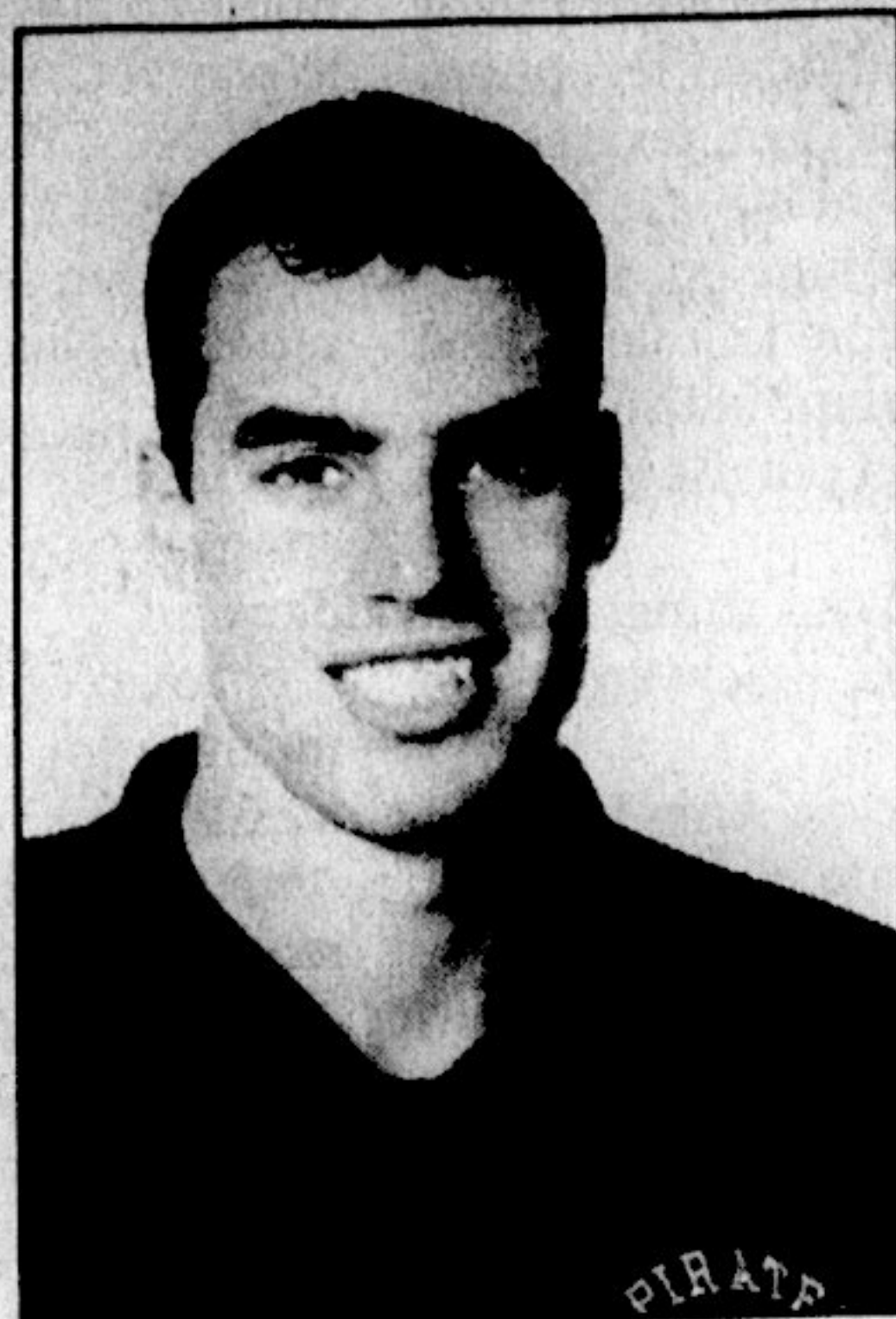


Jabs leads men's swim team

Co-captain emphasizes
fun, sportsmanship

Ryan Downey
STAFF WRITER



Matt Jabs is the captain of the ECU swim team (file photo).

individually. As captain I am like a mediator between coaches and players. The other players look to me to discuss team issues with the coaches."

Jabs understands that it takes time to get to know teammates and really understand them as people, especially freshmen.

"As a freshman you come in and kind of put on a front for everybody, Jabs said, "but as you prove yourself, more of your true self comes out. We have a very closely knit team. We have a lot of fun."

This season has been a very productive one for the men's swim team. Jabs has led them to only one loss out of five meets this season. He will graduate next fall with a degree in exercise and sports science with a recreation and leisure minor. Jabs got his drive for excellence from his parents.

"They not only emphasized athlet-

ics; academics was very important," Jabs said. "When I was a sophomore in high school my parents pulled me from the team. I wasn't failing, but I wasn't meeting what they expected of me. That showed me what was really important."

As an athlete and captain he has made a lasting impression on his coaches. His hard work shows in how his peers look at him.

"He came in as a great athlete and is leaving as a much faster swimmer," said Head Coach Rick Kobe. "He's one of the fastest in the conference. He has a game plan and is very mature and has done his growing up."

If you are at a swim meet and want to find Matt Jabs, just look for the guy having the most fun and you'll spot him easily.

This writer can be contacted at
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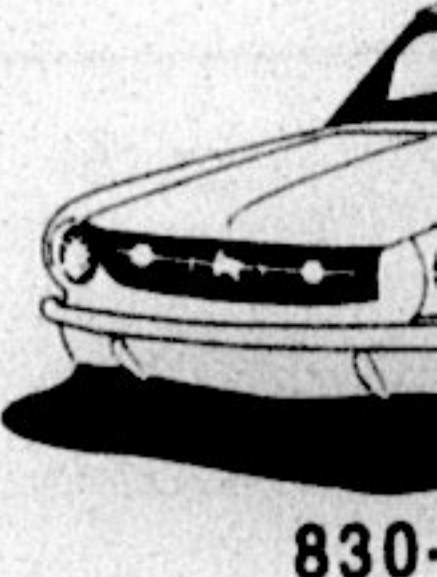
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