



Kelly Carlin
Farmington Mercy



Elizabeth Posvar
Farmington Mercy



Adrienne Turri
Livonia Stevenson



Lisa Sabina
Plymouth Canton



Katie Clark
Livonia Stevenson



Lisa Richardson
Farmington Harrison



Anne Aristeo
Livonia Stevenson



Yvonne Lynn
Plymouth Salem



Lindsay Fetter
Farmington Harrison

Aristeo leads Observer's best

By NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

This past season of girls swimming was memorable as the changing of the guard took place. Overland said good bye to possibly the best female high school swimmer to ever compete at an area school — Livonia Stevenson's Anne Aristeo.

But as Aristeo, and several other leading mainstays depart, such as Farmington Harrison's Lisa Richardson and Plymouth Salem's Yvonne Lynn, a host of new and talented swimmers arrived on the scene.

Unfortunately for Western Lakes Activities Association schools, most of those new faces were competing for Stevenson.

The Spartans once again displayed their dominance by winning the WLAA title and going on to win three events at the Class A championships on route to a third-place finish.

Aristeo completed her incredible high school career by breaking the state record in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:48.67. She will swim next year for Stanford University and quite possibly for the U.S. in the Olympics.

But, as evidenced by the All-Observerland teams, numerous underclassmen made their mark this season and will make next year just as memorable.

Here's the 1996 All-Observerland swim team, listed in order of event:

FIRST TEAM

Livonia Stevenson, 200-yard medley relay: Beware WLAA teams. This foursome was not only the fastest relay at the WLAA meet, but the team of Adrienne Turri, Becky Noechel, Katie Clark and Jordyn Godfroid will return next season.

The Spartans led the area with the fastest time and finished fourth in the state, setting a school record.

"The girls swam well all year and, with no seniors on the team, they should be hot again next year," Stevenson coach Greg Phill said.

Kelly Carlin, Mercy, 200 freestyle: This freshman made an immediate impact as she finished third in the 200 and 500 freestyles at the Oakland County championships.

"She trains hard day in and day out," Mercy coach Jim Downs said. "She's very versatile. She can swim distance events, sprints and the individual medley and swim them all strong. She has a great future ahead."

Elizabeth Posvar, Mercy, 200 individual medley: Another fabulous freshman was a multi-event qualifier for the county meet. She was the Catholic League champion in this event and the 100 backstroke and set league records in the process.

Posvar set a school record in the 100 backstroke (59.83) and qualified for the state meet in six events (two relays). She took third in the state in the 200 IM (2:09.77).

"She has great versatility with all of her strokes and has great ability with a high competitive level," Downs said. "She loves to compete and has proven she will race under any conditions."

Adrienne Turri, Stevenson, 50 freestyle: This junior had the season's best time in the 50 free (24.64) and led off both of Stevenson's WLAA championship relays in the 200 medley and 200 free.

She also finished sixth in the state in the 100 backstroke.

"Adrienne was a great addition to the team this season," Phill said. "She was more than willing to sacrifice for the team, which was evident at the state meet where she sacrificed her 100 back time to give our state championship 200 free relay team the lead off it needed to win."

1996 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING TEAM

First-Team Individuals

200 free: Kelly Carlin, Farm. Mercy
200 IM: Liz Posvar, Mercy
50 free: Adrienne Turri, Stevenson
100 free: Lisa Sabina, Ply. Canton
100 fly: Katie Clark, Liv. Stevenson
100 free: Lisa Richardson, Harrison
100 back: Yvonne Lynn, Ply. Salem
100 breast: Lindsay Fetter, Harrison

First-Team Relays

200 medley: Livonia Stevenson (Adrienne Turri, Becky Noechel, Katie Clark and Jordyn Godfroid).
200 freestyle: Livonia Stevenson (Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Marti McKenzie and Anne Aristeo).
400 freestyle: Livonia Stevenson (Julie Kern, Katie Clark, Meghan Moeri and Anne Aristeo).

Second-Team Individuals

200 free: Julie Kern, Stevenson
200 IM: Meredith Spiegel, Mercy
50 free: Cheryl Farber, N. Farmington
100 free: Danielle Clayton, Stevenson
100 fly: Teri Hanson, Canton
100 free: Dona Schwalm, Harrison
100 free: Meghan Moeri, Stevenson
100 back: Jessica Makowski, Steven.
100 breast: Nevra Alver, N. Farmington

Second-Team Relays

200 medley: Farmington Hills Mercy (Elizabeth Posvar, Meredith Spiegel, Jennifer MacDonald and Caroline Kenna).
200 freestyle: Farmington Harrison (Lisa Richardson, Dona Schwalm, Julie Kluka and Lindsay Fetter).
400 freestyle: Farmington Hills Mercy (Kelly Carlin, Danielle Clayton, Jennifer MacDonald and Elizabeth Posvar).

