

# Boys swim year opens Saturday

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

The 1988-89 boys swim season kicks into gear Saturday with the fifth annual Western Lakes Activities Association Relay meet beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Plymouth Salem.

And guess what? Plymouth Salem and Livonia Stevenson, as they both will be for the conference meet at the end of the season, are expected to battle for the title Saturday.

Even though the other 10 conference teams continue to improve and bring a competitive balance to the Western Lakes, Salem and Stevenson remain the frontrunners.

"Stevenson and Salem are the favorites, no question," said Plymouth Canton coach Hooker Wellman. "But a lot of other teams have improved, as well. John Glenn is tough. Livonia Churchill, Northville, North Farmington and Livonia Franklin should be good teams."

To say nothing of Plymouth Canton and Farmington Harrison, who also appear stronger and deeper than last year.

But this year's swim season will have a long way to go to top last season. Stevenson was the dominant team throughout the dual meet campaign. The Spartans won the WLA Relays and beat Salem in a dual meet. But at the league meet, Salem surprised everyone with a 225-211 victory over second-place Stevenson.

Both Salem and Stevenson lost All-Area talent to graduation. Stevenson will return All-Area performers Steve Taormina and Joe Saunders. Top returnees for Salem include Phil Bochetti, Don Harwood and Dave Miller.

Here's a composite look at the three Farmington High School District boys swim teams:

## NORTH FARMINGTON

Head coach: Louis Balogh, first year.

Last year's record: 10-2, third in Western Lakes.

Key graduation losses: Mike Duttill (All-Area), Dan Mazzotta (All-Area), Craig Burdick (All-Area).

Top returnees: Seniors — Mike Turley (All-Area freestyle, butterfly), Andy Fritz (senior freestyle), Kevin Lee (distance freestyle), junior — Jerry Greenstein (all strokes), Bruce Goss (butterfly, backstroke), Leo Lieberman (diving), Marc Schwartzberg (butterfly, freestyle), sophomore — Steve Turley (all strokes).

Head coach: Peter Leorhardt, third season.

Last year's record: Tied for ninth in Western Lakes.

Key graduation losses: Doug Riccio.

Top returnees: Seniors — Chris Hill (distance freestyle, may not compete this season), Adam Kautz (freestyle), Rich Los (freestyle), Mark Langdon (freestyle), junior — Jim Vix (all strokes).

Promising newcomers: Freshmen — G.T. Meek (all strokes), Patrick Inch (all strokes), senior — G.T. Meek (all strokes).

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Mike Turley  
North Farmington

Promising newcomers: Freshmen — Dan Krupper (all strokes), Dave Gots (freestyle), Cherie Gruba (freestyle).

Balogh's '88-89 outlook: "I was expecting a lot more before I got here. But once I got here and saw how hard the kids worked, I was very happy. The kids don't think they are going to be any good right now, but do. They are working hard and they are improving. Some of the guys have already topped their goals they had set for themselves. Overall, our depth is OK. We will be having in the freestyle and backstroke — especially backstroke. The league is tough and that's a problem, but the good competition will make our kids better."

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# Observerland shines at state

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

With nearly 20 percent of the qualifiers from Observerland schools, it's easy to say that the area figured prominently in Saturday's state Class A girls swim meet held at Michigan State University's McCauley Pool.

Livonia Stevenson finished third in the team standings and hosted the meet's top individual, senior Sheila Taormina, who figured in three of the five record-breaking events.

The Spartans also proved to be spoilers, bumping defending state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer from first to second by pulling a mild surprise in the meet's final event, capturing the 400-yard freestyle relay. The title went to Bloomfield Hills. Andover, which tallied 173 points, Pioneer was second with 169, followed by Stevenson (115), Birmingham Groves (112) and Bloomfield Hills Lahar (80).

Two other Observerland schools made the top 10. North Farmington finished sixth with 60 and Farmington Hills Mercy was ninth with 43. (See complete results on statistical page.)

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

On paper, Oakland University will be pressed to improve on its third-place finish in last season's NCAA Division II men's swim championships.

"Being contenders for a national title is a bit too optimistic," admitted OU coach, Pete Hovland. "Defending champion Col State-Bakersfield has a lot back, and they have some great recruits."

