

Sorrows plays it smart to win CYO softball title

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Our Lady of Sorrows poured cold water on flame-throwing Nicole Williams by winning its first CYO girls softball championship Saturday.

The Saints took advantage of what few mistakes Williams made to defeat Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes 2-0 at Claude Allison Field in Redford.

Williams, who throws the ball 58 mph, allowed only one hit and struck out 10 Sorrows batters, but the five walks she issued proved to be her undoing.

Katie Heffernan received two of those free passes and scored both Sorrows runs on the game's only error and a passed ball.

"We did exactly what we had to do in that situation — get a runner on, get her into scoring position and wait for mistakes," Sorrows coach Dick Miller said.

"We're basically a good hitting team, but against a pitcher like her that's the way you have to do it. We only played two games when we had to do that, because you usually don't see a pitcher who's that dominant."

MILLER ADDED Williams throws harder than most high school pitchers. Amy Edward of Farmington Hills Mercy and Jenny Mayle of Livonia Franklin are the

softball

only varsity pitchers Miller has seen who can compare to Williams, he said.

Each time Heffernan walked she was sacrificed to second by Krista Miller. In the second inning, Heffernan went to third on the play and scored when the Lakers overthrew third base. After taking second in the fourth, back-to-back passed balls brought Heffernan around.

The winning pitcher for Sorrows was Jenny Banish, who also went the distance and allowed four hits. She walked eight and struck out four.

Lakes threatened in nearly every inning, but errorless defense kept the Saints in the game. The Lakers loaded the bases with one out in the fourth and sixth innings without success. In the latter, Banish caught a line drive and threw to first for an inning-ending double play.

With a runner on first and one out in the seventh, the game ended with a grounder to first and another double play when the runner was caught trying to take third.

"The reason we won the game is we made no errors," Miller said. "To only have one error spoke very

highly of the game. That was pretty great."

SORROWS, WHICH lost to eventual champion Dearborn Divine Child in the playoffs last year, finishes with a 17-1 record. Other members of the team are Kara Thomas, Michelle Bohne, Maggie Clinton, Erin Wiehe, Emilie LaBarge, Dawn Green, Kathy Matravich, Ariana Poniatowski and Michelle Falbo.

Miller said he believed his team was ready for Lakes, which suffered its first loss in a 13-1 season, after beating Wyandotte Mount Carmel 17-1 in the semifinals on Thursday. It was 2-1 ballgame until Sorrows got 16 hits in the last two innings.

Miller attributed the Saints' success to long hours and hard work during the last year and the athleticism of his players. Eight play baseball and four are switch hitters.

"These girls dedicated themselves to this at the beginning of last season," Miller said. "Besides using it as a learning experience, we were trying to lay the foundation for this year. And we'll do the same next year."

"We also have tremendous versatility. We only have 11 players, and I did that deliberately to maximize practice time. Everyone played three or four positions, and that kept everyone involved in the game and encouraged them to keep learning the game."

NSSL begins new year with Woodside as champ

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

For the first time in 11 years, a team other than Bloomfield Surf Club won the Northwest Suburban Swim League championship last year.

Woodside Athletic Club stopped the Surf's long reign when it won the annual league meet by seven points over the perennial power (852-645), and it's possible Woodside might be developing a dynasty of its own.

The team was dominated last year by young swimmers who are beginning to fill the upper ranks in 1989. Woodside had only 20 swimmers in the 13-and-up age groups but well over 100 in the younger divisions.

"These younger kids are the growth and future of Woodside," said coach Darin Abbasse after his team won the title. WAC won the B-Under and 11-12 titles and was runner-up in the 15-17 age group.

Furthermore, there has been an infusion of more young swimmers this year.

"With many new faces in our younger ranks, Woodside looks to build upon its accomplishments of last year," Abbasse said.

The 1989 dual-meet season gets under way Friday and continues through Monday, July 17. The league meet will take place Saturday and Sunday, July 29-30, at Southfield Beech Woods Park.

Two of Woodside's outstanding swimmers a year ago were Jenny Vanker (8-Under) and Liz Huckabee (11-12). Vanker set NSSL records of 16:52 and 20:85 in the 25-yard butterfly and the 25 breaststroke, and Huckabee established new standards in the 50 butterfly and 100 individual medley of 30:97 and 1:11.42.

The Surf, meanwhile, hopes to recapture the league crown. The Surfers, who are coached by Michael Rado, have an impressive record to stand behind. Besides winning 11 consecutive NSSL titles, they have been undefeated in dual meets for the last 12 seasons. BSC captured age-group titles in the 13-14 and 15-17 competitions last year.

The following is an outlook for the remaining NSSL teams:

- Beachwood Recreation Association was 11th overall and third in the B Division standings. Coach George O'Brien, who has 124 swimmers under his guidance, is optimistic about the season, observing the coach, parents and swimmers are more experienced this year.
- Beechview Swim Club boasts one of the league's top swimmers in Mike Hoeft, who also competes for Catholic Central High School. He is the NSSL

record holder in the boys (13-14) backstroke, having posted a time of 29:67 last year.

Hoeft, who was undefeated in the 50 backstroke, and Mary Quinn are Beechview's top swimmers in the 13-17 age group this year. Matt Walker, Chris Leland and Dana Daitan will be competitive in the 9-10 division, according to assistant coach Carolyn Smith, and returnee Andrea Hoeft will help in the girls 11-13 category.

Beechview, with 119 swimmers, has increased its numbers, and Dona Schwalm appears to be one of the top newcomers in the 8-Under bracket.

