Andover captures **state championship**

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

When the Bloomfield Hills Andover swim team wins a state championship, the Barons know how to do it

onship, the Barons know how to do it right.
First, they get the difficult part out of the way early and set the stage for the main event. Then, they kick back and revel in the spotlight of the tigs how the next afternoon.
And it was an Andover show at the Class A finals Saurday in Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

The Barons, with the crown all but in hand following a strong performance in the preliminaries Friday, ran away with their second state title in the last four years. Andover accumulated 180 points to runner-up Ann Arbor Huron's 100.

Eccentric-area talent also distinguished itself with Troy senior Dave Whinter winning his second straight teamploship in the backstroke and Birmingham Groves producing a fourth-place team finish.

"WE SWAM fantastic on Friday and hung on today," said Andover's Mike Lane, who was named coach of the year. "We really won the meet yesterday, putting all those kids in the finals."

the finals."

Besides qualifying both relays for the championship heats, the Barons were guaranteed a bundle of points for harding nine individual swims in the finals. Don Perella, Mark D'Errico, Raffi Karapetian and Sam Kim advanced to Saturday's competition in two events apiece and Marty Rea one.

in two events upon one.

"They put themselves in position yesterday to win it," Lane said, adding Andover won the title the same way in 1986. "There wasn't any presument with the same way in the same way in

sure on us today.
"I don't want to make that sound

"I don't want to make that sound wrong, but we could get in the water today, relax and swim well, We could contentate on the task at hand instead of worrying about having to do this or that because we needed points here or there."

The Barons, who went into the finals as the No. 1-rated team, were by no means taking it easy Sautrday. Both relay teams captured state titles, and freshman Raffi Karapetian had the team's lone individual championship, whening the 50-yard freestyle in 21.06. He was the only non-scinler to win an event.

treestyle in 21.06. He was the only non-senior to win an event.

"Now that it's over, I'm real proud of myself," Karapetian said after accepting his first-place medal. "The swim felt great. I felt strong all the way through.

"THE WATER felt real thick, real solld. It felt like I was pulling a lot of water. My strokes felt powerful. And

swimming

I hit (the turn) right on. I wasn't too far away, and I wasn't too close." Karapetlan, no hod a rather large edge over runner-up Mike Carlini of East Petroit (21.27) considering the speed of the event, was even a bit surprised at winning. "It was in the back of my mind, but I wasn't counting on It, 'the said. "It wasn't one of my priorities, to win. I wanted to race to my full potential." Karapetlan was runner-up in the

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The state of the winner, Tom Balley of Hurn, set one of two records in that race. He went 44.83, breaking Tony Anderson's 1985 mark of 45.90, and Karapetlan 48.16.

"He's a senior; I'm a freshman," Karapetlan said. "He swam great but I feel good, too. I swam it the way I wanted. I didn't try to keep up with him. I just swam my own race."

The medley relay final looked like an all-Eccentric race. Andover's team of Hea, D'Errico, Kim and Kats Ohashi won it with a 136.62 time, Groves was a close second that of 130.00 freestyle relay victory was 'the cream on the lop.' according to Lane, as the Barons, assured of the team trophy, still put out the effort to win in 310.82 with Rea, Ohashi, Perella and Karapetlan comprising the unit. Groves was shirt at 31.32.5.

D'ERRICO WAS second in the 500 freestyle (4:35.55) and fourth in the individual medicy (1:56.30). Kim fifth in the 50 freestyle (21.67) and the 100 (47.05). Percila fifth in the 500 freestyle (4:45.01) and 10th in the 500 freestyle (4:45.01) and 10th in the backstroke (55.20).

"We trained all year, and we came and did our best — and that's all it took." D'Errico said. "We'll be back next year. We're only losing a couple seniors."

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The Brons, who won with more upperclassmen in 1986, should be a contender for several years. Amough Percella is a senior, but Rea and Kim are juniors, D'Errico a sophomore.

"We've got a shot at it next year,"
Lane said. "A lot of things can happen in a year, but all things being equal and holding together I'd say we've got a shot to do it again."

Whinter did it again. "Saturday, repeating as Class A king in the backstroke with a \$2.22 time. He won last year in 53.47.

"I've got a new coach this year,

This Weekend Mark "The Bird" Fidrych

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and I really wanted to do a good job this year," Whinter said. "Also, I wanted to prove to myself that I'm still in it, that I can still do it." Whinter had the top seed time of 5.3.1, nearly two seconds better than anybody elso, but he was No. 2 after qualifying on Friday. He swam 53.90 in the prelims and St. John's Paul Avery 53.77.

