

From the Tallahassee Democrat

April 4, 1986

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NCAA Championships

INDIANAPOLIS — Florida State's Mike Kowalski will attempt to win his second All-American title today when he swims in the 100-yard backstroke at the NCAA Championships.

Kowalski, a senior, enters the meet ranked ninth nationally in the event.

In action on Thursday, FSU's Pat McConnel narrowly missed an All-American title when he tied for 16th place in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.41 seconds. With only the top 16 advancing to the next round, McConnel was forced into a swim-off that he lost.

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Kowalski named All-America

Senior Mike Kowalski became the first member of the Florida State swimming team in 15 years to win back-to-back All-American titles when he finished eighth in the 100-yard backstroke at the NCAA Championships on Saturday night.

Kowalski, who qualified for the finals on Saturday morning, appeared to touch out in sixth place in the championship event, but a clock malfunction immediately after the event led to judges using a backup hand-timed system in which they ruled Kowalski finished eighth in a time of 49.73.

The top eight swimmers in each event were named All-America, down from the top 16 a year ago. Because he won All-America honors in the same event in 1985, Kowalski becomes the first FSU swimming team member to accomplish the double since Phil Boggs won back-to-back diving titles in 1970 and 1971.

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FSU swimmer qualifies

Florida State senior swimmer Mike Kowalski qualified for the final heat in the 100-yard backstroke at the NCAA Championships on Friday morning, assuring him of attaining All-American status in 1986.

Kowalski's qualifying time of 49.86 broke the FSU school record, which he set in 1985.

Kowalski will swim in the eighth position in the finals. The top eight qualifiers earn All-American status.