

Sports

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Raiders will attempt to 3-peat in WLAA

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

North Farmington has been the power in Western Lakes Activities Association girls swimming in recent years, but the Raiders could find it difficult to remain at the top in 1991.

The Raiders are two-time defending champs in the WLAA, but powerful opponents like Livonia Stevenson and the Plymouth-Canton schools are expected to challenge them.

North returns a number of talented swimmers but will be minus the best female swimmer in school history — Kerry Doran, an All-American who now swims for Northwestern University.

Doran was Class A champion in the 200-yard freestyle and was runner-up in the 500. She won league titles in the butterfly and individual medley last year and also helped the Raiders capture first place in the medley and 400 freestyle relays.

"Naturally, it has an impact on a program when you lose an athlete of that quality," veteran North coach Patrick Duhlie said. "In our situation, being a small school, we probably won't get too many athletes like that."

The Raiders also lost Julianne Markey (Ferris State University), Jennifer Wagner, Amy Duhlie and Ann Schwartzberg to graduation.

North has 22 swimmers on its team — a small number compared to the 55-plus on the Stevenson, Salem and Canton squads. The Raiders overcame a lack of numbers in past years with a concentrated but superior group of individuals.

The Raiders return several girls who were part of that nucleus: senior Karrie Kram, juniors Anna Palmer and Carrie Worthen and sophomores Shannon O'Brien and Sherri Richardson.

Kram was WLAA champion in the 200 and 100 freestyles. Richardson (sixth, 200 freestyle; fifth, 500 freestyle), Palmer (third, IM; second, breaststroke) and Worthen (fourth, IM; fourth, breaststroke) were among the top six in two WLAA events each. O'Brien was sixth in the butterfly.

Palmer is the only returning member of the WLAA championship medley relay team, and Kram and Richardson comprised half of the first-place 400 freestyle relay.

"We have some kids I think can

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JOHN BTORMZANO/staff photographer

Shannon O'Brien is one of several proven talents on the North Farmington girls swim team. The Raiders are two-time defend-

ing champions in the WLAA but face strong challenges from other perennial contenders.

Shively 2nd, North 3rd at S'craft

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson was apparently tired of being the bridesmaid in the 14th annual Schoolcraft College Invitational cross country meet.

The Spartans showed great balance and depth, winning their first title ever Saturday after finishing second five different times. Stevenson scored 82 points, 11 better than second place Walled Lake Western and 30 better than third place North Farmington. See statistical summary.

"We needed it with some tough invitationals coming up," Stevenson coach Paul Holmberg said. "And if you can't win in our own backyard, you can't compete against the state powers."

The Spartans placed two in the top 10 — juniors A.J. Koritnik (third) and Stacy Prais (ninth). Koritnik was able to stay close to one-two finishers Jennifer Ray of Western Lake Western (who repeated as champion) and North Farmington's Emily Shively throughout the 5,000-meter race.

"We knew there were four or five individuals out there who were tough," Holmberg said. "I told A.J. to run as hard as she could with the leaders. Usually she runs in a pack, but today I let her go."

PRAIS' TOP 10 finish was not unexpected. She finished third a year ago.

Her sister, Kelly, a freshman, added an 11th, while senior Gail Grewe took 17th and sophomore Bridget MacKinnon 22nd.

"I knew about Kelly, she was the city middle school champ last year as an eighth-grader," Holmberg said. "MacKinnon came out for track last spring and tried everything, and finally settled on distance events. She came on at the end of the season. She's one of those kids that is willing to work."

"We had four girls under 22 minutes today. They're sights are set high and they're willing to work for it."

Another addition to the script was the individual battled waged between Ray of Western and Shively of North.

Ray defended her title with a first-place time of 19:21.4, while Shively, also a junior, finished second in 19:26.2.

Ray, who sat exhausted under a canopy following the race, was not tested in her first two races this season, which included an easy win in the Milford Early Bird.

"I FELT DEHYDRATED even though I normally drink lots of water," said the Western standout, who beat last year's time by 55 seconds. "But I felt strong. I haven't had competi-

tion and I knew she (Shively) would be up there. I was looking out for her."

"I thought we went out too hard. I had to push hard at the end. Normally I have more left. I had to kick at the end."

Shively, meanwhile, is juggling two fall sports. She swims distance event for the North swim team, rising at 5:45 a.m. each morning, followed by cross country practice after school.

"She (Ray) just has a great kick, she kills me every time," Shively said. "I just try to keep up with her."

The two ran against each other last spring in track and they'll probably meet again later in the season.

"I ran track so I just wanted to see what I could do in cross country," Shively said. "I like it."

"It's been tough (the two sports), plus I have a lot of hard classes. It keeps me busy. I lose a little sleep, but it's not too bad."

WESTERN'S second place team finish was bolstered by the sixth place finish of senior Wendy Pross. North's Keegan Keefover, a sophomore, took fifth.

Other area runners in the top 10 include Ladywood junior Malia Dixon (fourth), Walled Lake Central junior Tabitha Belcher (eighth) and Plymouth Canton sophomore Lana Boroditsch (10th).



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

The race for first was contested by (from left) Emily Shively of North Farmington, A.J. Koritnik of Stevenson and champ Jennifer Ray of Western.

Farmington, Harrison put halt to soccer losing skids



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Harrison's Deriek Lenz (left) struggles with Central's Rick Allio for the inside track to the ball.

Mike Giese had a big day for the Farmington soccer team Monday, scoring four goals as the Falcons defeated host Walled Lake Western 6-1.

The junior forward also had two assists while helping Farmington snap a three-game losing streak and improve its overall record to 2-3.

Sophomore Brian Afterbaugh and senior Mike Ling scored the other goals. The Falcons outshot Western 14-3. Farmington led 3-1 at halftime.

"We played pretty much on their side of the field," Farmington coach Luke Juncal said. "I was real pleased. The team played really hard today and is improving."

FARMINGTON Hills Harrison ended a five-game losing streak Monday with a 1-1 tie against visiting Walled Lake Central.

The Hawks (0-5-1) led 1-0 at halftime, following Alex Deming's goal. The sophomore forward scored on a penalty kick.

Central's Mark Allio scored the tying goal off a corner kick in the second half.

Harrison coach Glenn Breuhan cited the strong play of goalkeeper Jeremy Teachman, who replaced the injured Chris Schrowe, who suffered a broken knee cap. Teachman is normally the sweeper.

"I was happy to come out with a tie," Breuhan said. "In the first half, we outplayed them and were fortunate to get a penalty kick."

"They outplayed us in the second half. They hit the crossbar once and had pressure on us."

RICK WALOS scored the only goal

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