Salem swimmers prevail in relay meet

swimming

WESTERN LAKES
BOYS SWIM RELAYS
Saturday at Plymouth Salem

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth Salem, 240 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 198; 3. Plymouth Canton, 197; 4. North Farmington, 171; 5. Northville, 169; 6. Westland John Glenn, 166; 7. Livonia Churchill, 147; 8. Farmington Harrison, 138; 9. Livonia Franklin, 125; 10. Farmington, 116.

FINAL RELAY RESULTS

400-yard medley: 1. Stevenson (Mark Gergley, Brian Cantoni, Joe Saunders and Dwayne Flippo), 3:50.82 (meet record); 2. Salem, 4:00.42; 3. Canton, 4:00.71; 4. Northville, 4:04.94; 5. N. Farmington, 4:27.04; 6. John Glenn, 4:28.8.

400 freestyle: 1. Salem (John Irvine, Jeff Musson, Ron Orris and Mike Hill), 3:25.27; 2. Harrison, 3:27.1; 3. Stevenson, 3:29.35; 4. Canton, 3:35.53; 5. John Glenn, 3:36.3; 6. Northville, 3:43.90.

200 breaststroke: 1. N. Farmington (Dan Knipper, Steve Turney, Eric Maxon and Jamie Greenstein), 2:04.34; 2. Franklin, 2:08.18; 3. Salem, 2:09.96; 4. Farmington, 2:10.47; 5. Harrison, 2:12.09; 6. Northville, 2:18.53.

200 backstroke: 1. Canton (Jim Riemenschneider, Steve Geddes, Jim Hartnett and Scott Swartzwelter), 1:51.35; 2. Farmington, 1:53.23; 3. Salem, 1:55.56; 4. Churchill, 1:56.35; 5. Franklin, 2:01.48; 6. John Glenn, 2:02.07.

200 butterfly: 1. Stevenson (Greg Jubenville, Joe Saunders, Tiki Caranicolas and Joe Petrillo), 1:46.75; 2. Salem, 1:47.94; 3. N. Farmington, 1:50.78; 4. Canton, 1:51.21; 5. John Glenn, 1:53.22; 6. Northville, 1:55.87.

Diving: 1. John Glenn (Mark Miller and Joe Bush), 444.50 points (meet record); 2. Northville, 386.90; 3. Salem, 378.30; 4. Churchill, 330.85; 5. Stevenson, 325.75; 6. Canton, 324.15.

400 individual medley: 1. Northville (Eric Newton, Andy Valaskas, Andy Wayne and John Warner), 4:03.94; 2. Stevenson, 4:07.15; 3. Salem, 4:08.32; 4. Canton, 4:09.09; 5. N. Farmington, 4:10.84; 6. John Glenn, 4:11.09.

Crescendos: 1. Salem (Mike Hill, John Irvine, Jeff Musson and Ron Orris), 4:27.90; 2. Harrison, 4:38.04; 3. Stevenson, 4:38.57; 4. N. Farmington, 4:45.08; 5. Churchill 5:00.84; 6. John Glenn, 5:01.20.

200 medley: 1. Farmington (Scott Hawkins, Brad Moore, Jim Vik and Adam Krause), 1:44.56; 2. Franklin, 1:50.48; 3. Salem, 1:53.06; 4. Canton, 1:55.86; 5. Stevenson, 1:57.12; 6. John Glenn, 2:02.84.

200 freestyle: 1. Northville (Eric Newton, Mike Farquhar, Jeff Higgins and Craig Smith), 1:35.2; 2. Canton, 1:36.81; 3. Churchill, 1:38.13; 4. Salem, 1:39.41; 5. Harrison, 1:39.57; 6. Farmington, 1:49.2.

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Maybe they ought to start calling it the Plymouth Salem Relays instead of the Western Lakes Conference Relays.

For the third straight year the host team ruled again in this important early-season boys meet.

