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## Relay win casts Canton as favorite

By Dan O'Meara

As an aspiring champion in girls swimming. Plymouth Canton has more than just talent going for it.

The Chiefs also have history on their side after winning the annual Western Lakes Activities Association Swimming and Diving Relays Saturday.

Since the league was organized in the early 80s, the winner of this canton services on mere has never falled to

ly-season meet has never falled to capture the WLAA crown in Novem-

capture the WLAA Crown in coronic ber.

"I'd like it if it works out that way," said Canton coach Hooker Wellman, who obviously was thrilled to win the relays but not ready to assume anything else.

"Northville was fifth, and they have as good a shot at the league meet as anybody. You look at Churchill's lineup, and you don't see how they can lose the league meet."

THE CHIEFS, placing no lower than fourth in any event, rolled up 242 points to hold off Churchill, which made an impressive showing with a 221 total.

with a 221 total.

Defending champion North Farmington was third (218). Plymouth Satem, which was cighth in the final tally last year, looks like a true chalcager with its fourth-place finish (210).

Northville, rated No. 9 in the state, followed with 208 points, and perennial power Livonia Stevenson was sixth (152).

"I was surprised with some of our "I was surprised with some of our surprised with surprised with

was sixth (152).
"I was surprised with some of our swins," said Churchill coach Lavencee Hein after watching the Chargers set a meet record in the Clooy-and recestyle. "Our goal was to get into the top four.
"I thought Northville would finish higher, but Plymouth Canton rolled away with it."

away with it."

The Chiefs won only one event but relied on depth and balance to achieve their first victory in the re-

lays.
Canton's lone first came in the 400 individual medicy, with Kristy Bru-gar, Jean McLenaghan, Janet Rob-erts and Cassic Cummins finishing 10 seconds ahead of Salem's team at 4:31.86.

EVEN BEFORE that, the Chiefs were well on their way. They opened with a third in the 400 medley and, with remarkable consistency, had live straight seconds in the 400 free-style, 200 breaststroke, 200 butterfly and diving. "I wanted to make the relays fast, but I wanted to make the relays fast, but I wanted to make all of them

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swimming

## Mercy has 2 qualifiers in Class A

Farmington Hills Mercy's girls swimming team defeated box swimming team defeated box swimming team defeated box swimming team defeated box for the 11 events but recorded two state-qualifying times. Individually, Becky Wiguist qualified in the 500-yard free-style, winning the event in 524.05. The 200 medley relay team of Katie Westhoff, Katie Westhoff, Katie Westhoff, Katie DeMattla and Mary Quinn was outdone by Seabolins foursome, but its time of 1:58.17 was good enough to qualify for the state mer. Wiquist also chilmed first in the 200 free, clocking 2:02.5. Karen Neyer Inished the 50 free in 26.28, and Westhoff clocked 1:05.61 in the 100 backstroke to capture Mercy's other titles.

fast," Wellman said. "I didn't want to have one weak relay. "This is my eighth year of coach-ing, and it's taken this long to learn how to set up a lineup for that kind of meet."

of meet."

After winning the IM, the Chlefs finished strong with third place in the 500 crescendo — a combination of various freestyle lengths — fourth in the 200 medley and third in the 200 freestyle.

200 freestyle.

Weilman added it helps to have the personnel to be able to do what Canton did. With 40 glrls on the team as opposed to 23 last year, he had more people from which to select his relay lineups.

The Chiefs used 22 athletes, including a handful of the team's 15 freshmen, and nobody competed in more than two events.

"When I got there and looked at the times, I saw we were sitting in the best position, because we were seeded no lower than fifth," Well-man said.

this season."

Brugar also was part of the breaststroke foursome, Cummins the 400 medley team. Drake's contributions were made in the 400 free and

tions were made in the 400 free and crescendo.

"(Brugar) has come into her own, and she's become more versatile than I ever thought she would,"
Wellman said. "When we need a depth person, I can count on her to be there.

"I can count on (Cummins and

"I can count on (Cummins and Drake) to do anything, and it's nice to have people like that on the team."

SENIOR CAPTAINS Sarah Schmiltz and McLonaghan swam two events as did Kelly Rische, Val Glidhaus, Rence Defiell, Cheri Woodward, Kristin Moore, Nichole Mortresor, Roberts, Erica Carson, Beth Yack and Tami Santomauro. "It's taken time to build a good swimming program." Wellman said, "and it's starting to come through. I thought the kids handled the pressure well."

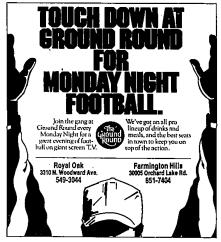
are well."

Ah, the pressure. That was some-thing the coach, often woral and emotional at important the Chief sacured the role of frontrunners.

"Holf way through I was my usu-nervous self." Wellman sald. "After the diving I calmed down.
"I told one of the coaches I liked it before when we were the underdog

We've been in position before to We've been in position before to the position of the position of the omnohing the way afraid of the position of the position of the defendance of the position of the defendance of the position of the position of the position of the myself enjoy it, it was real strill." Despite winning four events, Northville couldn't match Canton's balance. North wen two events, the

Five meet records fell, Northville setting three in the butterfly, diving and 200 medley, Churchill's Barb Turner, Michelle Gallinde, Eilen Lessig and Jeniler Danner swam 149.89 in the 200 free, and North's Amy Dutte, Christie Dublie, Kerry Doran and Laurie Gowald set the new standard of 451.8 in the crescends.



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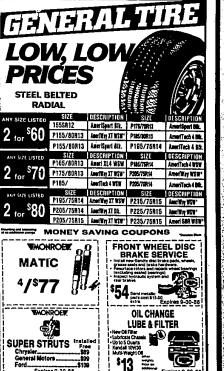
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