

SWIMMING

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All three of Mercy's relay teams were fifth or better in the state meet and earned All-America and all-area, first-team honors.

The entire medley relay of Page, Garlow, Naglick and Kelly returns. Kelly also was on both freestyle teams; Garlow is back in the 200, Naglick the 400.

Junior Carrie Rohle is another key returning member of the team. She didn't qualify for state but will help the Marlins again in the breaststroke and sprint freestyle events.

Mercy also has a talented freshman class to complement the upperclassmen. Caryn Switaj, Mara Loniewski, Liz Zennedjian, Kara Small, Shannon Kelly, Christina Geronetta, Elena Crowley provide immediate depth and strength to the team, according to coach Jim Downs.

"Nothing compares to (the state championship team) we had in 1998," Downs said. "That one was just phenomenal."

"Last year there were only two freshmen swimmers; this year we have seven or eight. Some of them will be in the action all the time."

"It's a big help when you can come up with that many kids who are going to get in the line-up when you're losing an average of six or seven seniors every year."

"I think we're going to be a little deeper than we've been in the past. I'm looking for us to do pretty well."

The other swimmers are seniors Jessica Fricke and Margaret Ready, juniors Laura Aslak, Kaitlin Jackson, Kristin Jackson and Frances Murphy and sophomores Colleen Coan and Sarah Schuchardt.

Mercy's divers are senior Becky Butler, sophomores Krysta Milewski, Aria Kasputis and Dieder D'Fazio and freshmen Molly Flaherty and Alexandra Ostrowski.

Downs, who begins his eighth season at Mercy and



Caitlin Kelly
Mercy



Eloise Page
Mercy



Elizabeth Garlow
Mercy



Katie Naglick
Mercy



Eleana Milewski
Mercy



Annette Merchant
Mercy

39th overall, would like to see the Marlins finish among the top four teams in the state meet and get a trophy.

Instead of Classes A and B-C-D, teams will compete in either Division I or II this year.

Sixteen places will be scored at the state instead of 12.

"Lahser, Groves and Marian are all in the other division," Downs said. "They're not top four or five teams, but they have singular people on those teams who are taking places."

"Now they're scoring 10, so who knows what's going to happen."

NORTH FARMINGTON

The Raiders lost some top talent to graduation, most notably all-star Lindsay McElean, who is at Indiana University and plans to swim for the Hoosiers.

All-area relay team members Sarah Paske and Melissa Navas were among the 12 seniors on last year's team, which finished second in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

North does have another solid senior class, which should bode well for the Raiders as they move into the Oakland Activities Association.

Emily Howard was a state qualifier in the 50 and the 100 freestyle, and she was all-area second team in the latter.

Howard was on the medley and 400 freestyle relay teams, too.

The captains are Sari Adelson, Rachel Expose, Angela Hanks and Kristen Wolff. The first three are primarily freestyle swimmers while Wolff specializes in the breaststroke.

Adelson also can swim the breaststroke, Expose the butterfly and Hanks the backstroke.

The Raiders will be greatly helped by the return of senior Beth Danielewicz, who missed last season as a result of injuries she suffered in a car accident. Otherwise, the sprint freestyle and backstroke might have earned all-area honors, too.

The senior class includes Carrie and Chris Gabriel, Jodi

Orloff and Lauren Sundquist. The Gabriels are freestyle swimmers who can swim the backstroke, too. Orloff is a diver and Sundquist swims freestyle and the breaststroke.

The top junior is Valencia Smith, who was all-area second team in the butterfly. She's also a fine IM swimmer and one of the best athletes in the program, according to coach Pat Duthie.

Juniors Lenora Hanks and Jessica Sapick swim the backstroke. Sapick also competes in the freestyle events, as does junior Catherine Munaco.

North's 25-member team includes sophomores Lisa Buch, diver Annie Gabriel, Megan Halaburda, Cindy Karros, Katie Purcell and Lindsey Seher and freshmen Kristi Bendick, Lauren Givens, Lindsey Legacki, Alie Merriman and Kristina Navas.

