Duthie said. "You can't look at what happened in Class B last year and get a gauge on this

# Raiders send large contingent to state

It's an all-new experience for the North Farmington swim team, and conch Pat Duthie inn't sure what to expect in the state finals this weekend. It's the first year schools have been divided into two divisions with an equal number in each, and the Raiders find themselves in the lower bracket for the first time. North had always been a Class A school competing against the biggest and best in the state.

the state.

But there will be plenty of quality teams in the Division II meet at Oakland University, including Oakland Activities Association Division I champ Birmingham Groves.

The Raidees have a chance to do well since they will have their larguest representation at a state meet in many years.

Helsoel by slower qualifying

state meet in many years.
Helped by slower qualifying times, North will have 12 swimmers competing in individual events and one more who is strictly a relay swimmer.

us with a lot of new things," Duthie said. "We're glad to have the opportunity, but we're not sure what to expect at this

sure what to expect at an inect.

"We'll see what happens. We just hope we do real well and have some kids coming back to swim the second day.

"Half the teams will swim in this meet and half in the other meet, so there has to be some good swimmers there."

More than half of North's taste qualifiers are underclass-

state qualifiers are underclass-men, which bodes well for future years.
The swimmer with the best

chance to score might be sophomore Jason Bank, a multiple-event qualifier who made Division I cuts, too. He'll swim the individual medley and the

500 freestyle. I really think Jason Bank is our athlete in a position to score the best in individual events," Duthie said. "But we have other kids we certainly

believe can and should soore.
The 500 could be North's
strongest event with five boys
qualified. The Raiders have
three in the 200 freestyle, IN
and 100 freestyle, IN oin the
breaststroke and one each in
the 50 freestyle and butterfly.
Senior Glenn Legacki also
will swim the IM and 500, senior Jeff Mataya the 200 and
500 freestyle, freshmen Keith
Jones and Alejandro Valtierra
the 200 and 100 freestyle and freshman Brad South the IM

freshman Brad Smith the IM and breaststroke. Senior Matt Newman is

Senior Matt Newman is entered in the breaststroke, senior Mohamad Bachrouche the 100 freestyle, junior Thomas Naughton the 50 freestyle, freshman Ronnie Asmar the hutterfly and freshmen Ryan Podges and Drew Warnick the 500 freestyle. Senior Lucas DiGia is eligible to swim in relay events. All three relays have qualified, but Duthie was still pondering what combinations to use. "It's hard to say what it will take to score at this meet, because it's a whole new meet,"

### CATHOLIC LEAGUE SWIMMING

what happened in Class B last year and get a gauge on this meet.

Tram-wise, we just want to get as many kids to score as many points as we can. We're going with a lot of kids that were a solid dual-meet team.

But we don't have the power this team will in the future, because this team will in the future, because this team will in the future, because this team and faster. We're taking six freshmen, and it will be a very good and useful experience for them.

We say we're just going for a rowin. If (all the North qualifiers) swim up to what I think they're capable of we can score some points.

The Farmington-Harrison unified teams lone qualifier for the Division I state meet at Eastern Michigan University is junior Paul Haapaniemi, who will swim the 500 freestyle.

In the recent OAA Division II meet, Haapaniemi won the 500 with a time of 4:52.97, but he had a better time in the prelims at 4:51.02. He also was second in the backstroke at 57.36.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE SWIMMING

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Championstrip match, I p m

Marquette, 6 p.m. at Compuware Arena Sabarday, March 8 Division i State Final State championship game, 7 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

GRES GYDNASTICS
Fridley, March 7
Team state meet at Plymouth High School,
4 pm

4 p.m.
Saturday, March 8
Individual state finals at Plymouth High
School Davision II, noon; Davision I, 3 30 p.m.

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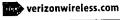






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