"IN THE prellms, I wanted to swim a good, strong race with proper technique, but I wanted to save some of my intensity for the finals," Whinter said. "Not physically but mentally, I didn't want to burn out in

mentally. I didn't want to burn out in the prelims."

Whinter's final time was nearly 1½ seconds faster than runner-up Avery's finish of 53.69.

"(The victory) means a lot to me, because I'm just starting to develop my swim," Whinter said, "and I hope this is a good step into college and maybe some international swimming in the future."

Whinter plans to train with Mis-sion Day, a private club in Florida, after he graduates and use that as a springboard to attract college offers. He would like to swim for Califor-nia-Santa Barbara or Long Beach State.

Besides scoring both relays, Groves got points from Drew Hansz, who was fourth in the breast stroke (58.47), and Bob Sala, who was 10th in the backstroke (55.93).

"We were ranked fourth at the be-ginning of the year, and we came in here ranked sixth," Groves coach Darin Abbasse said. "We had an op-portunity to do well in the relays, and we knew we could get both of them in the top five.

"(HANSZ) IS the top returning un-derclassman, so we're looking for-big things from him next year. We're going to come back and try to give Andover a run next year."

swimming

OTHER BULLDOG FINISHERS

Boys 10 and under: Kevin Stuart — fifth
Nace. 25-yard backstroke, 50- and 100

OTHER BULLDOG FINISHERS
Boys 10 and under Keen Staut — Min place. 25-yard backstroke, 50- and 108 place. 25- and 25-

Head has new role

Talk about role-reversal.

Just last year, folks figured Tennessee's chances in the NCAA women's basketball tournament were reretly slim. After all, the Lady Volunteers had lost their point guard, fronya Edwards (from Filmt Northwesters), to a knee injury midway through the season.

So coach Pat Summitt inserts an unprowen freshman into the lineup, someone who never played point guard in high school, and what happened the Lady Vols never derail to the lineup, someone who never played point in the lineup, someone who never played point in the lady Vols never derail he lady Vols never derail.

Now what can Dena Head possibly do for an entore? She scored 19 points in the '89 NCAA title win over Auburn. She made the Southeastern Conference all-tournament team and was SEC rockle of the year. What iske is there?

Well ...

Gone from that championship cam are three starters, So once again, folks figured Tennessee's chances at repeating were slim at best. Especially in the very rough SEC.

BY NOW, those people are changing their opinions about both Tennesce and Head, a sophomore from the control of the control of

the winner of the Ole Dominon-St. Joseph's game.
Has Head become more comfortable playing point guard this season?
No, because she isn't playing point any longer. Now she's the shooting

any longer. Now she's the shooting guard.

"I've predominantly played the two-spot (shootling guard) this season," she said. "I moved around between the one (point), two and three (small forward) spots at the beginning of the season.

basketball

"I think I've become more accustomed to the two-spot."

So Head is looked to for offense—which was never a problem for her at Salem; she averaged nearly 29 points a game. Still, that was high school.

BUT JUST like last season, Head haso't had much trouble adapting. She's the Lady Vols' second-leading scorer, averaging 11.2 points a game. She leads the team in assists (3.9 per game), shares the team-lead in steals (1.6) and Is third in rebounding (5.3). She's making 74 percent of her free throws and 45 percent of her floor shots.

"I think I've become more aggressive," she said. "I'm looking to score more, and I'm rebounding better. I'm doing whatever I can to contrib-

Odd, isn't it? A year ago, Head was doubted because she lacked experience; this year, she is one of Tennessee's more experienced players. Her leadership is much-valued.

"This has been a completely dif-ferent kind of year," said Head. "We've had our ups and downs. I can't compare this year's team to last year's. We've made great strides in terms of growing up.

"We're a young team and getting

How much better remains to be seen, of course, but by this time no one is counting Tennessee out. Not after the Lady Vols finished first in the regular season in the SEC (they lost to Auburn in the SEC tournament).

ment).
A repeat won't be easy, certainly.
"For our team to be successful, we have to play defense and we have to play defense and we have to rebound for a full 40 minutes," said Head. "We can't have any lapses."
With so much at stake, lapses are unlikely at this stage. It wouldn't be tolerated. As Head emphasized, "There's A LOT of pride here."