- Beverly Hills Athletic Club is a young team with a lot of 8-Under swimmers, according to coach Ann Melli. BHAC hopes for a strong finish in the B Division after finishing sixth in that loop and 14th overall.
- Livonia CB has one of its larger teams with 78 swimmers, and the team hopes to give its opponents some competition because of it.
- According to coach Brian Niedbach, 60 percent of CB's members are summer swimmers only, which is not the case with many of the other NSSL teams. CB was last in the league in 1988.
- An especially nice feature about our team is the way our older swimmers look out for our younger ones and include them in activities," Niedbach said.
- Village Athletic Club moved into the A Division last year by finishing eighth overall in the 16-team league. VAC is coached by former Oakland University swimmer Mark VanderMey, who received a tryout with the 1988 U.S. Olympic team.
- VanderMey will have two of the NSSL's finest swimmers on his squad in Nicholas Duda and Jodie Kley. Duda set a league record in the boys (7-8) butterfly at 17:29, and Kley set the girls (13-14) freestyle standard of 27:68.
- Cranbrook Swim Club was one place above VAC last year at the league meet, and the club is looking to do better with first-year coach Brian Pelletier at the controls. CSC boasts a solid squad that consists of 151 swimmers.

groups," Thornton said, "and should have a very successful season."

- Another former OU swimmer, Karen Enneking, is coaching the Hoar, the Hills team, which moved up from seventh to third place in the league standings last year.
- "Water in the pool is a real plus this year," adds Enneking, dryly.
- HHSC has 131 swimmers and one of the best 8-Under kids, who set his league records in the boys 9-10 division at the 1988 meet. He went 36:33 in the 50 backstroke and 31:20 in the 50 freestyle.
- The Hamilton Woods Hurricanes were 0-8 in dual meets but escaped the cellar at the NSSL meet. Coach Bill Roberts hopes the team can reach 500 this year and get a 50 percent turnout from its members for each meet.
- Kendallwood Club was the B Division champ last year, and coach Dan Nack, an OU swimmer and former NSSL competitor, would like to see the team improve upon its 4-1 record in dual meets.
- "We hope to maintain or improve on last year's league performance," he said.
- Orchard Valley Swim Club features a roster that numbers 165 youths — 43 boys and 54 girls. OVSC was fourth in the league meet at which it won nine events and set three records.
- The two individual record holders are Katie Knipper in girls 13-14 and Ralfi Karapetian in boys 13-14. Knipper swam 34:78 in the 50 breaststroke and Karapetian 26:10 in the 50 freestyle. The Orchard Valley girls 52-year, 300 medley relay also set a meet record of 2:11.06.
- "We looking for a good, positive, fun summer and also some fast swimming," coach Jeff Cooper said.
- Pleasant Ridge Swim Club was 10th overall and runnerup to Kendallwood in B Division.
- "Pleasant Ridge holds its own considering the size of its team (74 members)," coach Phil Premeo said, adding members must live in the city since the team uses a city facility. "We are going to work and strengthen the talents of our present swimmers."
- The team boasts one of the NSSL's best in Tom Swaininger, however. He set a league record in the 13-14 boys' breaststroke at 32:79.
- Woodbrooke Hills Swim Club finished sixth in the league last year, moving up one spot from the previous season.
- WISC has 83 swimmers in the ranks, 41 of them boys.
- "We want to maintain or better our league meet finish and improve our dual-meet record," said coach Mike Tunney, an OU swimmer.
- "We're looking to build a relatively young team into a league power."

Bike tour offers challenge, fun

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Because of his flat feet, Scot Shoemaker won't enter any running marathons.

But he's a perfect candidate to ride a bicycle, and this weekend he'll be one of about 1,000 cyclists participating in the Michigan Multiple Sclerosis Society 150-mile bike tour.

The one-day tour brings together bike enthusiasts from the Greater Detroit and Grand Rapids areas for a weekend of friendship and the challenge of completing 150 miles for a good cause.

Shoemaker, a 27-year-old resident of Farmington Hills, began biking seriously while attending Michigan State University. Today, the 1984 MSU graduate rides an average of three or four days a week, covering about 90 miles over each seven-day period.

"I rode a lot as a kid and wanted to take up something as exercise," said Shoemaker, a senior project chemist for a hazardous waste firm in Detroit. "I've got flat feet and can't jog much because it's not good for the feet. It's funny. I picked up biking in college and would ride my bike to class and after 10 miles would huff and puff."

"THEN I started enjoying it, riding a lot of miles. You see a lot of scenery instead of just jogging around the block."

bicycling

I've got flat feet and can't jog much because it's not good for the feet. It's funny. I picked up biking in college and would ride my bike to class and after 10 miles would huff and puff.

— Scot Shoemaker
dedicated bike rider

Completion of the tour in Jackson will be topped off with a festive celebration at Ellis Sharp Park. Each rider will be returned to his original starting point by bus.

"It's something I like to get into," Shoemaker said. "It's more interesting and you get to meet a lot of people. My roommate (Mark Weber) is riding with me, and a group of people from his work are riding with us."

SHOEMAKER said he normally averages about 18 miles per hour per ride, but the speed will fluctuate around 14 mph this weekend for the longer course along country roads.

The tour is being co-sponsored by Ameritech Mobile Communications, Hudson's and radio station WCZY (95.5 FM) in Detroit.

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Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the School District of the City of Birmingham at 550 W. Merrill St., Birmingham, Michigan, until 4:00 p.m. on June 30, 1989 for Evergreen Elementary School Architectural Work. Bids will be opened and read publicly at the board meeting that evening.

Bidders may obtain contract documents from Barton Malow Co., The Construction Manager at 27777 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034. Attention: Jim Robertson. Telephone (313) 351-4500.

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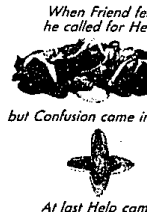
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