

Golf preview from page B1

"She was about four summer tournaments and really got a good feel for what super competitive golf is all about," Kowalski said. "She's really into learning to go... and her tennis 'me' sections" and have the attitude this is their year."

Kowalski's partner Foster (to have no problem filling the void left by Sarah Cahill), another second-team, all-ages player who graduated along with Jennifer Borowiec and Angela Harbar.

Borowiec is a Redstart member of the Ohio State team; Harbar plays at Western Michigan; Donahoe will play next year at Albion College and Foster, who averaged just over 48 in duos, at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga.

"People don't know we have these people in the wings, waiting for their chance to play," Kowalski said. "This is their chance to shine."

"Right now both of them would be in the high 80s, but as they play more and the weather gets warmer those scores will come down."

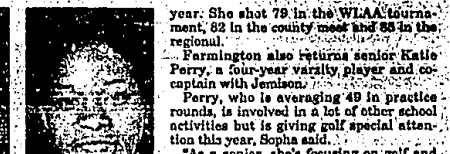
At the end of last season, Kowalski said the key to Mercy's hopes for a repeat would depend on the development of a fourth player. Sophomore Kim Warzyniec, who was on the JV, has stepped forward to fill that role.

"She just bypassed everybody," Kowalski said, adding Warzyniec is shooting between 43 and 47 in practice. "She got on the Power Bit Tour in the summer and started taking lessons from Erin Dorowicz's coach."

As her dad puts it, she caught the golf bug. She did everything she could in the last year to improve. She wanted to be one of the top varsity players, and she's there now."

Mercy's top six for the first varsity A match included freshman Christina Cibbario and junior Gretchen Anderson-Watts. Juniors Katie Landsberg, Katie Danonero, Mitchell Kelly and Maxxson McFawn will have some playing time, too.

"I do think some of these names are going to change," Kowalski said. "We have a lot of girls shooting in the high 40s."



Cassidy Jemison

There are 18 girls on the varsity, so we're going to send them from week to week based on scores from last week."

The Marlinns have won eight straight Ohio State League titles and are heavily favored to make it nine. Harpor Wood Regina should be their toughest competition, according to Kowalski.

Mercy also will compete in early-season tournaments at Grassie Hill and East Lansing against some of the best teams in the state.

Before we even break for Easter, we're going to know what we've made of," Kowalski said.

Farmington United outlook

Loading the team again this year is senior Cassie Jemison, who is the defending Western Lakes Activities Association and Oakland County Division 2 champion.

Jemison, a member of the All-Observer first team, finished fourth in the regional and 22nd in the Division I state tournament. She also qualified last summer for the Independent Insurance Agent Junior Classic in Houston, Texas.

"I see her so much more focused," Farmington coach Ann Marie Sopha said. "She has dedicated so much time to her game. College golf is her goal. I think the confidence is there this year, and she looks forward to the competition."

Jemison averaged 41.5 strokes for nine holes and is down to 40 in practice this year. She shot 79 in the WIAA tournament, 82 in the county meet and 88 in the regional.

Farmington also returns senior Katie Perry, four-year varsity player and captain with Jemison.

Perry, who is averaging 49 in practice rounds, is involved in a lot of other school activities but is giving golf special attention this year, Sopha said.

"As a senior, she's focusing on golf and you can see the determination in her," Sopha said. "She always has been a focused player, but this year she's dedicating herself to golf more than ever."

"She and Cassie are such team players. They're really pulling together all the young talent."

The top six players to begin the season include juniors Karolyn Knutson and Sarah Laird and sophomores Kelly Raymond and Jennifer Burick.

The next group consists of four returning players — juniors Lisa Palalao and Jaclyn Silver and sophomores Emily Showalter and Jennifer Livingston — and four newcomers — sophomores Melissa Craychik and freshmen Britanny Nutcettli, Christy Dwyer and Andrea Mascani.

"Right now we're trying different combinations and letting girls play in matches to see how they react to competition," Sopha said.

Farmington was 10-2 in dual matches and won the Oakland County Division 2 team title. It moves up to Division 1 this year and competes with the larger schools.

"With the promise the young players are showing, we're hoping to repeat the winning season of last year," Sopha said, adding she meets the players at 6 a.m. every day at school for aerobic and weight training.

