



Catholic Central's 400-yard freestyle relay team of (left to right) Jim Kovach, Troy Shumate, Alan Afari and Mike Hoeflein had the second-best time among Observerland teams at 3:18.03. The Shamrocks were recorded at an at-large berth on the 1989 all-area squad.

Top teams provide most all-area picks

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

PLYMOUTH SALEM had Observerland's best swimmer in junior Ron Orris, but there wasn't much distance between the Rocks and neighboring Plymouth Canton in the quality of their teams.

In fact, the Chiefs, runners-up to Salem in the 1989 All-Observerland Activities Association meet, placed three swimmers on the 1989 All-Observerland team.

The Rocks, who finished seventh at the Class A meet, have two first-team members, headlined by Orris in the 200-yard individual medley. Canton's medley relay team was the area's best while Salem had the top freestyle relay.

Of course, Orris could have been the first-team choice in most individual events, but swimmers are only allowed to be named in one. Orris, Mark Paplerski (Livonia Churchill), Troy Shumate (Redford Catholic Central), and Jeff Homan (Canton) are repeat selections.

Salem coach Chuck Olson was named Observerland coach of the year after leading the Rocks to their second straight WLA A title. Salem was 9-2 in dual meets.

ALL-OBSERVERLAND FIRST TEAM

200-yard medley relay: Jim Hartnett, Jeff Homan, Bryce Anderson and Mitch Timberlake, Plymouth Canton; The quartet had the area's best time and set a very tight record, clocking 1:41.08 for 12th place at the state meet. With Scott Swartzwelder on the team instead of Hartnett, Canton was first at the WLA A meet.

"All four of these guys had great seasons this year," Coach Hooker Wellman said. "The three seniors (Hartnett, Homan and Timberlake) will be very difficult to replace as swimmers and good people."

200-yard freestyle: Mike Hill, senior, Salem; Hill was a state qualifier in four events, and he was the WLA A champion in the 200- and 100-yard freestyle events.

Hill also was a member of the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams, both of which broke Salem school records. He finished ninth in the 100 freestyle at the state meet and swam a leg in the freestyle relay team that took third at state. He was a team captain.

"Mike has been one of the top freestylers in the area and state," Olson said. "He showed teammates and opponents the attitude that 'Salem swimmers don't get beat.'"

200 individual medley: Ron Orris, junior, Salem; Orris has one year of eligibility remaining and already he holds school records in seven events.

Orris is a nine-time WLA A individual champion, and he qualified in every individual event for the state meet. His best 200 IM time was 1:54.02. His other records are 1:40.44, 200 freestyle; 2:18.00, 50 freestyle; 51.27, butterfly; 47.65, 100 freestyle; 4:43.02, 500 freestyle; 1:00.11, breaststroke.

He was an at-large selection in the 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly and 400 freestyle relay. All this and he's a 3.85 student, too.

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boys track

for excellent long-distance runners, and that won't change this year. Young's cross country team captured its fifth straight Western Lakes Activities Association title last fall, and the track team will benefit from that success.

Seniors Brad Moore and Paul Brandt, juniors Greg Endres, Matt Langdon and Gene Tokras and sophomores Ben Goba and Steve Walter make the distance events Farmington's strength.

Moore and Goba finished 11th and 12th, respectively, in the Class A cross country meet last fall and will concentrate on the 3,200-meter run in track. Brandt, Endres, Tokras and Langdon will run the 1,600 and

Walter, Endres and Langdon the 800. Ryan Adams, one of 25 freshmen on the 60-man squad, could be a surprise in the long runs, Young said. The abundance of good half-milers also means the Falcons can put together a solid 3,200 relay team, he added.

Junior Jason Gutting is Farmington's top man in the field events, specializing in the shot put and discus. The Falcons should be pretty strong in those events, Young said, with senior Matt Jones backing up Gutting.

"If we've got a kid who's going to pop into the limelight, it's Gutting," he said. "He's gone to a couple in-door meets and looked pretty decent."

Farmington is quiet green in the sprints and hurdles. Senior Lamont Harbige and junior Dave Wipsey are good sprinters, but the Falcons don't

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Stingrays surge, capture state title

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The Michigan Stingrays had a definite objective heading into the state short-course swim championships: catch Birmingham-Bloomfield Atlanta.

The Stingrays gradually erased a deficit during the three-day meet to accomplish their mission and repeat as the state's best AAU team.

"Knowing we were behind by 300 points, the older kids looked on this as a challenge," coach Peter Leonhardt said. "Our team really came together and outperformed everybody else."

The Stingrays, who trailed BBA by 309 points heading into the 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18 finals, finished with 2,025 while runner-up Atlanta had 1,709. The Royal Oak Penguins were third with 1,514.

The Stingrays captured the overall girls title two years ago, the girls and boys championships last year and now the overall title from the first meet in which the boys and girls scores were combined.

"We have some really hard-working, enthusiastic kids who have a lot of pride in the program, and I think it showed this weekend," Leonhardt said. "They're already talking about getting fired up for the long-course season."

THE STINGRAYS will be host for the long-course summer championships during the first week of August.

Kerry Doran played a big role in making the Farmington Hills-based team's comeback possible. The North Farmington student won four individual state titles in the 15-16 girls competition. Her victories came in the 200-yard breaststroke, 200 butterfly, 200 individual medley and 200 freestyle.

Eric Howlands also won the 100 freestyle to help the Stingrays capture the 15-16 girls title and contribute 377 points to the team total.

swimming

Kara Goetz was second in six distance freestyle races.

