA State Meet qualifier in the 100-yard free with a best time of 48.74. The Tinley Park, Illinois native has also gone 21.70 in the 50-yard free and will compete in the 100-yard breaststroke at UIC, as well.

Jimenez, a prep teammate of the Kaczor brothers, placed 16th at the State Finals in the 100-yard backstroke, and has a best time of 54.30 in that event. Jimenez was also a qualifier in the 100-yard free and posted a season-best of 48.95.

Simos will aid the Flames in the butterfly events, as he took 18th in the 100-yard fly at the State Meet, and has a personal best of 53.26. Simos has also gone 22.10 in the 50-yard free for Oak Forest High.

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