

Sports

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Tumey wins state crown

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The line is thin between he who qualifies for the state swim meet and he who takes home the state championship.

Nobody knows that subtle distinction better than North Farmington senior Mike Tumey.

Tumey has qualified for the state Class A swim meet the past three years. This year, he crossed the line and became a state champion. He claimed the prize last Saturday at East Lansing winning the 100-yard butterfly in 51.11. He was second in the 200 freestyle (1:42.87).

Monday night, Tumey reflected on what pushed him across that thin line.

"Desire. That's the difference," he said. "You really have to want it bad. And you have to have a good coach who's behind you all the way. If it wasn't for Louie Balogh (North coach), I would never have been able to do it. He was always there to push you and keep your mind on it. When I wasn't feeling good or not into it, he could always get me going."

BALOGH, in his first season at North, also knows what it takes to become a champion. And he saw it in Tumey from day one.

"The first week of practice I knew he could win the butterfly," said Balogh. "The race was closer than I thought it would be, but I felt all along he had the capability to be a champion."

"He just kills himself in practice. He is easily the hardest working swimmer I've ever coached. He's a self-motivator and he really loves the sport. He's a real competitor; that's probably his greatest asset. In a close race, he's awfully hard to beat."

A lesser competitor might have been beaten before ever getting into the water, given the circumstances that preceded Tumey's butterfly swim. Four events prior to the butterfly, Tumey lost a tough race in the 200 freestyle to Bloomfield Hills Andover swimmer Steve Pancratz. Pancratz finished in 1:41.50, Tumey in 1:42.87. It would have been cruel for Tumey to let that loss affect his performance in the butterfly.

"It's very difficult for a swimmer to compete in two very different strokes like that," Balogh said. "It would have been different if Mike won the 200 and 500 freestyle. That's a lot of swimming but it's the same stroke. But with two different strokes you taper differently."

IF TUMEY was shaken by the second-place finish in the 200 free, it never showed.

"I wasn't real disappointed," Tumey said. "Steve swam a real good race. But I was mostly concentrating on the fly. I was seeded No. 2 going into it, so I wasn't under any great

pressure. Actually, I felt confident. Sometimes you get a feeling and I felt real good. I felt good in the water, too. I wanted to go 50.7 and break the state record, but that didn't happen."

Several area coaches who witnessed Tumey's swim — namely Livonia Stevenson coach Doug Buckler and Plymouth Salem coach Chuck Olson — said that Tumey would have broken the record had he swam at a larger pool.

Tumey just laughed. "A lot of people told me that," he said. "What can I do?"

What he has done is set his sights on the U.S.S. Junior National Swim Meet, which takes place in two weeks in Orlando, Fla. He'll be gunning for both a national title and all-America honors.

"My coaches don't think I've tapered out fully yet," Tumey said. "I think my best times are still to come."

That should make the folks at Auburn University, Eastern Michigan University and Oakland University happy. One of those three schools will likely house Tumey and his swim skills for the next four years.

CC gets 6th

Observerland produced two individual state champions at Saturday's state Class A swim meet at East Lansing.

North Farmington's Mike Tumey won the 100-yard butterfly in 51.11 and Redford Catholic Central's John Kovach won the 100 freestyle in 49.91.

Tumey also posted a second-place finish in the 200 freestyle (1:42.87). Kovach was fourth in the 200 free (1:43.48). Kovach also anchored CC's fourth-place 400 freestyle relay, teaming with Jon Teal, Matt Heyburn and Dan Cetnar on a 3:14.46.

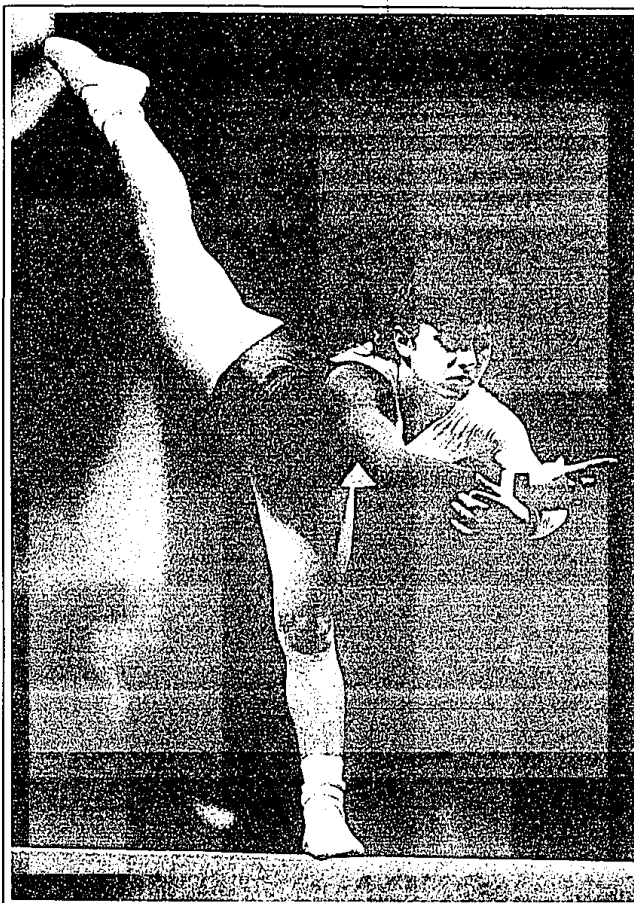
CC earned the area's highest team ranking: sixth with 49 points. North Farmington and Livonia Stevenson placed in a tie for 12th place. Westland John Glenn placed in a tie for 29th place and Plymouth Salem placed 33rd.

