

Bloomfield Surf retains crown as NSSL champs

By C.J. RISAK

Bloomfield Surf Swim Club won their second straight Northwest Suburban Swim League championship with relative ease this past weekend, finishing nearly 100 points ahead of the pack.

"Our entire club swam very well," Surf Coach Mike Lane said. "We gave away a lot of points, with two relays being disqualified and we still finished well ahead."

"I was extremely pleased with their effort."

The surf club had their 100-meter boys' free relay disqualified in the preliminaries and their boys' medley relay, which had the second fastest

qualifying time, was thrown out in the finals. However, neither one affected the outcome for the Bloomfield club.

The battle for second place was as tight as expected, with 27 points separating the second and fourth place finishers. Cranbrook won the battle, taking second with 546 points; Heart of the Hills surprised and finished third with 526, just seven points ahead of fourth place Farmington Glen.

Cranbrook Coach Mark Boerner thought his club also swam very well.

"It can be hard to tell how championship meets will go," Boerner stated. "Our club had a great preliminary. That was the key. We had a lot of kids placed in the top six and in the finals."

"We don't have the depth of some of the other clubs, but our swimmers all placed well."

Heart of the Hills was not expected to do as well as they did, either. The team from Rochester lost four of seven dual meets during the season, but came on strong in the finals.

Farmington Glen had a good meet, according to coach Bob Smith. Glen finished fourth, just seven points behind Heart of the Hills, after finishing eighth in last year's finals and in the Upper Division for the first time in the club's history.

"Our club swam very well," Smith said. "We didn't make many mistakes. We moved up from eighth to fourth, so we did all right."

Two of the lower division teams, Woodside Athletic Club and Village Athletic Club, joined the Upper Division for next season by outpointing two of this year's members, Beverly Hills Athletic Club and Beechview Swim Club. Beverly Hills plummeted to eleventh, while Beechview dropped to ninth.

Other Upper Division teams for next season will be Woodbrooke Hills who ended in fifth place, and Forest Hills, who were a disappointing sixth in the championship meet after losing only one dual meet all summer.

Joining BHAC and Beechview in the Lower Division next year will be Orchard Valley, CB, Kendallwood, Pinebrook, Pleasant Ridge, and the league's newest addition, Beechwood.

In a switch from previous league meets, this year's championship was held at Beechwoods Sports Arena in Southfield. For the past 16 seasons, the meet took place at a high school, with the preliminaries stretching over three nights and the finals on a Saturday afternoon. The league records were all in yards (since all high school indoor pools are 25 yards in length) while the teams' swam in 25-meter pools all season long.

In an effort to simplify matters, league officials decided to risk the weather and conduct the meet outdoors this year. The general opinion among the coaches was a favorable one.

"The atmosphere was better outdoors, definitely," Boerner said. "It was easier on the little kids. Indoors, with all those people screaming at you, the younger kids really feel the pressure. Outdoors it's not as bad."

With the championships in a meter pool for the first time, a new league record was set in every event. Among the almost 400 swimmers were 11 double winners.

Cheryl Bowdre of Bloomfield Surf

and Jason Wolfe of Woodbrooke Hills each won two events in the 8 and under age group. Bowdre won the girls' 25-meter fly (18.56) and the 25-meter back (18.54), while Wolfe was the victor in the 25-meter back (19.05) and the 25-meter free (16.44).

Joanna Marquard became the first league champion for Beechwood Recreation Club, winning the 8 and under girls' 25-meter free (17.90) for the first year club.

In 9-10 year old competition, Paula King of Beechview Swim Club was a double winner, taking the girls' 50-meter back (38.93) and the 50-meter fly (36.09). Lynn Kline of Orchard Valley also won twice, churning to victory in the girls' 50-meter breast (41.8) and the 50-meter free (31.50).

Four swimmers dominated the 11-12

year old age group, capturing eight of the 10 first place finishes. Joanna Flock of Heart of the Hills won the girls' 50-meter back (35.31) and the 50-meter fly (32.53), while teammate Doug Cleland took the boys' 50-meter back (31.37) and 50-meter breast (35.04).

Karen Bowdre of Bloomfield Surf was victorious in the girls' 100-meter individual medley (1:16.58) and the 50-meter free (30.17). Alice Campbell of Farmington Glen won the boys' 50-meter fly (31.74) and the 100-meter individual medley (1:12.22).

Lisa MacMillan of Village and Guy DeFranco of Bloomfield Surf were double winners in the 13-14 age bracket. MacMillan won the girls' 50-meter fly (31.55) and the 100-meter individual medley (1:10.91), while De-

Franco took the 50-meter free (26.11) and the 100-meter individual medley (1:06.59).