The Rocks, rated No. 8 in Class A by a statewide coaches poll, proved to be solid again in a meet contested by 10 different schools. (See statistical summary)

Coach Chuck Olson's team, scoring 246 points, outdistanced rivals Livonia Stevenson (198) and Plymouth Canton (197) to claim the title.

The all-relay format was also to Salem's liking.

The Rocks won two events, the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:25.27) and the crescendo relay 4:27.99) with the same quartet combining for both victories — John Irvine, Jeff Musson, Mike Hill and Ron Orris.

Salem also added a second in the 400 medley and collected thirds in the 200 breaststroke, 200 backstroke, diving, 400 individual medley and 200 medley.

"WE'RE ALWAYS going to do well at this meet," Olson said. "If you have good numbers and kids that swim at a certain level. But I also think we have quality individuals to do well at the league meet."

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— Chuck Olson
Salem swimming coach

Last year Salem won the Relays, but finished second behind Stevenson in the league meet.

Stevenson, rated No. 10 in Class A, held off Canton for second place by a point.

The Spartans' foursome of Mark Gergley, Brian Cantoni, Joe Saunders and Dwayne Flippo shattered Westland John Glenn's 1985 mark of 3:57.44 in the 400 medley relay by winning the event in 3:50.82. Stevenson also took the 200 butterfly in 1:46.75 as Greg Jubenville, Tiki Caranicolas, Joe Petrillo and Saunders were clocked in 1:46.75.

Canton, meanwhile, missed a chance for second when 22 fourth place points were taken away in the crescendo relays because of a disqualification when a swimmer jumped the start.

"THIS MEET IS made up for depth teams and that's why Salem ran away with it," said Canton coach Hooker Wellman. "Stevenson may be a better league meet team than us right now.

"I'm real pleased with our kids and even though we lost by one in an event where we were disqualified and lost 22 points, that's the way it goes. The same thing happened to Stevenson last year and it cost them the meet."

Canton's lone first was recorded in the 200 backstroke relay as Jim Riemenschneider, Steve Geddes, Jim Hartnett and Scott Swartzwelter were clocked in 1:51.35.

North Farmington, fourth in the team standings with 171 points, captured the 200 breaststroke relay in 2:04.34. The four relay members included Dan Knipper, Steve Turney, Eric Maxon and Jamie Greenstein.

Northville, fifth in the team standings with 169, surprised the 400 medley field by posting the best time competing in the slow heat. The Mustangs also captured the 200 freestyle relay.

Farmington's foursome of Scott Hawkins, Brad Moore and Adam Krause took the 200 medley in 1:48.56.

THE OTHER MEET record was set by Glenn's diving duo of senior Mark Miller and junior Joe Bush, who combined for 444.50 points. Miller, 16th in the state last year, had a top individual total of 231.5. Bush, in only his second year of diving, was awarded 213 points.

But it was Salem's depth that was the determining factor.

"We had a lot of good swims," said Olson. "For us to be rated No. 8 (in the state) is nice for the school and nice for the guys. I've never disagreed with the state rankings before."

And nobody will disagree that the Rocks are solid favorites to win the Western Lakes Conference meet at the end of the year.

"Salem looks awfully strong," said coach Doug Buckler of Stevenson, the conference's defending champions.

Mercy stopped in tourney final

volleyball

It appears the Livonia Stevenson volleyball team is already in mid-season form.

Coach Lee Cagle's team went unbeaten in the Rochester Kiwanis Classic on Saturday, defeating Farmington Hills Mercy, a surprise finalist, 15-10, 15-8.

Sue Zatorski, a 5-foot-10 senior, led the victorious Spartans en route to tournament MVP honors. Also named to the All-Tourney team were Stevenson's Rocky Cibor, along with Mercy's Jennifer Slosar and Kandi Boyle.

"I told the kids that we were going to see bigger and faster teams," Cagle said. "But I told them the best unit will win, the one that functions and plays the best together. I felt very good for the girls."

On the day, Stevenson sported an amazing serving percentage of 84 percent, including 77 aces out of 289 attempts. Zatorski and Cibor had 28 and 22 aces, respectively. Stevenson also racked up 115 kills out of 291 attempts.