"I think we'll be in contention for second. That's how I see it. Our goal this year is to move up a notch."

That's how Hovland sees it at the moment. On paper. Titles, though, aren't won on paper.

Hovland knows that too well. And if there is any one thing he'd like to instill in this year's Pioneer team, it's a sense of déjà vu. In particular, he'd like them to remember the OU team of '83.

"In 1983," Hovland recalled, "we figured to be third, at best. We ended up losing by five points."

"There are a lot of similarities, using '83 as an example. It could happen again. I've tried to tell our guys, 'I'm not counting you out. I don't think you can't win.' If Bakersfield isn't swimming well and we swim

BUT THE TALK of the meet was the 5-foot-3 dynamo Taormina, who was named Swimmer of the Year after setting records in the 200 individual medley (2:15.14) and 100 butterfly (57.02). To top things off, Taormina teamed up with Ann Bollinger, Michele McKenzie and Maureen Sudek to defend the 400 freestyle relay title, breaking their old mark with a time of 3:32.6. (The only change in the foursome from last year was Maureen Sudek replacing sister Sherrie.)

"Sheila is just a great trainer," said Stevenson first-year coach Greg Phill. "She's set goals and worked on weights. That's helped, but if there's one thing about her, it's determination. She's the best I've ever coached."

Taormina's victory in the 200 IM came against Andover. Andy Charnes, who went into the race as the favorite after setting a state record in Friday's preliminaries.

"Sheila has never been happy at the state meet until this year," said Phill. "She really wanted it this time."

In the 100 butterfly, Taormina finished two seconds ahead of another

## swimming

area swimmer, Churchill sophomore Audra Martin who was clocked in 59.02.

IRONICALLY, Martin made the most of her second chance. After finishing seventh in the preliminaries, Martin was given a berth in the championship final when another swimmer scratched because of injury. In the 200 IM final, Martin finished third.

McKenzie also enjoyed a fine meet, finishing second and third to Pioneer standout, Jennifer Jackson in the 200 and 500 freestyle. McKenzie posted times of 1:53.88 and 5:03.33, respectively.

Also for Stevenson, Bollinger took second in the 100 backstroke (1:00.1) behind Lauren's Lisa Bent (59.9). Bollinger added a sixth place in the 50 freestyle (24.71).

North senior Jennifer Rowe capped a banner career, placing sec-

ond in the 500 freestyle (5:00.9) and sixth in the 200 freestyle (1:58.7).

Teammate Cindy Cramer was another standout, gaining third in the 100 breaststroke (1:08.15) and fourth in the 200 IM (2:12.76). North freshman Mary Mulharg was eighth in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.0) and the Raiders' 400 freestyle relay team of Rowe, Marge Cramer, Cindy Cramer and Laurie Oswald finished eighth in 3:44.66.

MERCY'S TOP INDIVIDUALS was diver Erica Campbell, who finished fourth overall. Other finishers included Jenny Morton, fifth, 500 freestyle and 11th, 200 IM; and Suzie Knipper, fifth, 100 backstroke. The Marlins also took ninth in the 200 medley relay.

Another top area finisher included Westland John Glenn's Julie Jensen, who gained seventh in the 200 IM. The Rockets' 400 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams took ninth and 12th, respectively. Farmington freshman Lauren Weary was ninth in the butterfly.

Plymouth Canton's Julie Cox was another state placer, taking eighth in the 100 breaststroke.

# OU swimmers seek top spot

great, anything can happen."

That might sound like Hovland will need to cash in a lot of ifs and maybes to make a run at the title. It isn't the case. The Pioneers are loaded.

A core of four swimmers — three seniors and a junior — are counted on to provide the leadership for OU, both in and out of the pool. Leading the pack is perhaps the greatest swimmer in school history: Junior Mark VanderMey.

AT LAST weekend's Eastern Michigan Invitational, Hovland had his swimmers shaved and ready to take a shot at the Division II qualifying standards. Ten swimmers in 17 events made it; VanderMey qualified in three.

At last April's Division II meet, VanderMey won the 100-yard breaststroke, was second in the 200 breast and took fourth in the 200 individual medley. At last summer's Goodwill Games in the Soviet Union, VanderMey was the top U.S. swimmer in both the 100 and 200 breast, placing fourth and fifth.

He is currently ranked 21