Joe Saunders from Livonia Stevenson grabbed a third place in the 100 butterfly (51.80).

For complete results, see the Observer statistics page.

IN THE CLASS B state meet at Eastern Michigan University, Redford Thurston's Dan Hayse turned a superb performance in the 100 butterfly. He swam a 52.88 and took third.

Farmington Harrison's Scott Farabee swam a 54.12 in the butterfly and took sixth. Farabee was eighth in the 500 freestyle (4:53.8).



CAMILLE MCCOYSTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lucine Toroyan helped North Farmington qualify for the state meet by scoring a third-

best 35.50 all-around at the regional meet Saturday.

REGIONAL GYMNASTICS
RESULTS AT TROY ATHENS

TEAM RESULTS: 1. Troy Athens, 138.20; 2. North Farmington, 137.25; 3. Troy, 131.35; 4. Fraser, 128.90; 5. Grose Pointe North, 128.40; 6. Royal Oak Dondoro, 125.30; 7. Dearborn, 125.20; 8. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 124.05; 9. Royal Oak Kimball, 122.75; 10. Edsel Ford, 121.45; 11. Rochester Adams, 120.25; 12. Birmingham Seahorn, 119.60; 13. Farmington, 118.75.

VAULT: 1. Natalie Leich (Athens), 8.4; 2. Jennifer Dube (North), 8.35; 3. Melissa Miller (Athens), 8.2; 4. Kim Heller (NF), 8.2; 5. Jill Boardman (North), 8.1; 6. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.05; 7. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.0; 8. Janice Grefl (Athens), 8.0; 9. Jenny Wiles (Troy), 8.0; 10. Yuskowicz (NF), Jacqueline Day (Farmington), Jennifer Kestel (Dondoro), 8.0.

gymnastics

BARS: 1. Jennifer Dube (North), 8.25; 2. Melissa Miller (Athens), 8.2; 3. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.2; 4. Natalie Leich (NF), 8.1; 5. Kim Heller (NF), 8.05; 6. Jill Boardman (North), 8.0; 7. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.0; 8. Janice Grefl (Athens), 8.0; 9. Jenny Wiles (Troy), 8.0; 10. Yuskowicz (NF), 8.0; 11. Jacqueline Day (Farmington), Jennifer Kestel (Dondoro), 8.0.

BEAM: 1. Jennifer Dube (North), 8.05; 2. Melissa Miller (Athens), 8.0; 3. Kim Heller (NF), 8.0; 4. Tiffany Kneass (Athens), 7.95; 5. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 7.9; 6. Jill Boardman (North), 7.85; 7. Nicole Conner (Kimball), 7.8; 8. Jenny Wiles (Troy), 7.8; 9. Sharon Counts (Fraser), 7.8.

Counts (Fraser), 8.2; 10. Janice Grefl (Athens), 8.15.

FLOOR: 1. Jennifer Dube (North), 8.25; 2. Melissa Miller (Athens), 8.2; 3. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.2; 4. Kara Karhu (NF), 8.2; 5. Natalie Leich (NF), 8.15; 6. Kim Heller (NF), 8.1; 7. Kim Trever (Lahser), 8.05; 8. Jill Boardman (North), 8.0; 9. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 8.0; 10. Heather McGaughey (Dondoro), 8.0; 11. Kristi Cole (Troy), 8.0.

ALL-AROUND: 1. Jennifer Dube (North), 36.75; 2. Melissa Miller (Athens), 35.50; 3. Lucine Toroyan (NF), 35.50; 4. Natalie Leich (Athens), 35.05; 5. Kim Heller (NF), 34.95; 6. Kim Trever (Lahser), 34.45; 7. Jill Boardman (North), 33.90; 8. Sharon Counts (Fraser), 33.65; 9. Heather McGaughey (Dondoro), 33.55; 10. Janice Grefl (Athens), 33.40.

North escapes regional

By Jim Toth
staff writer

Troy Athens High School hosted two gymnastics regionals Saturday afternoon — one for state qualifiers and one for the rest of the pack.

