

Swimming

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Downs said. She was part of the medley and 200 freestyle relay teams. Kelly's forte is sprint freestyle, but she also can swim the backstroke.

Senior Becca Hallin will serve as team tri-captain with Laridas and Benedict, and she will help the Marlins in the backstroke, breaststroke and IM.

Seniors Moira Cronin, Leslie Banas, Rochelle Hughes and Jackie Wayne are veteran swimmers who will help the team, and senior Jenny Matous was a manager who will be swimming this year.

Juniors Annette Merchant and Eloise Page just missed qualifying in the 500.

"I expect her butterfly to come along real well, and I see (Merchant) picking up some points this year," Downs said. "(Page) is a pretty versatile kid. I think she can score in the 500, and she might be one of the best backstrokers this year."

The other juniors are swimmers Laura MacKay, Margaret Remy and Jackie Smith and divers Amanda Darling and Becky Butler.

Sophomores Emily Gariepy, Fran Murphy, Elena Milewski and Carrie Roble return from last year's team, and the Marlins have added sophomore twins

Kaitlin and Kristin Jackson. "They're multiple-stroke kids who are going to help fill some holes for us, because they can cover just about anything," Downs said.

The freshmen members of the varsity are swimmers Colleen Cowan and Sarah Schuchardt, Krista Milewski, who swims and dives, and divers Aria Kasputis and Hillary Mulka.

Mercy also is the defending Oakland County champion, but Downs doesn't expect the Marlins to qualify as many people as past years.

The Marlins, who start the season tonight at Ann Arbor Huron, will battle Birmingham Marian for the league title and fourth place in the state meet along with other schools.

"Marian lost some people, but we lost a ton," Downs said. "They have five or six strong kids and after that it's who has the depth. That's what I've been concentrating on."

"I'm working real hard to build our depth, so kids can do multiple things. That will be the key in the league meet."

Farmington Harrison

The Hawks have one of their largest teams in recent years with 27 swimmers and divers.

"When I first started, we had 12 kids on the team," Harrison coach Ross Bandy said. "The program has grown. We have a lot of parental support; there's a lot of enthusiasm. These kids are showing a lot of heart."

Harrison, which had a 6-5-1 record in dual meets, is led by senior tri-captains Laura Uridge, Ellen Doughty and Alex Evans.

Uridge, a four-year member of the team, swims middle distance; Doughty is a freestyle sprinter and butterflyer, and Evans is a versatile swimmer who competes in the IM.

"They're really helping jell the team," Bandy said. "They're showing real good leadership qualities. I chose them as captains, and they're living up to my expectations."

In the Western Lakes Activities Association meet, Uridge scored in the 200 (17th) and 500 (11th) freestyle events, Doughty on both freestyle relay teams and Evans in the IM (15th) and breaststroke (12th).

Jakki Waldecker, who just missed a state cut by a couple 10ths of a second in the breaststroke, is one of the top juniors and can swim any event. Waldecker was sixth in the 100 freestyle at the WLA meet.

Junior Danielle Liebowitz is another sprint freestyler who was 12th in the 50.

"She's going to do very well," Bandy said, adding Liebowitz spent a part of her summer training in California. "I was really happy to see the type of condition she walked in with."

The other juniors are Kelli Yekins, Jenny Musick, Sabra Bander, Holly Smith, Katie Riley, Shannon O'Keefe and Beth Leeb.

Riley was 16th in the backstroke at the WLA meet, but most are freestyle swimmers with the exception of Smith, a diver.

The Hawks have a large sophomore class, and the addition of Vicki Barczynski should make Harrison even stronger in the breaststroke.

Meghan Cooper (diver), Jenny Masters, Stephanie Silverstein,



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRADLEY

Falcon freestyler: Farmington's Katie Fleck was first to finish in the 200-yard freestyle Tuesday, and she later added a victory in the 100 freestyle, too.

