



DAN BATCHELOR JORDAN KLEBER KEN VIGILETTI DOUG McINTOSH TIM MCCARTHY JIM KIZER



GORDON GEHAB BILL DUNN TERRY METER TIM MURPHY MITCH FERGUSON DEAN OTTATI

Selections shine in state finals

2 schools dominate All-Area swimming team

By TOM BAER

Two high school swimming powerhouses—Birmingham Groves and Bloomfield Hills Andover—dominated the 1977 Observer & Eccentric All-Area Swimming Team.

The O&E squad, which was picked recently by several area coaches, represents very successful seasons at Groves and Andover. Coach John Wiek's Groves swimmers finished third in the state Class A swimming and diving championships with 116 points, while coach Mike Lane's Andover team finished fourth with 84.

When it came to the All-Area first-team selections, Andover landed men in five events, and Groves men filled four more. Southfield-Lathrup and Birmingham Brother Rice each had a swimmer picked for one event.

In all cases, the selections were based on the fastest times turned in over the course of the season. But most of the times listed represent efforts in the state meet preliminaries because "that's when the swimmers have to go fast," in the words of Andover's Lane.

Andover's 200-yard medley relay (sophomore Jordan Kleber, senior Terry Meter, junior Mitch Ferguson and senior Doug McIntosh) had first-team honors with a time of 1:39.47 recorded at the state meet prelims. Groves was second at 1:40.83, and Lathrup took third with a time of 1:41.4.

ANOTHER ANDOVER swimmer, senior Tim Murphy, turned in a time of 1:44.8 in the state meet prelims to grab the top spot in the 200-yard free-

style. Tom Hauswirth of Rochester Adams was second at 1:49.9 and Paul Blunden of Lathrup took third at 1:50.8.

In the 200-yard individual medley, Groves senior Dan Batchelor dominated the competition with a 1:59.11. Two Birmingham Seaholm athletes, Eric Overhardt and Dave Hosington, finished second and third with times of 2:01.5 and 2:04.8, respectively.

Lathrup's Bill Dunn, a junior, broke the Andover-Groves streak by taking the honors in the 50-yard freestyle thanks to a :22.11 effort in the state finals. Andover's McIntosh was second with a :22.14, and West Bloomfield's Ken Weikal was third at :22.29.

The one-meter diving selections were the easy to pick. Groves senior Ken Vigiletti compiled 473.90 points to win

the event at the state meet. Brother Rice's Bart Connors was second at state with 462.20, and teammate Tom Temmerman finished fourth with 413.65.

Andover's Ferguson, who swam a leg on the first-team medley relay, landed the top spot in the 100-yard butterfly. The Andover junior went :53.61 in the state prelims. Dave Smith of Lathrup was second at :54.01, and Mark Hesskamp of Groves took third at :54.38.

Brother Rice dominated two-thirds of the 100-yard freestyle team with junior Gordon Geheb earning first-team honors with a :48.31 in the prelims, and fellow Warrior Brian Keating landing second with a 49.42. Troy Albans' Brian Saylor was third at :49.7.

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IN THE 500-YARD freestyle, Groves senior Jim Kizer was best with a 4:39.81, good enough for second place in the state finals. Groves swimmers Dave Erickson and Bob Kizer were next in line on the All-Area Team 500 free with times of 4:48.01 and 4:53.04, respectively.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Groves' Tim McCarthy, a senior, was best with a :55.85. Rochester Adams was next with Rick Czadz (:56.83) and Rob Hildum (:56.83).

O'Brien: Year's top coach

By JOHN BOZZO



COACH GEORGE O'BRIEN

The Observer & Eccentric's Swimming Coach of the Year, George O'Brien of Brother Rice, considers himself a teacher first.

"Coaching comes naturally from teaching," O'Brien said. "I work on the intelligence of a swimmer and his motivation and get him toward his desired goal."

"We need some other motivation because we lack a pool," O'Brien added. "I try to teach in terms of intensity—the quality of work put in instead of quantity. The kids are just starting to realize that it pays off."

Without a pool of his own, O'Brien makes arrangements to swim at Berkshire Junior High School during the week and Oakland University on weekends.

This year Brother Rice had its best swimming season ever. The Warrior

tankers successfully defended their Catholic League title and finished eighth in the state finals. They had never been in the top 10 before.

"We used our talent and depth to its best capacity," O'Brien said. "We won a lot of meets because we had depth. We were successful in the Catholic championships because we had depth. We had more people using their talent productively than in the past. I was able to get more out of them."

