

Swimmer stars in Israel

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"IT WAS really neat to be involved in something that's just like the Olympic Games," she said. "The medals were awarded in the same fashion as the Olympics."

"We marched in parade to open and close the games, and we wore special uniforms for our country, just like the Olympics. It was a thrill."

Rival won her silver medal in the 400-meter individual medley with a time of four minutes, 21 seconds. Her bronze medal came in the 400-meter freestyle with a time of 4:34.

"It seems like all those years of work, all those years of getting up at 5 in the morning, paid off in this trip," she said.

Rival, who has been swimming competitively since she was 8, swam in seven events, the most by anybody on the U.S. girls' team.

She had her best career times in six of those events — the two medal winners, plus the 200-meter freestyle, the 200-meter individual medley, the 100-meter breaststroke and the 200-meter butterfly.

"I was most pleased with both of my individual medley times," she said. "In the 400 I went my best time, and in the 200, even though I finished in fourth place, I still

dropped a lot off my time."

"We won the competition, although in the Israeli papers, they were saying the Israelis surprised an overconfident U.S. team. I don't think that was so. We were all over there to give our best shot. Some of our swimmers just didn't swim as well as they could have."

Swimming for the American team gave Rival the opportunity to work with the former coach of the U.S. Olympic swim team, Don Gambrell, who coached the U.S. swimming teams at Tel Aviv University, the site of the swimming competition. With athletes from 37 countries participating in the games, Rival had plenty of opportunity to strike up international friendships.

"I feel that, wherever I travel all over the world, I'll feel that I have friends," she said. "I knew them for less than three weeks, but it seems like I knew them for years. Almost everybody was really friendly. I miss some of them already."

ALTHOUGH ISRAEL is in what is almost a state of war, Rival saw few signs of the conflict.

"Surprisingly enough, there really wasn't any tension," she said. "After the competition, we did do some touring of the Golan

Heights, near the Syrian border. But it seems like everybody was really relaxed. There wasn't any tension."

Rival had sent in her application last fall to participate in the Maccabiah. Admittance to the team was based on high-school times.

A member of the Observer & Eccentric Oakland County all-area girls' swim team last fall for coach Mike Lane's Andover team, Rival learned last April she had made the Israel-bound team.

An honor student at Andover, Rival will attend Harvard University, where she will take a pre-medicine program, specializing in sports medicine. She also will swim for the Harvard girls' team, under coach Vicki Hays.

Although Rival said an Olympic tryout "is something I can't see myself attaining right now," she does hope to compete in the next Maccabiah, four years from now.

"I just feel very fortunate to have gotten this experience," said Rival, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jan Rival. "It's hard to put in words all the friends I've made and the experiences I've had. It's something that will live with me forever."

Another local athlete, gymnast Nancy Goldsmith of Bloomfield Hills, won a gold medal on the beam and a silver in the all-around competition. She is now training in Eugene, Ore.

Women start O&E golf play

It will be ladies first for a change this year in the Observer & Eccentric Golf Tournaments.

The O&E Tournament for women, which traditionally has followed the men's tourney in the middle of September, will be contested Aug. 19 this year.

Once again, women's championships will be determined by one round of 18 holes, stroke play, at Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course in Livonia. Participants will

compete in flights based on handicap.

Entry fee for the women is \$12. Entries close Aug. 12. To register, complete the coupon that appears in many editions of the O&E and either mail it or drop it off at Whispering Willows (20501 Newburgh Road, Livonia 48152).

Gary Whitener, golf professional at Whispering Willows and the tournament director, cited the reasons why the women's competition was

moved up to August this year.

"When the kids are back in school, some women go to work," Whitener said. "After Labor Day, some people hang up their golf clubs and get involved in other things."

"We have not had the best luck for women with weather the last couple of years," Whitener added.

The women have had to struggle against the elements as well as the challenging course the last

three tournaments. Last year, the tourney had to be moved back a week due to inclement weather.

Still, 76 participated, the largest turnout ever for the women's tournament. With earlier groupings based on handicap to compete for low gross (actual score) and low net (score with handicap) honors.

Stroke play will also be followed.

THE MEN will take to Whispering Willows the

weekend of Sept. 19-20 for their 36-hole tournament.

Entry fee is \$27. Registrations will close Sept. 13, or whenever 225 have been processed.

Men will also be grouped into flights based on handicap to compete for low gross (actual score) and low net (score with handicap) honors.

Stroke play will also be followed.

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