

# 07-08 Bison Swimming Canada West Preview

## General Info

**Team:** Manitoba Bisons

**Head coach:** Vlastimil (Vlastik) Cerny/15th year

**Conference:** Canada West

## Quick Facts

**2007 Canada West Championship finish?:** Women 4th place; Men 5th

**2007 CIS Championship finish?:** Women 8th place; Men 18th

**2007-08 Preview:** Last season at the 2007 Canada West Swimming Championship in Calgary, the Bisons had seven medal performances. The women's swim team finished in fourth spot with 252 points in the seven team event. The men's team ended up in fifth spot with 163 points. At the 2007 CIS Championship in Halifax, the women's swim team finished in eighth position with 140 points, two points back of seventh spot. This was the fifth consecutive season that the Bisons have finished in the Top 10 at the CIS Swimming Championship. The Bison men's team ended up in 18th spot with 22 points. The Bison teams had eight swimmers (six female and two male) with the highest swimmer result in fifth and nine Top 10 finishes at the 2007 CIS Nationals.

This season, the women's side has seen a change with four CIS qualifiers (Landice Yestrau, both Toogood sisters and Lauren MacQuarrie) not returning to the team. Bison head coach Vlastimil Cerny has commented that these departures will have an impact on final standings at CIS Nationals but sees opportunity for several young swimmers to fill the void. In particular, rookie Kerri-Ann Bochen has already qualified for CIS Nationals. She is ranked tenth in CIS in the 200m breaststroke plus is 11th in the 200m butterfly and 13th in 400m IM. Another strong swimmer for the Bison women's team is fourth year Jenna Houssin, who has qualified for CIS, and is ranked fifth in the nation in the 50m breaststroke plus 16th in 100m breaststroke. There are a couple of chances for other Bison women swimmers (Whitney Reed, Rita Laszlo) to reach finals at Canada West Championship

On the men's squad, the return of third year swimmers Braeden Taylor and Brent Collins bolsters a solid lineup that includes one rookie, one sophomore, three juniors and only one fourth year swimmer. The balanced squad has already two CIS qualifiers in Taylor and Collins and potential for the other four swimmers (Blair Peters, Willie Bell, William Wellborn and Casey Gergely) to reach the goal.

Taylor is the leader of the team and best chance for a medal at Canada West and CIS. He is currently ranked second in CIS in the 200m breaststroke, third in 50m breaststroke and fifth in 100m breaststroke while showing versatility as he also ranked 20th in 200m IM. At the 26th annual Prairie Winter Invitational (PWI) held at the Pan Am Pool from November 29-December 2, 2007, Taylor showed his strength by posting fast times as he swam to three victories in breaststroke events. Collins has a potential for a podium finish at Canada West as he is currently ranked eighth in CIS in the 50m backstroke and 20th in 100m backstroke.

Heading into the Canada West Championship, the Bison men's are ranked 13th in CIS and fifth in conference while the women's team is tied for 18th in CIS and tied for sixth in conference. Cerny stated, "The goal at the Canada West Championship is to qualify more swimmers to the CIS Nationals, have swimmers reach the podium and have all swimmers maximize their effort at the meet."

### **Top Bison Swim Performances so far during the 2007-08 Season**

#### **Women**

50m breaststroke	Jenna Houssin	33.62	5th fastest in CIS
200m breaststroke	Kerri-Ann Bochen	2:39.73	10th fastest in CIS
200m butterfly	Kerri-Ann Bochen	2:22.73	11th fastest in CIS
400m IM	Kerri-Ann Bochen	5:02.88	13th fastest in CIS
100m breaststroke	Jenna Houssin	1:14.76	16th fastest in CIS
200m breaststroke	Jenna Houssin	2:43.44	19th fastest in CIS
100m breaststroke	Kerri-Ann Bochen	1:15.52	20th fastest in CIS
50m breaststroke	Kerri-Ann Bochen	35.13	22nd fastest in CIS

#### **Men**

200m breaststroke	Braeden Taylor	2:18.38	2nd fastest in CIS
50m breaststroke	Braeden Taylor	29.60	3rd fastest in CIS
100m breaststroke	Braeden Taylor	1:04.84	5th fastest in CIS
50m backstroke	Brent Collins	27.34	8th fastest in CIS
100m backstroke	Brent Collins	59.25	20th fastest in CIS
200m IM	Braeden Taylor	2:10.76	20th fastest in CIS
100m butterfly	Casey Gergely	57.95	20th fastest in CIS
800m freestyle	Blair Peters	9:17.71	21th fastest in CIS