"We received served well and we were successful in getting side-out on serve," Cagle said. "Defensively, we played well. We just came ready to play."

THE SPARTANS also got strong contributions from Laura Brown, setter Trish Kosikowski and Jenny Sladewski — all seniors — along with junior Charlene Sudek.

Stevenson opened pool play at Rochester Adams High by defeating Waterford Kettering (15-3, 15-2), Hazel Park (15-4, 15-6), defending champion Birmingham Marian (15-6, 15-8) and Clarkston (15-8, 15-1).

The Spartans then defeated Adams (15-12, 15-3) and Chippewa Valley (15-10, 1-15, 15-1) to reach the finals.

Mercy, which advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-2 record in pool play, upset Marian in the quarterfinals, 15-10, 15-9, and then knocked off Dearborn, 15-10, 15-11, to set up the final match with Stevenson.

The Marlins, in fact, jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the first game against Stevenson, but couldn't hold off the determined Spartans.

"Defensively we missed some assignments and we missed some passes," Mercy coach Tim DeBelsio said. "We were disappointed in the Stevenson match, but overall we're pleased.

"THIS IS THE first time we've gone this far. And we wanted to play well against Marian."

Slosar, the team's top hitter at 6-1, and Boyle, the Marlins' setter, got strong support from Christy Johnson, a back row specialist, outside hitter Meg Pinkerton and frontline hitter Kristin Orlandoni.

"Meg was just consistent all day and Christy never had a bad serve," DeBelsio said. "And Kristin played opposite of Slosar and did a good job.

"I'm looking forward to a good year."

Eagles soar past Northwood team

basketball

It didn't look good. With 5:42 left in the first half, St. Mary's College trailed Northwood Institute by 13 points in an important NAIA District 23 mens basketball game at Dombrowski Fieldhouse.

Then came the streak. It lasted until the end of the half, and it put the Eagles in a dominating position as they soared to a 109-99 victory Monday.

Northwood was up 47-34 before the St. Mary's rally. From that point until the intermission, the Eagles outpointed the Northmen 30-8 to go ahead 64-55. The closest Northwood got in the second half was four.

The victory was important for St. Mary's, now 8-6, because "it moved us up from fifth place to third in the NAIA (District 23) standings," said coach Glen Donahue. "And we're close to second. That's our goal, to make the NAIA playoffs.

"We're getting better. The goal of every coach is to have your team improve as the season progresses, and we are."

ONE MAJOR contributing factor to the victory was St. Mary's dominance on the boards. The Eagles outrebounded Northwood 50-35, with Mike Belczak getting 13 and Jerome Washburn 12.

Six players reached double figures in scoring for St. Mary's, led by James Curtis' 23 points. Washburn had 14, James Butcher and Greg Spraggins scored 12 apiece, and Belczak and Denny Butcher contributed 10 each.

Northwood was led by James Simmons with 24 and Fred Ashe with 22.

St. Mary's next plays in a Christmas Tournament in Holland, opening against Illinois Benedictine. Grand Rapids Baptist plays Hope College in Tuesday's other first-round game. The consolation and championship games are Wednesday.

OCC women stay perfect

With four players reaching double-figures in scoring, it was easy for Oakland Community College's women's basketball team to keep its record perfect after 12 games Saturday against Adrian's junior varsity.

The final score favored OCC 74-43. It was just as lopsided at halftime, with the Lady Raiders up 46-16.

Ranked 16th in last week's national poll, OCC got 14 points from Shelley Duncan, 12 from Michelle Taulbee and 10 apiece from Kristi Lyons and Lisa Kline. Center Regina Woodard, from Bloomfield Hills Lahser, played less than half the game but still pulled down a team-high 12 rebounds. Woodard scored six points.

Julie Schaelder netted seven points for Adrian's JV (1-5).

The 12-0 Lady Raiders are now idle until Jan. 6, when they host St. Clair.

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