

## Tough competition puts CC in 6th place at invite

BY PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER

Redford-Detroit Catholic Central had some good swims on Saturday, but it still wound up sixth at the Cranbrook Invitational.

"We could have been fourth or even third with some great swims but we didn't," said CC coach Jeff Baker. "About 55 percent of our swimmers are in their first season, and we were going against tough teams."

Birmingham Brother Rice won the meet, while Toledo St. Francis was second and Cranbrook was third. The for-

mat was an odd one; every event had three heats and coaches had to seed each swimmer in either the fast, middle or slower heat.

CC won two of the three heats in the 200 IM with Andre Carlin winning the middle heat in 2:20.72 and Rob Cyrek winning the fast heat in a state-cut time of 2:01.81. The Shamrocks also took the top spot in two heats of diving as Joe Rohde took the first flight with 181.45 points and Nick Reddy winning the second flight with 174.80.

"Rob's time, this early in the season, could place him high at

the state meet," said Baker. "Our new kids swam well, we just didn't load up the meet with what would be our best lineup. I thought we'd be strong, but everyone turned out to be faster."

On Tuesday, the Shamrocks took five firsts and four seconds in a 125-01 loss to Bloomfield Hills Andover.

"It's the same story as before - the other team 1-2-3'd us," said Baker. "The tables have turned. What we did last year, they were able to do to us. It's not to say we aren't improving. Jay Gronbach and Carson McLean had phenomenal

swims for first-year swimmers." Carlin had a pair of wins at the meet - the 200 IM (2:07.07) and the 100 breaststroke (1:07.37).

Rohde won diving (177.70). Cyrek won the 100 fly (1:57.76) and Dan Jones won the 100 free (2:24.95).

Jones was also second in the 100 backstroke (1:06.38). Cyrek was second in the 50 free (24.37) and the Shamrocks were second in the medley relay (1:50.91) and the 400 free relay (4:52.84) with Jones, Carlin, Cyrek and Chris Banas.

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BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn Legacki contributed to North Farmington Vikings Monday in a dual meet with Andover and Saturday at the West Bloomfield Invitational.

## SWIM

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"In the 400 freestyle relay, we had to hold our starts. We needed to finish second in all (four heats). We sat back on our starts and played it smart. "Novi had nothing to lose and went after it, hoping we would make a mistake. But we didn't make another one."

The Wildcats won all four heats of the 400 relay and the Raiders were second. North finished first in 25 of the 45 events overall, Novi 15 and Monroe five. The Raiders swept the IM (Bank, Legacki, Brad Smith, Drew Warnick), the 500 freestyle (Bank, Mataya, Jason Muccioli, Ryan Podges) and the breaststroke (Newman, Smith, Ben Ivrey, Doug Anderson).

Other winners included Mataya, Jones and Podges in the 200 freestyle; Naughton, Digia and Anderson in the 50 freestyle; Legacki and Ronnie Asmar in the butterfly; Jones and Newman in the 100 freestyle.

NORTH FARMINGTON  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANDOVER 43  
Jan. 14 at North Farmington

## Mercy skiers No. 1 in giant slalom race

Farmington Hills Mercy won its second Mount Brighton Interscholastic Ski Association giant slalom meet in as many attempts Tuesday.

The Marlin's had a team total of 28 points for an 11-point margin of victory over Birmingham Groves.

Mercy's Liz Kujala was the individual winner again with a two-run time of 52.58. The Marlin's had three in the top 10 with Nicole Zaleski in sixth place (33.64) and Margot Spera in ninth (34.31).

Rachelle Benzly finished 12th

(35.25), Nikki Covrka 25th (39.55) and Kelly Martin 40th (45.05).

"Liz Kujala was third after the first run and made up enough on the second run to take the win," coach Tom Gable said. "That was great concentration and focus on her part."

"Nicole Zaleski is definitely back racing in the form I expected her to be. She had a solid sixth-place finish."

"With Margot Spera in 11th, that put three girls in the top 10, which solidified Mercy's place as the top team. Rachelle

Benzly put in a solid effort again, breaking into the top 15."

### SHAMROCKS MAKE GAINS

Redford Catholic Central moved up one place from the first giant slalom event with a second-place finish. Brighton had 30 points and CC 41.

"On the guys side, there was definite progress," Gable said. "I would attribute that to the four seniors who placed in the top 15."

CC's Pat Repasky was third (30.84), Che Martinez ninth

(31.72), Eric Kasprzewicz 14th (32.89) and Craig Camden 15th (33.49).

"That was only four 10ths of a second off the leader," Gable said. "That was an excellent showing on his part."

"What was in there with his second top-10 race. All four seniors skied strong and consistent in both their runs."

"I think the guys felt good with their finish. They really want to carry that momentum into Thursday's slalom and prove they can also do well in that event."

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