The host Red Hawks and state-ranked North Farmington ran away from the field as they finished first and second, respectively, to qualify for this weekend's state meet. Athens finished with a score of 138.20 while North Farmington tallied 137.25.

Athens, ranked No. 1 in Class A, and North Farmington, ranked in the top five, will join other state qualifiers Jackson County Western, Plymouth Salem, Free-land, Midland Dow, Rockford and defending state champion Holland in team competition Friday at Grand Rapids Creston High School at 6 p.m. Individual competition will take place Saturday at 1 p.m.

"This is going to be the first time in a long time that an Athens team is going to the state meet and the girls are ready," beamed an enthusiastic Athens coach Frank DiVito. "We want to erase last year from our minds and do the best job we can."

"THIS GAVE us a lot of momentum even though we came in second," North Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said. "The girls are really pumped up. We have as good a shot as anybody. At least the girls know if they hit, they have a shot at it, and that is important."

Both the Red Hawks and Raiders did a lot of hitting in regionals as they finished comfortably ahead of their competitors. Troy earned third place with a score of 131.35. Fraser was fourth at 128.90 and Grose Pointe North rounded out the top five with 126.40. The remaining order of finish was Royal Oak Dondoro (125.30), Dearborn High (125.20), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (124.05), Royal Oak Kimball (122.75), Edsel Ford (121.45), Rochester Adams (120.25), Birmingham Seahorn (119.60) and Farmington (118.75).

Four of the top five all-around scores belonged to Athens and North Farmington gymnasts. The only non-Red Hawk or non-Raider was Jennifer Dube of Grose Pointe North.

Dube won the all-around competition with a score of 36.75. Her totals included a 9.25 to win on bars, an 8.85 to win on beam, a 9.30 to win on floor and a 9.35 to finish second on vault.

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Stingray's No. 1
Local club wins short-course title

It's taken a few years — 23 to be precise — but the Farmington-based Michigan Stingrays swim team has reached its ultimate goal: a state championship.

The Stingrays girls did it, thanks to a superb performance by Linda Goldstein in the 11-12-year-old division. The Stingrays amassed 1,463 points to easily better the total of runner-up Royal Oak Penguins (1,061) in the U.S.S.M. short-course state championship March 6-8 at Oakland Community College.

The Livonia Spartans placed third (906), followed by Livonia Clarenceville (829) and Grose Pointe (667). Thirty-nine state teams and 445 swimmers competed, but few had the kind of meet Goldstein had. The West Bloomfield native won six events, setting new state records in three.

GOLDSTEIN's record swim was in the 500-yard freestyle, 3:08.45 (old record, 3:12.25 by Casey Fellath of Dearborn Swim Club); the 200 free, 1:57.14 (old record, 1:57.43 by Fellath); and the 200 individual medley, 2:12.59 (old record, 2:13.60 by Andrea Martin of Dearborn SC).

swimming

Goldstein also captured the 100 backstroke (1:02.47), the 100 free (55.28), and the 100 IM (1:03.28). Her performance earned her the individual high-point award for her division.

Although Goldstein was exceptional, she wasn't the only reason for the Stingrays' victory, their first state title. The team won the age group high-point awards in the 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18-year-old divisions and had nine other firsts besides Goldstein's — three in individual events and six in relays.

In the 13-14 group, Mary Mulbarger qualified for the national junior meet with a first in the 200 breaststroke (2:27.31). Kerry Doran won the 400 IM (4:43.44) and Karrie Krantz, Rachel Zoble, Mulbarger and Doran combined for a first in the 400 medley relay (4:16.08).

IN THE 15-18 division, three relay teams won for the Stingrays, one in a record time. Roberta Orr, Cindy

Cramer, Alissa Gowing and Kelly Sheridan shattered the 400 medley relay record, winning in 4:08.44 (old record, 4:09.59 by Greater Grand Rapids SC).

Laurie Oswald, Cramer, Amy Menelliey and Gowing also were best in the 800 free relay (8:00.24), and Cramer, Menelliey, Gowing and Sheridan captured the 400 free relay (3:41.39).

Jenny Morton was an individual winner for the Stingrays in the 17-18 division, taking the 1,650 free (17:59.59). Morton also teamed with Jennifer Cramer, Margie Cramer and Minnie Gupta for a first in the 800 free relay (8:03.74).

Margie Cramer, Catherine Tucker, Susie Knipper and Gupta combined for another first in the 400 free relay (3:42.20).

The Stingrays' boys squad will attempt to duplicate the girls' accomplishment in the U.S.S.M. boys short-course state championship meet, which is Friday through Sunday at OOC. Stingray national qualifiers from both teams will travel to Orlando, Fla., for the junior nationals March 30-April 4.

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