

Girls ready for swim season

By TOM BAER

Southfield Lathrup has a new girls' swimming coach this fall. He is Pete Biglin, who has coached the Lathrup boys' swim team for the past nine years.

Lathrup, which finished last season with a 6-2 overall record and a 3-2 mark in the Metro Suburban Association, opens its girls' season on Sept. 21 at non-league Livonia. Bentley.

Southfield High School has had the same girls' swim coach, Garry Schalm, for the past seven years. Last year, Southfield suffered through a dismal season, posting a 1-7 overall record and finishing fifth in the Southeastern Michigan Association. Southfield opens its 1976 girls' swimming season on Sept. 30 at Royal Oak Kumbal.

Lathrup, which began practice last week, had a turnout of about 30 girls. Biglin isn't sure exactly how many. "I haven't made any formal announcement," he said. "I've been going on the theory that if they want to swim, they'll show up at practice."

"I'm going into this kind of cold. I really don't know who I have or what they did last year. It's a brand new team for me."

Lathrup graduated a good swimmer in Lisa Akerman, who participated in the state finals last year. But the Chargers have several talented returnees to lead the team this season.

ONE RETURNEE is senior Laura Crosthwaite, who also qualified for the state meet last year. She's a good butterflyer, and I think that she also could be good in the individual medley," Biglin said. "She's a very hard worker with a lot of talent."

Another prospect is senior Linda Carter, a freestyler. Her backstroke doesn't look too bad, either," Biglin said. Junior Lisa Hest should be another outstanding Lathrup swimmer. She started out with me at the Village Swim Club when she was only nine or 10 years old," Biglin said.

Lathrup also has two promising sophomores in Debbie Johnston and Liz Roy-nayne. The rest of the kids all know how to swim," Biglin said. "With lots of work and some coaching, I think they can make through for us."

"I want to swim everybody around in different events at first just to see what they can do. Then I'll set the final lineup."

In past years, Birmingham Groves has dominated the girls' swimming in the Metro Suburban Association, and most coaches think that'll be the case again this fall. Bloomfield Hills Lathrup has a history of finishing second in the final MSA standings. Last year, Lathrup finished third in the league.

The MSA will be a five-team league this year. Uica Eisenhower has dropped out to join the Oakland A. Troy Athens will join the MSA at the start of the 1977-78 school year.

Biglin said that he has enjoyed coaching the girls' team so far. "It's funny, but the girls don't give me any hassle," he said. "You tell them to get in the water and they'll do it. They listen to you. I really feel like I'm doing some coaching instead of just being a coordinator."

AT SOUTHFIELD High, coach Schalm is hoping her team can improve on last year's record. "The kids seem very excited about the upcoming season," she said. "We're even getting new suits. I hope they're here in time for our first meet."

A promising Southfield swimmer is Lynne Avery, a senior who participated in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events. "She's never qualified for the state meet," Mrs. Schalm said. "She's missed qualifying by just tenths of a second. Hopefully, she'll make it this year."

Another possibility is junior Debbie Schneider. "She's a jack of all trades — a swimmer who you can stick anywhere. We're going to see what she looks like in various events, and then decide on a specialty when it comes closer to opening meet time."

Mrs. Schalm is working with two promising divers, Renee Nasser and Donna Chapin. "Nasser started diving in the middle of the last season," the coach said. "She'd never done any diving before that, but she's come a long way since then. If Birmingham Groves dominates the swimming standings in the MSA, then the same can be said for Birmingham. Schalm is the Southeastern Michigan Association. The SMA has had girls' swimming for the past seven years, and Schalm has won the league meet and title every year. It'll always be Schalm on top." Mrs.

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VARSITY SCHEDULE — Sept. 31 at Royal Oak Kumbal 4:15 p.m. Oct. 3 at Southfield Lathrup 4:15 p.m. Oct. 7 at Highland Park High 4:15 p.m. Oct. 10 at Bentley High 4:15 p.m. Oct. 11 at Cranston High 4 p.m. Oct. 12 at Cranston High 4:15 p.m. Nov. 2 at Bentley High 4:15 p.m. Nov. 4 at Highland Park 4:15 p.m. Nov. 11 at Farmington High 7 p.m. Nov. 11 at Farmington High 7 p.m. Nov. 11 at Farmington High 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at Royal Oak Dendore 4:15 p.m. Nov. 22 at Metro Suburban Association Over 3:30 Bus Pass.

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