

All-area squad honored

Top swimmers speedy at state

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And these athletes, members of the 1980-81 Observer & Eccentric All-area boys' swimming team, certainly were speedy in the big meet, held March 13-14 at the University of Michigan's Matt Mann Pool.

Just about every swimmer on the first team finished in the top six at the state meet," said Bloomfield Hills Lahser coach Mike Rado, who compiled the list of the area's top swimmers and divers which appeared weekly in the Observer & Eccentric's sports pages.

Rado was one of several area coaches who met recently to select this season's top tankers.

Led by its record-setting medley relay, Bloomfield Hills Andover dominated the all-area team with five first-team selections. Coached by veteran Mike Lane, Andover capped an outstanding season by scoring 101 points for a third-place finish in the state meet.

The Barons' medley relay, composed of seniors Dan Davis and Scott Hammond and juniors Bruce VanMeter and Guy DeFranco, covered the 200 yards in 1 minute, 37.28 seconds for a state record — and all-area first-team honors.

really proud of them," Lane said. "We thought we could get second or third at state. We ended up third. Grosse Pointe South (the No. 2 team behind Ann Arbor Pioneer) was a little too much for us."

"But we set out to get that state record in the medley, and we did. It was just a super effort."

Hammond earned first-team honors in the 50-yard freestyle. His best time was 21.95, clocked in the preliminaries of the state meet, and he placed sixth in the finals with a time of 22.27.

DeFranco and Davis each gained first-team status in an individual event.

DeFranco went 48.01 in the prelims of the state-meet 100-yard freestyle (he finished fifth at 48.24 in the finals), and Davis was outstanding in the 100-yard backstroke, posting a 1:47.77 for the second-fastest time in that event at state.

Andover's Mike Wantuck, the area's top diver as a sophomore on last year's dream team, was the No. 1 diving pick again this season. He compiled 537.25 points at state and finished second behind Pioneer's Bruce Kimball.

Both Kimball, who scored 584.75 points, and Wantuck bettered the state record of 531.20 set by Birmingham Groves' Reynaldo Castro in the 1979 state meet.

the state meet, filled three events with four first-team swimmers.

Rice's 400-yard freestyle relay (freshman Dixon Kane, sophomore Richard Kramer and juniors Kevin McJoynt and Rob Mackie) recorded a fourth-place finish with a time of 3:15.67 at state.

Mackie won the endurance event — the 500-yard freestyle — with a 4:42.41 clocking, and Kramer finished eighth in the 200-yard freestyle after recording a time of 1:46.10 in the preliminaries.

Two Rochester High School sophomores, Jim Bruzzese and Dan Wery, were first-team selections.

Bruzzese was the area's top 200-yard individual medley man with a time of 1:57.72, which earned him fourth place at state. Wery, the top breaststroker, needed 1:01.41 to cover the 100 yards in the state prelims.

He was sixth in the finals with a 1:01.68.

"I think Bruzzese is going to be a dominate force in high school swimming in the years to come," said Rochester coach Andy Myers. "He's a good hard worker and a leader, too."

"And Dan (Wery) also has a lot of potential. He's able to psych himself up for the big meets. He got himself up for the state meet, even though he was suf-

fering from severe bursts in his shoulders and knees."

BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM, the class of the Southeastern Michigan Association along with Andover, is represented on the all-area team by junior Jeff Lundy, who placed third in the state in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 53.29.

Lundy's coach, Dick Rosenthal, was voted Coach-of-the-Year for his accomplishments at Seaholm this past season. The Maples, fifth at state, finished ahead of Andover in the SMA meet to make up for a loss to the Barons in a dual meet.

Rosenthal, who just finished his second season as Seaholm's coach, spent 15 years coaching swimming at Birmingham's Berkshire Junior High School.

"We fed (Birmingham) Groves High all those years," said Rosenthal with a laugh. He still teaches physical education at Berkshire.

Groves, an area swimming powerhouse and a Seaholm rival, failed to land any swimmers on the first-team this season, although it had seven swimmers on the second and third teams.



DAN DAVIS Andover
SCOTT HAMMOND Andover
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