NORTH

"I was pleased with the number of younger kids who got a chance to go there and swim," Duthle said.
"They got a handle on what transpires at a state meet and what they need to be working on for next year. It should serve as a little motivation for them."

As a term Month.

As a team, North scored 51 points and finished 15th among 70 schools that had swimmers competing in the meet, which was won by Alma.

Any time you go to a meet like that, you come away wishing you had done a little better, but we were very pleased with our performance, Duthie said.

with our performance, Duthie said.

"It was a very tough meet; anything at the state level is. When you have 70 teams, it's going to be pretty good competition. In retrospect, I didn't think we were going to finish higher than 13th.

"Both coaches in our program understood going in the kind of athletes we had. A lat of teams finished alread of us that we probably would've beaten in a dunl meet - and did beat.

Our strength was our depth Our strength was our depth this year. We were a strong dual-mert team. We didn't have anybody this year of the strength and caliber to finish first or second, an outstanding stablet who could pull us up into a better position. "Everybody in our program is of comparable speed. But we think that will be coming up down the road. If the kids we have keep working hard, we're going to be more powerful in the near future."

North senior Jeff Mataya was 15th in the 500 freestyle (5:01.19) and 16th in the 200 freestyle (5:05.44).

Senior Matt Newman was 14th in the Preaststroke

14th in the breaststroke (1:03:21), and senior Mohamad Bachrouche was 16th in the 100 freestyle

(50.68). All three had faster times in the prelims. Mataya went 1:49.74 in the 200, Bachrouche 49.48 in the 100 and Newman 1:02.34 in the

breaststroke.
"I think Mohamad, especially on Friday, had the best performance for us," Duthie said.
"His relay swim was very

rormance for us, Duthie Said.

'His relay swim was very good.

'On Saturday, he had kind of a bad break in the hundred. A bad turn set him back. But he had a good swim on the medley relay, and he came back strong at the end of the meet in the 400 relay.

"Matt Newman always has been an outstanding competitor who stepped up to the situation. He struggled this season with injuries. But he managed to hang in there very well and had a good meet.

"Jeff Mataya - I can't say enough about him and the kind of effort he put in over four years. He made terrific improvements. He's a hard worker and he never missed a practice, including the optional ones."

practice, including the optionones.
The medley relay team of
Thomas Naughton, Newman,
Bank and Bachrouche was
14th (1:44-34), and the foursome of Bachrouche, Keith
Jones, Mataya and Bank was
11th in the 400 freestyle relay
(3:19.67).
"This was one of the most
enjoyable groups of studentathletes I've ever worked with
in 35 years," Duthie said. 'It
was just a very good team;
there was a lot of good camaraderie.

raderie.
"A lot of things fell into "A lot of things fell into place right from the very start. Sometimes it takes a while to get it going and sometimes you never do. But it fell into place right away and worked out nice."

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Brother Rice swimmers finish 3rd in state meet

BY MARTY BUDNER

No regrets.

Birmingham Brother Rice's powerful swim team could have participated
in the Division II state meet with a
great chance of coming home with the
champlonship trophy.

However, the Warriors elected to
remain in Division I. While Brother
Rice did not return with the hardware.
coach Mike Venos was satisfied with
his team's third-place showing.

Ann Arbor Pioneer defended its
Division I state championship with
429 points. Holland was next with 240
and Brother Rice was right behind at
239.

"It was a fantastic meet for us. Yeah,
we were disappointed to finish third
by a point, but we walked out of there
with our heads held high," said Venos,
whose team was third last year, too.
Brother Rice was the smallest school

in the Division I competition, but it had the most individual qualifiers with 21. The Warriors would have made more than 30 individual qualifiers had it participated in Division II.

We stayed up in Division II, so we could swim against the Fioneers and the Hollands. Fioneer has one of the best teams in the country's he said.

We wanted that challenge and that's what motivated our kids.

Tim not taking anything away from Division II. But, we knew going in, after looking at the Division II qualifying times, that it wouldn't be as much of a challenge for us considering the quality of swimmers we had this year. That's why we petitioned to stay in Division II.

"For us it's not about taking home the hundress it's about activations or

For us it's not about taking home the hardware, it's about swimming as fast as we can, he said. There are no

regrets."
Brother Rice started the meet in unique style, tying Holland for first

place in the medley relay in a time of 1:36.29.
The team included Steven Schoenhals, Brent Saeli, Brandon Goad and Jerry Fisher.
"We were a second-and-a-half behind in that event and we came back to tie if, 'sail Venos.
"(Brandon) Goad had one of the fastest fly splits in the state in that race and got us back into it. What a race!"

race!"
Brother Rice also won the 200 freestyle relay behind the efforts of David Lessard, Saeli, Mike Armour and Fisher. Their time was 1:26.71. The 400 freestyle relay team placed second.

second.
Individually, Lessard captured his first state title by taking the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:41.51.
He narrowly edged Steve Bowling of Grand Blane who placed second in 1:41.94. Lessard followed that blue-ribbon

finish with a second-place showing in the 100 freestyle (46,53).
"As a freshman, Lessard was 11th or 12th on the depth chart in the 200 freestyle," said Venos, whose team won the 2000 Class A state title. "And he ended up as a state champion in that event with the fastest time in the state."

event with the fastest time in the state."
Good was 60th in the butterfly (52,22), Scheenhals 60th in the backstroke (53,73), John Sisk 11th in the 100 freestyle (47,99) and Mike Burton 12th in the hackstroke (53,73). Bend forestyle (47,99) and Mike Burton 12th in the hackstroke (55,76). Redford-Detroit Catholic Central's Rob Cyck finished fifth in the IM (1:68,37) and teamed with Dan Jones, Joe Zatkoff and Andrew Carlin to finish fifth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:17,90) at the Dission I meet. Carlin was 23rd in the 1M (2:04,444). Cryck 20th in the butterfly (54,58) and the 200 freestyle relay team was 17th (1:30,69).

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