The only double winner in the 15-17 age group was Jim Pogue of Farmington Glen. Pogue captured the boys' 100-meter free (56.40) and the 50-meter fly (27.12).

Final swim meet results

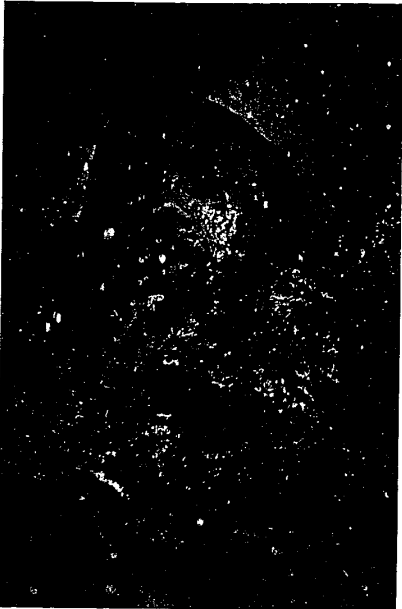
The following are the final results of the Northwest Suburban Swim League championship meet, held last weekend at Beechwoods Sports Arena in Southfield.

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

UPPER DIVISION — 1. Bloomfield Surf Swim Club (BSC)—541; 2. Cranbrook Swim Club (CSC)—546; 3. Heart of the Hills (HHS)—526; 4. Farmington Glen Swim Club (FGSC)—518; 5. Woodbrooke Hills Swim Club (WHS)—497; 6. Forest Hills Swim Club (FHS)—487; 7. Woodside Athletic Club (WAC)—431; 8. Village Athletic Club (VAC)—318.

LOWER DIVISION — 1. Beechview Swim Club (BVC)—217; 2. Orchard Valley Swim Club (OVSC)—215; 3. Beverly Hills Athletic Club (BHAC)—201; 4. CB Swim Club (CB)—191; 5. Kendallwood Swim Club (KSC)—181; 6. Pinebrook Swim Club (PSC)—174; 7. Pleasant Ridge Swim Club (PRSC)—161; 8. Beechwood Recreation Club (BWRCA)—157.

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Farmington Glen's Mark Grover splashes through the water during his backstroke event. (Photo by Ira Strickstein)



Lying back in the water, Paula King of Beechview Swim Club swims to victory at the Northwest Suburban Swim League championship meet, held last weekend in Southfield. (Photo by Ira Strickstein)

Cyclists speed through qualifying trials at the Southfield Velodrome

By C.J. RISAK

Racing around a steeply sloped, hard wooden track at speeds up to 40 mph with nothing but a helmet to protect oneself—is that any way to spend a weekend night?

If you are trying to qualify for the U.S. Madison Cycling Championships, then it's the only way.

And that's just what took place last Friday and Saturday nights in the Southfield Velodrome. Some of the best cyclists in the nation took part in the trials in an effort to qualify for the National Madison Championships, which will be held in Kalamazoo on Sept. 29 and 30.

If you don't think there is much to this sport, then maybe you should take a closer look. These athletes train as hard as any track star or football player, and the threat of injury is a real one. During the races which were

held on July 7, Les Barczewski, one of the nation's leading riders, had a tire blow out in the middle of a race. He crashed onto the track and slid down the bank into the infield. He left the arena with his arm in a sling.

In last weekend's races, a similar accident occurred when a racer blew a tire as he came out of a turn. However, the riders behind him were not as lucky as in the Barczewski accident. One of them hit the downed racer's bike, which sent him flying headlong into the track. He was rushed to the hospital.

When the racers are at full speed, it is nearly impossible to keep control of the bike when a tire blows. Making it even more hazardous, the riders are strapped to their pedals, the reason being to help the riders remain in contact with their pedals. Of course, if the bike falls, so goes the rider.

None of this bothers the riders—they

just give it all they got, which makes it that much more enjoyable to the spectators.

On Friday night, the defending Madison National champions, Roger Young and Dan Van Haute, were the winners in the main event. However, since they had already qualified for the Nationals (defending titlists automatically qualify), the second place finishers, Mike Moele and Eric Moe, got the bid.

On Saturday it was Moele and Moe who finished first, and since they already had been accepted into the field, the bid went to the team of Chuck Quast and Rick Denman.

That ended the Velodrome's racing for this season. The track is been disassembled and will be taken to Kalamazoo for the Nationals at the end of September. The sport has proven to be dangerous but exciting—probably worth a trip to Kalamazoo for one more event.



Racing around the curve at the Southfield Velodrome, a group of cyclists push themselves to the limit in an attempt to qualify for the National Madison cycling championships. (photo by Gary Friedman)

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