Honorable Mention

Stevenson: Katy Ballentine, Maria McKenzie; Mercy: Lindsay Gordin, Betsy Lambert, Kristie Corra, Emily Thompson, Erin Downs, Katie Callan; Canton: Amy Somerville, Angie Scott, Sue Perle; Farmington: Tara Grider, Kristen Burke, Amanda Whitten; Salem: Katie Bonner, Lorissa McKay, Carrie Dzelo, Kellyann Williams, Kathy Kelly, Audrey Hale.

Lisa Sabina, Canton, diving: Sabina turned in another stellar season during her junior year, as she finished 10th at the regional and 30th at the state meet.

Her best score of the season was 217.90 for six dives, just off her career best of 237.10 achieved last year.

"Lisa has the potential to be one of the state's top divers," Canton coach Sarah Eubanks said. "Our goal for next year will be to improve her standings at the state level."

Katie Clark, Stevenson, 100 butterfly: To just make the tough Stevenson squad is hard enough, but to make it as a freshman was a great achievement. Clark won the WLAA title in this event, and was second in the 200 IM at the league meet.

The Stevenson rookie of the year finished the season with a seventh-place finish in the butterfly at the state meet. "Katie is a tenacious competitor who came through for us big time at the state meet despite being sick," Phill said. "Working with her over the next three years will be a pleasure."

Lisa Richardson, Harrison, 100 freestyle: For the second straight season, the senior made the first team in this event. In the past two seasons, she has finished in the top six at the WLAA and Oakland County championships.

Her career highlight came this season when she broke the school record in the 100 free (53.85) at the state meet, where she finished 12th. She also finished second in the 100 and 200 freestyles at the county meet and was second in the 100 free at the WLAA meet.

"Lisa has been a large part of Harrison's success," Hawks coach Ross Bandy said. "She has been the strength of the relay teams because of her ability to always give a great lead swim."

Anne Aristeo, Stevenson, 500 freestyle: The area's, and perhaps the state's, best swimmer could have made the first team in several events this season, but it was this event where she shattered the state record with a 4:48.67 time.

The senior also won the state title in the 200 freestyle and won WLAA titles in the 100 freestyle and the 200 IM. She holds all but two school records and was All-America in five events.

"She's simply the best high school swimmer I've ever worked with," Phill said. "I know she will have a great college career. Look for her in the year 2000 (Olympics)."

Livonia Stevenson, 200 freestyle relay: The Spartans won this relay at the state meet with a school record. The team included Adrienne Turri, Jordyn Godfroid, Marti McKenzie and Anne Aristeo, the only member graduating this year. The foursome that also took the WLAA championship.

"They swam what was probably the most exciting race for us this season at the state meet where they pulled off a big upset," Phill said.

Yvonne Lynn, Salem, 100 backstroke: Salem will have a hard time replacing Lynn, the holder of five school records.

"Yvonne is everything a coach hopes a student/athlete could possess — talent, academics, personality and leadership," Salem coach Chuck Olson said. "She was the most versatile female swimmer ever at Salem."

The Rocks most valuable swimmer for the second straight year was the WLAA title in the backstroke (59.86). She will graduate with school records in the 200 IM (2:14.62), 100 free (55.03) and 100 back (59.04), and she was on the record-breaking 200 medley and 400 free relay teams.

Lindsay Fetter, Harrison, 100 breaststroke: The fourth freshman to make the first team set the school record in this event five times this season (1:06.95) and finished fourth in the event at the Oakland County meet.

Fetter also broke the school mark in the 200 IM and was a member of the 200 and 400 free relay teams.

"She came to Harrison with a good attitude and goals, and she was very determined to achieve them," Bandy said.

Livonia Stevenson, 400 freestyle relay: The team of Julie Kern, Katie Clark, Meghan Moeri and Anne Aristeo took third at the state meet and first at the WLAA meet.

And like the other Spartan relays, this team will be the favorite again next season as Aristeo will be the only graduation loss.

"If we needed a big win this season, these four girls were always there," Phill said. "With two freshmen and one sophomore, the future looks bright in the 400 free relay."

SECOND TEAM

Farmington Hills Mercy, 200 medley relay: The team of Elizabeth Posvar, Meredith Spiegel, Jenny MacDonald and Caroline Kenna finished 10th at the state meet in 1:51.90.

The team also placed fourth at the Oakland County championships and fifth at the MISCA Invitational.