"We started conditioning in February, and the girls insisted on continuing it. We have got their school now, so we meet in the morning."

"That's pretty much Cassie's and Katie's leadership that got it going. The whole team has such good rapport with each other and so much team spirit."

Clarenceville swimmer captures bronze medal

Courtney Green, a student at Power Middle School in Farmington, captured a bronze medal in the 50-yard breaststroke for Girls 11-12 with a time of 33.81 at the Michigan Short Course Swimming Championships held recently in Rockford, Mich.

Green, who swims for Clarenceville Swim Club, also finished fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.49).

Green also teamed up with Mara Loniowski, Monica Puzo and Kathleen Kusopis for a fifth place in the 200 medley relay (2:05.6). The same foursome also took 11th in the 200 freestyle.

Kusopis added an 11th in the 50 backstroke with a personal best of 31.43 and 14th in the 100 backstroke (1:09.68).

Another top performer was Jeffrey Puzo, who was sixth in the 50 back (34.74) and 13th in the 60 free (30.71) for Boys 9-10.

CLARK LEADS WAY: Katie Clark led the way with an outstanding performance for Clarenceville Swim Club at the 13th and over Michigan State Swimming Championships held recently at Eastern Michigan University.

Clark, competing in the Girls 15-19 age division, captured silver medal in 100 and 200 yard butterfly events, posting personal bests of 2:1 and 4:22.4, respectively.

Clark also finished sixth in the 100 free (55.16), seventh, 200 free (2:00.04), ninth in the 200 IM (2:11.54), 50 free (25.14).

OTHER CLARENCEVILLE FINISHERS: Boys 13-19: Brett Meconi, 11th, 100 yard butterfly (54.23); 12th, 200 butterfly (2:20.29); Michael Hermer, ninth, 100 free stroke (1:00.69); Ryan Prezler, 13th, 100 breaststroke (1:02.83); 12th, 200 breaststroke (2:17.71).

Girls 15-19: Lindsey Eilers, 13th, 500 freestyle (5:27.91).

Girls 15-19: Kelle Clark, Amanda Polkowski, Jessica Mascani, 11th, 400 free (5:46.95); 600 free (8:10.04); Lindsey Dolin, Melissa Navas, Katie Clark and Amanda Polkowski — 13th, 400 medley (4:19.79).

Boys 13-19: Bob Bublitz, Brett Meconi, Adam Ketterer, Michael Puzo, their 400 medley (3:30.66); Porti, Meconi, Ryan Prezler, Bublitz — fourth, 400 free (3:14.32); Bublitz, Adam Ketterer, Ron Cambridge, Prezler — 10th, 800 free (7:28.29).

STINGRAYS SWIM RESULTS

The Family Y Stingrays swim team took part in the 13th and over USA state meet on the 7th and 8th of March 17-19. The YMCA pool meet March 17-19.

STAR MEET Individuals: Boys 15-19 Girls: 1,650 free, 15th place, 18:59.75; Valencia Smith (13-14 girl), 200 free, 13th, 2:23.95; Katie Stett (13-14 girl), 1,000 free, 14th, 12:44.47; 1,650 free, 14th, 10:10.17; Eric Stutcher (15-19 boys), 100 breast, 15th, 1:03.40.

Relays 12-19 girls 400 yard medley (Carleigh Verne, Kristin Loukas, Lindsay Feys, Sarah Paves), eighth, 4:15.50; 13-14 girls 400 yard (Angela Hanks, Valencia Smith, Jaki Waddock, Carrie Roberts), 13th, 4:29.12.

13-14 girls 800 free (Katie Stett, Valencia Smith, Angela Hanks, Jaki Waddock), 11th, 8:40.10; 13-14 boys 800 free (Jarvis Verne, Jay Vandenberg, Matt Jackson, Mohamed Bachouch), 10th, 8:16.57.

10-11 boys 400 free (Carrie Robt, Valencia Smith, Angela Hanks, Jaki Waddock), 13th, 4:40.11; 13-14 boys 400 free (Jarvis Verne, Jay Vandenberg, Matt Jackson, Mohamed Bachouch), 10th, 3:45.62.

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