"I think we have a nice group of young ladies who are working hard and have a lot of potential,"

Duthie said. "I think we have the nucleus for a good team."

"I think we are paying a price for having been successful, being up at the top with teams that do well at the state meet every year in and year out."

"I'm hoping the kids will step up and enjoy the tougher competition they'll meet. It's early to make any judgments yet. We are where we are. We'll just go along and see how things work out."

FARMINGTON HARRISON

The Hawks, who had fewer swimmers and struggled against the bigger schools in the Western Lakes Activities Association, hope to benefit from the move to the OAA.

Duthie said he isn't pleased with the arrangement and would have been happy to remain in the WLAA.

Furthermore, he believes the OAA principals violated one of the league's basic tenets when they voted to allow two-time Division II champion Berkley to remain there instead of moving up to Division I.

"We weren't winning championships (in the WLAA), but we were pretty much competitive with the rest of the folks," Duthie said. "I never thought you had to win everything, but it's certainly nice to be competitive."

"The competition will certainly be keen. It will be good for some of our athletes. We'll see what people want to do to make us more competitive. We're going in with some schools that have middle school programs."

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Harrison, a Division III school, is 1-1 in dual meets following a pair of OAA crossovers, defeating Auburn Hills Avondale (Division IV) and losing to West Bloomfield (Division II).

"We have some teams we're going to match up well with and teams we don't match up well with," Harrison coach Ross Bandy said. "We know we're not going to win every meet."

"We just have to develop confidence and the desire to be a winner. It may take the whole season, but I think we're going to do it."

Senior swimmers Jakki Waldecker, Jenny Musick, Beth Leeb and Jenny Masters and senior diver Megan Cooper enter their third or fourth years on the team.

Waldecker, can swim any event; Musick and Leeb specialize in distance freestyle, and Masters is a freestyle sprinter.

Sophomore Katie Stief had a good rookie season and helps to make Harrison a better team.

The Hawks have some good juniors in Vicky Barezyski (breaststroke, freestyle), Lindsay Smith (freestyle), Satomi Wagner (all events), Julie Walters (freestyle) and Taylor Wong (all events).

Kim Nordhoff, Liz Stieber and Sarah Bradley are returning sophomores, and a strong freshman class includes Jesse Waldecker, Kaitlyn Chamberlin, Stephanie Wagner, Elana Brown, Katrina Weeks, Meredith Fraser, Laura Miller and Yoshida Hidemi.

"I hate to say we're rebuilding, because we weren't rebuilding until we lost a couple kids," Bandy said, referring to some who didn't return.

He remains optimistic, however.

"I'm hoping, because we're in Division II for the state meet, we're going to qualify a person in every event and, hopefully, every relay."

MERCY

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and Kara Small in the 400 free relay (4:01.23).

The Marlins won all but one of the 10 events and repeated as champions of the Brighton Relays Saturday with 136 points.

"The order of finish included Brighton, Howell, Novi, Pinekey, South Lyon and Beverly Hills," Detroit Country Day.

"We got everybody in at least two swims," Mercy coach Jim Downs said. "We had a good day, a lot of good times. It was a good kickoff to the season for us."

Mercy's winners were in the 400-meter

crescendo relay (Page, Garlow, Naglick, Kelly); 800 freestyle (Loniewski, Merchant, Small, Page); 200 backstroke (Smith, Murphy, Loniewski, Naglick); 200 breaststroke-butterfly (Kelly Pitts, Garlow, Garlow, Naglick); 200 freestyle (Rohle, Katie Jackson, Schuchardt, Switaj); 800 crescendo (Rohle, Kelly, Small, Page); 400 individual medley (Smith, Garlow, Merchant, Loniewski); 400 freestyle (Switaj, Schuchardt, Ready, Kelly) and diving (Butler, Krysta Milewski, Aria Kasputis). The Marlins were second in the 200 medley (Smith, Eleana Milewski, Merchant, Fricke).

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