Lindsey Smith, Satomi Wagner, Margaret White, Taylor Wong, and Julie Walters complete the list of sophomores.

The freshman class includes Sarah Bradley, Casey Petters, Kim Nordhoff and Katie Steff, who has a swimming background with the Farmington YMCA-Stingrays.

"We're good in a lot of things, and the things we're weak in we're improving daily," Bandy said. "We look to do fairly well."

"We did well last year and had a very good finish to the season. We look to have as good a year if not better."

The Hawks, who start the season tonight at West Bloomfield, hope to have some state qualifiers at the end of the year, too.

"Jakki Waldecker is looking to go back, and Katie Steff has her eye on a lot of things," Bandy said.

"The kids want to do something. That makes me happy. It makes me want to walk into the pool every day. We're having a lot of fun this year."

Fleck double winner in Farmington debut

Farmington High won four events Tuesday in its season opener against visiting West Bloomfield, which won the meet, 121-65.

The Falcons had a double winner in Katie Fleck, who took first place in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.6) and later the 100 freestyle (58.37).

Farmington's Erin Lennon swam the best time in the 100 butterfly (1:10.54), and teammate Jenny Hand was the fastest swimmer in the 500 freestyle (6:02.39).

Emily Canaan won the individual medley (2:22.72) for the Lakers, Kellyn Webley the 50 freestyle (28.36), Erica Lewis diving (188.25), Jenna

Lilly the backstroke (1:12.29) and Mai Denawa the breaststroke (1:19.47).

West Bloomfield's Canosa, Denawa and Lauren Delizia combined to win the medley relay (2:05.12) with Webley and the 200 freestyle relay (1:52.21) with Megan Lilly.

Kate Essad, Lewis, Jenna Lilly and Webley comprised the winning 400 freestyle relay team, which had a time of 4:12.51.

"We're still a young and improving team," West Bloomfield coach Bob Crosby said. "We're ahead of where we were last year, so I was very pleased with our opening performance."

Franklin to name new athletic director?

BY BRAD EMONS
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A recommendation of a candidate for the vacant athletic director's job at Franklin High School by Livonia Public Schools administrators may come as soon as today, the Observer has

learned. The school has been without an A.D. for the past 55 days after Dan Freeman announced his resignation July 6 for medical reasons. Freeman served as A.D. for the past nine years.

According to various sources, The Observer has learned

Wayne State University men's basketball coach Ron Hammye is the leading candidate.

The person hired for the position has to be approved by the school board. The board's next scheduled meeting, however, is not until Monday, Sept. 10.

A published report in the Aug.

24 Detroit News said Hammye, who has coached the men's team the past 13 seasons at WSU, rescinded his resignation after a discussion with first-year WSU athletic director Bob Fournier.

The News said a long-term deal was being discussed for Hammye at WSU.

Hammye, a native of Genoa, Ohio, played basketball at Bowling Green State University and is 212-154 in 13 seasons, at Wayne. He was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times.

If Hammye declines the Livonia Public Schools' offer, two inside candidates — Chuck Pettipas or Charles Steffes — may get the nod.

Pettipas is athletic director and physical education instructor at Frost Middle School, while Steffes is a P.E. teacher at Tyler Elementary. Steffes' wife Sue is secretary to Livonia Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Watson.

Following Freeman's resignation in early July, a total of 13 applicants applied for the job. The field was narrowed down to five. The Observer learned Hammye was given a strong recommendation by the initial interview committee, which included Franklin principal Dan Willenborg, Churchill High athletic director Marc Hage, John Kuenzel, director of Secondary Secondary Instruction; Fred Price, Assistant director of Instruction; and Terrence Davidson, director of Assessment and Evaluation.

Meanwhile, Willenborg has been handling the A.D. chores. Calls to Price and assistant superintendent Stephen Smith were not returned to the Observer late Wednesday afternoon.

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Farmington
teams twice
every week
in Observer

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