## Confidence is swimmer's main asset

In a sport like swimming, self-confidence is imperative. Barriers must be broken, and unlike other racing sports — like track — a swimmer must overcome his obstacles blindly. He cannot see opponents, there's no way for him to gauge his speed. He is almost completely cut off from the rest of the world as he struggles against water and watch. Which is why coo is no essential. If

against water and wateh.
Which is why ego Is so essential. If you don't believe you can accomplish something, you probably won't. It's what a pale of Redford Catholic Central graduates, now competing for Oakland University, relied on at last week's NCAA Division II men's swimming champlonships in Buffalo.

"No one can beat me in the 100," said sophomore Jim Surowiec. "No one except Vender(Mey). He always kicks my butt."
Surowiec, from Farmington Hills, was talking about "his" event, the 100-yard breaststrick. And he was right. In Thursday's finals, he trimmed nearly half a second off his previous best and finished second—right behind teammate Mark VanderMey, as predicted.

WHILE SUROWIEC'S confidence is open and direct, John Kovach's is more unexpressed. But his determination is plainly evident.
Kovach, a freshman from Garden City, stands 5-foot-10 and weighs 150. But when OU needed a big performance in the 800 free relay Thursday, he came through with his

#### swimming

best 200 free swim of the season.

His 1:42.39 split was his fastest clocking of the season. OU upset favorite California State-Bakersfield and finished first in the event, not only giving the Ploneers needed points in their pursuit of a title, but

points in their pursuit of a title, but momentum.

"What I had to do was stay with their second swimmer," said Ko-vach. He did lose some time as Bakersited's Mark Wich's finished his leg in 141.52, but he kept close enough to give teammates Erik Strom and Hilton Woods a chance, which they cashed in on.

Kovach was more noticeable afterwards as the first-place awards were presented. His three teamates thereed over alim — Strom at 6-6, and Woods and VanderMey at 6-

"Yeah, it bothers me some," the average-sized Kovach, the Class A champion at last year's state meet in the 100 free, admitted. "I hear about it a lot."

BUT HIS TEAMMATES can't tease him about his performance. Koze him about his performance. It is a second point for CU by finishing ainth in the 200 butterfly in 1935,5, and a strong swim in the reliminaries earned him a spot on the 400 free relay. It was a gostlion he treasured, despite the pressure. Entering Friday's prelims, the Pioneers still had a shot

at a team title. The 400 free relay, the meet's last event, might have been decisive.

It didn't bother Kovach. "I'd rather be on the relay than be watching," he said.

For Surowice, pressure came in different form. Injury and illness had plagued him in prior seasons, often at the most inopportune times. But a special health food diet produced positive results.

"I haven't been sick all year," he said. It showed in his performance. "My season was weird. I was going slow, not really doing well. Then I tapered and went to the Eastern hichigan Invitational (Dec. 4-5). My best time in the 100 breast before was \$8.8, and I went \$7.2.





### Raiders return to state

North Farmington persevered in regional competition Saturday and carned a return trip to teate gymnastics meet.

The Raiders, who were runners-up last year, will take part in the team competition at 6 p.m. Friday at Plymouth Canton High School.

North, which edged Rochester Adams for third place in the Grosse Pointe South regional Saturday, advanced along with state-ranked power Troy Athens and Troy.

Athens scored 139.45, the second-place Colts 134.2, North 130.7 and Adams 129.4. The top three camps from each of the four regionals qualifed for the state meet instead of the top two as in previous years.

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The Raiders, who recently captured their 11th consecutive league title, weren't assured of the trip to state until the last event, the balance beam, was concluded.

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BUT THE FOUR gymnasts representing North scored above 8.0 to put the Raiders over the top. Nicky Yuskowait scored 8.5, Rits Dunn 8.4, The State of the Raiders over the top. Ricky Yuskowait scored 8.5, Rits Dunn 8.4, The State of the Raiders over the Raiders managed to make the grade as a team.

### gymnastics

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North gymnastics coach

"That tells me we're pretty well-balanced," Dwyer said. "We have four decent scorers in each event instead of one girl who is head and shoulders above the rest. We're solid in that respect." The Raiders are capable of hitting higher scores, but the chance to compete again at state affords them a second chance. Dwyer added. Kristen Srutarski was North's top scorer on the uneven bars (8.4), and Hauptman was the best on floor exercise (8.8) and vault (8.3).

REPEATING ITS second-place finish of a year age could be difficult for North to do since there are a handful of teams capable of scoring around 140. Such powers as Traverse City, Holland, Freeland and Midland Dow will be there, too.

"One of our biggest goals was to make it to state, and we'll try to make our best showing."

Dwyer sald. "But some teams are almost untouchable.

"Of the 12 teams at state, I'd like to finish near the middle of the pack. These girls have really surprised me; I didn't know if we would make it to state."