Julie Kern, Stevenson, 200 freestyle: Kern's credentials could have put her on the first team as the sophomore was the WLAA champion in the 200 and 500 freestyles and finished 12th in the state in the 500 free.

"Julie is a very hard worker who, with a little more experience, will be a great swimmer," Phill said. "She will help Stevenson tremendously over the next two years."

Meredith Spiegel, Mercy, 200 individual medley: The senior won the Catholic League title in the 100 breaststroke and finished eighth in the state in the 200 IM (2:18.71).

"She's the first one in the pool to work every day and has great self-discipline and commitment," Downs said.

"And she doesn't tolerate less than your best efforts when you train with her."

Cheryl Lu Farber, North Farmington, 50 freestyle: Farber saved her best performance of the season for the state meet, where the junior anchored the 200 medley relay team with a leg of 24.64, and won her heat in the 50 free with a school record time of 25.05.

She also qualified for the state meet in the 100 backstroke this season with a 1:02.72. Next season, she will attempt to be the Raiders' MVP for the fourth consecutive year.

Laurel Dolin, Stevenson, diving: As Stevenson's top diver, the sophomore took second at the WLAA meet and a seventh-place finish at the regionals.

"Stevenson's diving team has become one of the best in the area because of girls like Laurel and with two years remaining, she'll become one of the best divers in the area," Phill said.

Teri Hanson, Canton, 100 butterfly: Hanson's goal this season was to break the one-minute mark in this event and she accomplished the feat at the state meet where her 59.52 gave her eighth place.

The sophomore, who was the Chiefs' most valuable swimmer for the second straight season, took first at the WLAA meet in the 50 free (25.51) and second place in the 100 fly.

Hanson also broke the Canton record in the 100 free this season with a time of 55.18.

Dona Schwalm, Harrison, 100 freestyle: The Harrison record holder in the 50 free (24.00) finished third in the 100 free at this season's WLAA meet.

"Dona finished the season with her best times in the 100 and 50 freestyles," Bandy said. "She is a big part of the Harrison swim program and will return to be one of the top swimmers in both events."

Meghan Moeri, Stevenson, 500 freestyle: The freshman is one reason why the Stevenson swim program will remain a power. Moeri took second at the state meet in the 200 free and third in the 500 free.

"Her state meet performance was great with two personal bests and she had the best leg on our 400 free relay," Phill said. "Three more years with Meghan will be fun."

Farmington Harrison, 200 freestyle relay: Harrison coach Ross Bandy calls this team of Lisa Richardson, Dona Schwalm, Julie Kluka and Lindsay Fetter the most talented group of individuals he's ever worked with and it's easy to see why.

The team shattered the school record in this event by three seconds (1:41.71) and broke the 400 free relay mark by seven seconds with a 12th place finish at the state meet.

Jessica Makowski, Stevenson, 100 backstroke: Yet another freshman in the Spartans arsenal, Makowski was fourth in this event at the WLAA meet and fifth in the 100 free.

"Her time dropped steadily all year," Phill said. "I think she's destined to become one of the best backstrokers Stevenson has ever seen."

Nevra Alver, North Farmington, 100 breaststroke: Alver swam her best time ever at the state championships in the 100 breaststroke as she swam a 1:09.66 for a 13th place finish. The sophomore was second at the conference meet in the 100 breaststroke and seventh in the 200 IM.

"Nevra is a very good all-around swimmer," North coach Pat Duthie said. "Her talent is most evident in the breaststroke where she is just beginning to realize how fast she can swim."

Farmington Hills Mercy, 400 freestyle relay: A pair of freshmen, Kelly Carlin and Elizabeth Posvar, joined a pair of juniors, Danielle Clayton and Jenny MacDonald, to form the state's eighth best 400 free relay team.

The foursome broke the Mercy pool record which had stood since 1989, and the four will return to try to top that mark next season.



200-yard medley relay, first team (from left): Stevenson's Adrienne Turri, Becky Noechel, Katie Clark, Jordyn Godfroid.



200-yard freestyle relay, first team (from left): Stevenson's Jordyn Godfroid, Adrienne Turri, Anne Aristeo, Marti McKenzie.



400-yard freestyle relay, first team (from left): Stevenson's Julie Kern, Meghan Moeri, Anne Aristeo, Katie Clark.



200-yard medley relay, second team (from left): Mercy's Elizabeth Posvar, Meredith Spiegel, Jenny MacDonald, Caroline Kenna.



200-yard freestyle relay, second team (from left): Harrison's Lindsay Fetter, Lisa Richardson, Dona Schwalm, Julie Kluka.



400-yard freestyle relay, second team (from left): Mercy's Kelly Carlin, Danielle Clayton, Jenny MacKenzie, Elizabeth Posvar



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