

Kim Pogue wins top OU sports award

By Larry O'Connor
Staff writer

Kim Pogue took a few less turns in the pool and turned a few more pages in her books instead.

And for her efforts came recognition. Pogue, a Farmington graduate, was chosen as Oakland University Female Athlete of the Year this season. The award is given to the top female scholar/athlete at the school.

While the grade-point average became top priority, Pogue's swim times for the Pioneers took a slight dive in her senior year. Added to the craziness was the effort going into graduation and finding a job once she did graduate.

Also, Pogue was engaged in February.

"So many things were going on,"

said Pogue. "Swimming wasn't my main focus the way it used to be. I think it affected my times."

Which is understandable. Instead of looking back at past accomplishments, and trying to maintain that level, Pogue coped by looking ahead.

FOR SOME collegiate athletes, that's unusual. They don't have the time to look further than the next meet, game or match. The future for them is unwritten.

And they can't seem to find a pen to write it with.

Pogue, who's working at Chrysler as a systems engineer, appears to have her future well-mapped out. She doesn't care to think what might've been if she hadn't taken the time to prepare.

Nonetheless, Pogue was frustrated. Her less-than-best times this season were hard to accept at first.

As were they for her coach, Mary Ellen Wydan.

"She was real frustrated too," said Pogue. "We had some talks and she began to understand what was happening."

POGUE, WHO was the captain of the Pioneers this season, contributed in other areas. She helped guide sophomore understudy Nancy Schermer, who eventually broke Pogue's records in the 500-yard freestyle and 1,650 freestyle.

The up-and-coming soph pitted against the seasoned senior didn't expect an adversarial relationship between Pogue and Schermer.

Pogue said she enjoyed her

moment in the spotlight as OU's top distance swimmer. But she was more than glad to let Schermer bathe in it, too.

"She's just a great person," said Pogue of her former teammate. "She would want you to swim as fast as her if you could."

Then again, Pogue has been in Schermer's position. She came to OU as a hot-shot swimmer ready to take on the world.

She did well.

In addition to breaking records in the 500 and 1,650 freestyle events, Pogue was a 15-time all-American at OU. She swam on four relay teams and was an integral part of the Pioneer's fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division II championships in 1984.

THIS SEASON, Pogue just made the cut and finished 13th in the 500 freestyle (5:07.05) at the NCAAs. The 800-freestyle relay team she was a member of took fifth (7:47.60) for her final all-American title.

With all-conference and all-state honors at Farmington High, Pogue looked to have a good future at OU. Her high school records in the backstroke, 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle still stand.

Pogue qualified for state in her sophomore year and Farmington's girls swim team was ranked in the top 10 in Class A during the 1980-81 seasons.

FOR HER success, Pogue points to Farmington coach Mark Holdridge, who devoted extra time to swimmers who were willing to put in

the effort. Pogue took advantage of the extra tutoring.

"She was a very hard worker," said Holdridge. "She was a good motivator for the rest of team in terms of leadership."

It helped Pogue adjust somewhat to the more competitive pace at college. But it was a transformation just the same.

"I never really got intense until I got to college," said Pogue. "In high school, swimming was fun."

So was the time spent at OU. It wasn't until the NCAA meet that she realized it was coming to an end.

"Nancy was a couple of lanes over, and we just looked at each other and gave one another a hug," said Pogue. "It sort of hit me like it was over."

O&E kick classic set for June 18

The fourth annual Observer & Eccentric Girls High School Soccer Classic is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at West Bloomfield High School.

The classic pits the Observer All-Star soccer team against players from the Eccentric All-Star soccer squad. The all-star squads and the coaches of the year will be published within the next week by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

The game has proven to be a popular vehicle in the Observer & Eccentric's continuing effort to promote junior sports. The Classic is just one of a number of events sponsored by the O&E newspaper etc., which includes 12 papers throughout Wayne and Oakland counties.

The Observer all-stars dominated the series' first two games, winning by a combined 12-3 score.

However, the Eccentric-area all

soccer

stars made a dramatic turn-around last year by gaining a 4-4 tie. The Eccentric led throughout most of the game until the Observer stars tied the game with a late goal.

The Oakland and Wayne county areas have consistently produced some of the state's top soccer players. Livonia Churchill, for instance, needed overtime to defeat Troy Athens in this year's Class A state soccer tournament championship game.

Many of the players from each of these teams are scheduled to participate in the game.

There will be a \$1 admission fee. West Bloomfield is on Orchard Lake Road, about one mile north of Maple.

Morgan leaves Canton girls post

By Chris McCosky
Staff writer

Plymouth Canton can begin the search for a new girls soccer coach.

Mike Morgan, who has guided the Chiefs to a 33-20-3 record the past three seasons, is stepping down.

He will remain the head coach of the boys program at Canton.

"I'm not a teacher, I don't work within the school district," he said. "I

am a manufacturing representative in the construction business. The late of it when I line things up for summer, and it requires me to do a lot of traveling."

"I've been spending 20 to 30 hours a week with the team, from mid-February to June. That's a lot of time at the expense of my livelihood."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed coaching

the girls," Morgan said. "Plymouth-Canton is a great school district. They have supported me 100 percent all the way through. Whoever takes over will inherit a really good team."

MORGAN TOOK over a struggling program three years ago and built a consistent winner in a short period of time. The backbone of this year's team was a talented group of

sophomores and freshmen — an indication that the future of the program is bright.

"The girls are talented and enthusiastic," he said. "I'm really going to miss it. I'll probably wish I was back when next spring rolls around."

The girls coaching vacancy will be posted within the school district for three weeks. If no one is interested, the district will search outside the district.

sports shorts

RAIDER CUP WINNERS

Nancy Cothran and Kirk Armstrong are the 1986 recipients of the North Farmington Raider Cup award for outstanding athletic and academic achievement.

Armstrong was an All-Area performer in both track and cross country. Cothran was a standout in basketball, volleyball and track.

MAJOR LEAGUE TRYOUTS

The Major League Scouting Bureau is inviting players to an open tryout at 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 10, at Eastern Michigan University's baseball field.

American Legion players must get permission from their manager or post commander. Players also must supply their own equipment.

COACHES NEEDED

The Farmington Public School District is accepting applications for two non-teaching coaching positions for the fall of 1988. Openings are for a middle school basketball coach and a varsity high school wrestling coach.

Resumes should be sent to Ronald G. Holland, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington Mich. 48024 or call 471-6337 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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