In addition to Yuskowatz, Farmington High's Jackie Daly also qualified for state as an indival, taking seventh place in floor exercise (8.7).

Daly, a junior, will make her first visit to the state meet after she missed going by one place on the vault the last two years.

"I thought she had a better chance of qualifying in vault and beam, because she won both at the league meet," Farmington coach Mary Beth Schornhorts said, "She does a real nice floor routine; I just didn't think she would go in that event.

"SHE WANTS TO add some new tricks and go all out for it. She's looking forward to the experi-ence of competing in the state meet."

Daly also had Farmington's top score on the vault (8.4). Two other juniors, Julie Lawton and Amber Arbuckle, rose from No. 3 status in other events to record the top scores on bars and beam, respectively.

events to record the top scores on bars and beam, respectively. Lawton added new tricks to her routine and got her highest score (7.75) of the season, and Arbuckle had a no-fall performance to score 8.15 on beam.

The Falcons achieved their highest team score with a 122.05 in the regional at GP South but finished out of the running for a berth in the state team meet.



# Marlin tourney run stopped in regional

An all-Catholic League final in the Class A state volleyball tournament was ruled out. Saturday when Temperance Bedford stopped Farmington Hills Mercy in the regional at Temperance Bedford stopped Farmington Hills Mercy in the regional championship match by beating Ann Arbo Plonce 11-8, 15-9, but Temperance Bedford put the brakes on Mercy's post-season journey with a pair of 15-9 victories.

Livonia Ladywood, the Marlins' chief rival in the Central Division and the team that defeated Mercy in the league final, won the regional at Lansing Waverly and will oppose Lake Orion in the state semilinals sturday at Plint Carman-Anisworth High School.

Bedford, which eliminated the

High School.

Bedford, which eliminated the possibility of a Blazer-Marlin rematch, plays Sterling Heights Stevenson at 1 p.m. Saturday. The final is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

"It was a great year," sald second-year Mercy coach Tim DeBellso, whose team finished with a 33-8 record after going 9-14 a year ago.

"TO GET TO the Catholic League final, to be district champs, to play in the regional final, to be ranked No. 5 in the state, those are things most volleyball teams never accom-plish."

The Marlins were never behind against Pioneer, but Mercy didn't have an easy time of it. The Pioneers played well on defense, either block-ing or keeping many Marlin spikes in

ing or account many amount how hard we had to work to get those 18 points," Debelise said. "Pioneer made a lot of railles and caused us to continue transitioning into our of-

### <u>volleyball</u>

BTATE TOURNAMENT pionatile Rissi (c.30 p.m. 2 CLASS 8 et Corumn Righ School Insic Rection States (Sorges vs. Heights Dishop (Sorges vs. Heights Dishop (Sorges vs. A Princonnia, 11:30 s.m.

The Mariins advanced to the regional çhampionship match by beating Ann Arbor Pioneer 15-8, 15-9. Temperance Bedford stopped Mercy's postseason journey with a pair of 15-6 victories.

pair of 15-8 victories.

An indication of the opponent's defense was the number of kills the
Marlins had in comparison to their
total attempts. Mercy had 63
attacks, which resulted in 18 kills.

The Marlins, however, managed to
teep their offense going despite
being pressured by the thwarted attempts. Is so doing, Mercy also kept
the pressure on the Pioneer defense.
JENNIFER SLOSAR had four
kills in 23 attacks for the Marlins,
Kristin Orlandom was 4-0-19, Meg
Pinkerton 1-0f-15 and Jennifer Goff
2-0f-13.

behind the serving of Kristy Johnson, who had 14 serves, one are and no

who had 14 serves, one ace and no retrors.

Slosar also served four aces and Orlandoni three, and Lynn Elliott led a solid defensive effort in the Mercy back row, Debellos said.

When the Marlins' lead got to around 12-8 in each game, Ploneer used timeouts to try to halt Mercy's momentum. But the strategy was unsuccessful as the Marlins held delir ground defensively and gradually finished out the victories. Mercy ren into a "buzzsaw" in the final against Bedford, DeBeliss said. The Miles established themselves early by taking a quick, 7-1 lead. The Mercy within 85-00 iy to have Bedford pull away again to win tirst game.

isediors but away again to win the first game.

When the score reached 8-5, the Mercy offense provided three good sets, but the Marlins failed to get a solid hit off any of the opportunities. Two went into the net and the other out of bounds.

"THEY HIT THE ball hard against us, blocked well against our hitters and played very well in the back row," said OpeBiss, who was impressed with Bedford's sophomes setter, Terry Sudek. "Every ball they passed up defensively, abe got to and set it with accuracy."

The Mules also ran a lot of players and quick-set the ball in the middle, DoBeliso said. That tended to freeze Mercy's blockers and prevented the Marlins from double blocking.

vented the manimal blocking.
"That made it real tough on our back-row people," he said, "We weren't able to get the ball to Jenniler because of where the passes soing."

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