"I think the key to us winning the meet was the number of points our girls did score," Leonhardt said. "And our guys came through and really swam well. Combine all of that and we have our state championship team."

BBA had its share of individual standouts, the foremost of whom was Raffi Karapetian, who set two state records and won five of six events in the 13-14 boys division.

Karapetian swam 21.73 in the 50 freestyle to break the record of 21.93 set by Mark Loveland of Ann Arbor. He also achieved his junior national qualifying time.

In the 100 freestyle, Karapetian went 48.01 to eclipse former Stingrays swimmer Scott Christie's mark of 48.02. His other victories came in the 200 IM (2:02.10), 100 butterfly (54.30) and 100 breaststroke (1:01.89).

"HE HAD A tremendous meet," BBA coach Bob Jenrow said. "He swam out of his mind in every event he swam."

"I feel he's on the verge of breaking onto the national scene as one of the truly gifted swimmers in the country," he added.

"He's only been swimming competitively for two or three years and he's excelled so quickly that others are going to sit up and take note."

Karapetian, who was second in the 200 breaststroke, didn't stop there, however. He helped the Atlanta 400 freestyle relay team set a state record, too.

The foursome of Karapetian, Eric Matuzak, Mike O'Hara and Kevin Hafner won the race in 3:22.40, breaking the record also owned by the BBA of 3:22.41.

The Stingrays fared well in 15-16 boys, also. They came close to winning that age group with David Notarius (distance freestyle and butterfly), Danny Knipper (100 and 200 breaststroke) and Eric Newton (400 IM and middle distance freestyle) having good meets.

In the girls 17-18 division, Christie Dublin won the 200 butterfly and 100 freestyle, and Cindy Grush captured the 100 and 200 breaststrokes. Linda Goldstein won the 1,500 freestyle in girls 13-14, and Tom Swaininger took top honors in the 13-14 boys 200 breaststroke.

"I DIDN'T FULLY realize the number of people they had," Jenrow said of the Stingrays. "They had 55 kids at the meet and we had 28 — and some of those were strictly relay swimmers."

"They completely outnumbered us and had a lot of good people in the older age groups. The Stingrays swam real well. I give a lot of credit to them and their coaching staff."

In addition to Karapetian, BBA's Laura Fischer won the girls 17-18 state titles in the 50 and 100 freestyles, and Hafner tied for first in the 13-14 boys 200 freestyle.

Dena Bernstein was second in the 200 butterfly (17-18 girls), Don Perella in the 1,500 freestyle (15-16 boys) and Liz Huckabay in the 100 butterfly (13-14 girls). The medley relay team of Rick Vogler, O'Hara, Karapetian and Hafner was second in boys 13-14, also.

Atlanta had its best state meet in years, winning the boys 13-14 age group championship and taking second in the overall girls and boys point totals.

"The talent we developed several years ago is paying off in the older age groups, and we're continuing to build the younger groups," said Jenrow, who completed his third year as BBA coach. "We're definitely a team on the move, and this year we made great strides."

all-area swimming

1989 ALL-OBSERVERLAND SWIMMING TEAM

200 freestyle: Mike Hill, Salem
200 individual medley: Ron Orris, Salem
50 freestyle: Scott Hawkins, Farmington
diving: Joe Bush, John Glenn
100 butterfly: Bryce Anderson, Canton
100 freestyle: Mike Hoeflein, Canton
500 freestyle: Troy Shumate, Redford CC
100 backstroke: Mark Paplerski, Churchill
100 breaststroke: Jeff Homan, Canton
at-large selection: Carl Johnson, Harrison

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

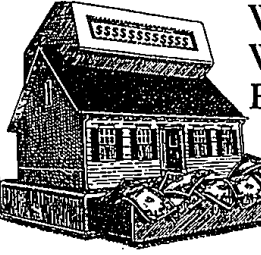
200 medley: Jim Hartnett, Jeff Homan, Bryce Anderson and Mitch Timberlake, Plymouth Canton.
400 freestyle: Mike Hill, Fred Seidelman, Rick Stehmetz and Ron Orris, Plymouth Canton.

AT-LARGE RELAYS

200 medley: Chris Butzlett, Rick Stehmetz, Fred Seidelman and Mike Hill, Plymouth Canton.
400 freestyle: Mike Hoeflein, Jim Kovach, Alan Afari and Troy Shumate, Redford Catholic Central.

HONORABLE MENTION

Danny Knipper (breast, free relay), Steve Turney (breast, free relay), Chuck Chuba (free relay), Chris Knoche (free relay), Rob Kuzman (diving), Jerry Jelle (free relay), North Farmington; Andy Jacobs (diving), Redford CC; Ryan Knoche (diving), Harrison; Brad Flowers (diving), Scott Swartzwelder (medley relay), Canton; Eric Bunch (free relay), Chris Galoa (free relay), Sean Fitzgerald (medley relay), Matt Erickson (medley relay), Salem; Scott Stachurski (diving), Churchill; Aaron Rodier (diving), Mike Gocke, Tony Albert, Steven Son.



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Falcons lack experience of past track/field squads

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The season outlook is less than what Farmington High School is accustomed in boys track and field.

The Falcons, traditionally one of the area's best teams, remain strong in numbers but lack the experienced athletes that have filled the ranks of the Farmington program in past years.

"We're a bigger question mark than we've been in a long time," coach Jerry Young said. "We don't have the front-line kids with proven ability."

"We perceive ourselves to be young and inexperienced. We expect to come along slowly."

"There are a lot of opportunities for kids to come forward, do well, gain recognition and take over for others who've been there," he added.

THE FALCONS have a tradition

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