O'BRIEN HAS coached Brother Rice for eight years. Last fall he also coached the Bloomfield Hills Laker girls' swimming and diving team.

He was a member of the original graduating class of Brother Rice in 1964. Although Rice had no swimming team at that time, O'Brien dove in Amateur Athletic Union meets.

O'Brien swam on the varsity team at the University of Illinois for three years. He earned bachelor of arts degrees in French and psychology from the university and then came back to Brother Rice. He is working on a masters degree in guidance from the University of Detroit.

At Brother Rice, O'Brien teaches three classes of psychology to seniors and one class each in French and history.

"I'D GO BANANAS if I had to teach swimming all day," O'Brien said. "It works out pretty good—that's one reason why I'm enthusiastic. I teach different classes all day and when I go to practice I'm enthusiastic and ready to give all I have to practice."

Although just finished with his best season, O'Brien does not want to rest on his laurels.

"Competition always gets better," O'Brien said. "Five years ago our 400-yard freestyle relay team went 3:24.7 and was seventh in the state meet. This year the relay was seventh with a 3:17.7. In five years we had to drop seven seconds just to keep up."

Philosophically, O'Brien said that "When a kid leaves Brother Rice he leaves with a good appreciation of both mental and physical discipline. It allows him to better cope with life. I hope he'll be a better person. I like to think I'm developing human beings, not just a machine that can swim the 100-yard freestyle in 47 seconds."

Boys' all-area team

- 200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY** — 1. Bloomfield Hills Andover (Jordan Kleber, Terry Meter, Mitch Ferguson, Doug McIntosh) 1:39.47; 2. Birmingham Groves (Tim McCarthy, Mark Hanson, Mark Hesskamp, Karl Heck) 1:40.83; 3. Southfield-Lathrup (Dave Cowan, Scott Mansfield, Dave Smith, Bill Dunn) 1:41.4.
- 200-YARD FREESTYLE** — 1. Tim Murphy (Bloomfield Hills Andover) 1:44.8; 2. Tom Hauswirth (Rochester Adams) 1:49.9; 3. Paul Blunden (Southfield-Lathrup) 1:50.8.
- 200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY** — 1. Dan Batchelor (Birmingham Groves) 1:59.11; 2. Eric Overhardt (Birmingham Seaholm) 2:01.5; 3. Dave Hosington (Birmingham Seaholm) 2:04.8.
- 50-YARD FREESTYLE** — 1. Bill Dunn (Southfield-Lathrup) :22.11; 2. Doug McIntosh (Bloomfield Hills Andover) :22.14; 3. Ken Weikal (West Bloomfield) :22.29.
- DIVING** — 1. Ken Vigiletti (Birmingham Groves) 473.90 points; 2. Bart Connors (Birmingham Brother Rice) 462.20; 3. Tom Temmerman (Birmingham Brother Rice) 413.65.
- 100-YARD BUTTERFLY** — 1. Mitch Ferguson (Bloomfield Hills Andover) :53.61; 2. Dave Smith (Southfield-Lathrup) :54.01; 3. Mark Hesskamp (Birmingham Groves) :54.38.
- 100-YARD FREESTYLE** — 1. Gordon Geheb (Birmingham Brother Rice) :48.31; 2. Brian Keating (Birmingham Brother Rice) :49.42; 3. Brian Saylor (Troy Athens) :49.7.
- 500-YARD FREESTYLE** — 1. Jim Kizer (Birmingham Groves) 4:39.81; 2. Dave Erickson (Birmingham Groves) 4:48.01; 3. Bob Kizer (Birmingham Groves) 4:53.04.
- 100-YARD BACKSTROKE** — 1. Tim McCarthy (Birmingham Groves) :55.85; 2. Rick Czadz (Rochester Adams) :56.83; 3. Rob Hildum (Rochester Adams) :56.83.
- 100-YARD BREASTSTROKE** — 1. Terry Meter (Bloomfield Hills Andover) 1:00.85; 2. Scott Mansfield (Southfield-Lathrup) 1:02.59; 3. Scott Phillips (Rochester Adams) 1:02.64.
- 400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY** — 1. Bloomfield Hills Andover (Mitch Ferguson, Dean Ottati, Doug McIntosh, Tim Murphy) 3:15.32; 2. Birmingham Groves (Dan Batchelor, Karl Heck, Dave Erickson, Jim Kizer) 3:18.15; 3. Birmingham Seaholm (Jon Hanson, Eric Overhardt, Dave Hosington, Jack Gray) 3:17.51.

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