

Spartans dethrone Salem for swim title



BILL BRESLER/Staff photographer

Louie Ministrelli anchored Stevenson's winning 200-yard medley team and swam a leg on the Spartans' first-place 400 freestyle relay.

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Winning streaks are like a double-edged sword in sports. Winning is the ultimate achievement, but the more you win the more pressure there is to continue winning.

The Plymouth Salem boys swim team, until last Saturday, had won every major prize available to them in Western Lakes Activities Association competition.

But it all came to a halt Saturday as Livonia Stevenson dethroned the Rocks in the WLA Relay Meet in the Salem pool.

"I don't feel too bad about it," Salem coach Chuck Olson said of losing the streak. "We swam well, and that's really all we had hoped for. Stevenson has more depth and more quickness at the top. They beat some of our best kids head to head."

"In fact, we swam well just to get second place."

Stevenson garnered 102 points to Salem's 75. Northville placed third with 61. Livonia Churchill (56) placed fourth and Farmington (38) placed fifth.

"TO SAY that the monkey is off our back is putting it mildly," said Stevenson head coach Doug Buckler. "Last year we came so close to beating them in the dual meet — we lost by two points in the final event. Then in the league meet they just had no much senior power. Yes, it's a big relief."

The meet served as a showcase of the WLA's improved balance from top to bottom. No more is the Western Lakes just a two-team league. Teams like Northville, Churchill and even Walled Lake Central are vastly improved.

As proof, five meet records were broken.

Farmington set a meet record in the 200-yard butterfly as Eric Davis, Jay Weaver, Mike Wolford and Chris Telorico combined on a 1:47.3, eclipsing Stevenson's 1:47.4 set last year.

Livonia Churchill's 1993 400 individual medley mark of 4:08.3 was eclipsed by Northville's Dave Wayne, Darius Mikalinos, Jeff Bainbridge and Doug

Buell who went 4:00.0.

Northville also took the 200 backstroke in 1:52.1.

Churchill in turn set a new mark in the 200 freestyle relay as Vic-Valente, Paul Tetatit, Eric Hutchison and Eric Baird went 1:54.4. The old mark, 1:55.9, was set last year by Livonia Bentley, Hutchison, Baird, Brian Papierski and Stefan Antekci combined on a 2:02.7 to win the 200 breaststroke for the Chargers.

STEVENSON SWIMMERS captured three firsts and set two records.

Joe Saunders, Kevin Everhart, Paul McAree and Louie Ministrelli captured the 200 medley in 1:47.5, breaking Stevenson's '83 mark of 1:48.4.

The Spartans also set a new record in the crescendo relay as Martin Ebner, D.J. Ward, Chris Morasky and Jeff Albert went 4:33.7. The old mark, set by Salem in '83, was 4:35.4.

Ward, Ministrelli, Albert and Steve Taormina went 3:28.6 to win the 400 freestyle.

Salem won the 400 medley with Don Harwood, Rick Cummings, Jamie Dunn and Jim Burns going 4:07.8. The Rocks also took the diving competition with Bob Longridge and Jay Schmidt amassing 345.5 points.

Stevenson and Salem were the only two teams that scored in every event.

"CHURCHILL and Northville loaded up in a couple events to go for firsts," Olson said. "That hurt them in other events. In fact, that's how we got second. We could have got some more firsts, but we would have finished third if we did."

Olson said that Spartans victory in the relays did not, by any means, give them a lock on the league championship.

"It's (the relays) a good indicator of what the league is like," he said. "But, it's nothing hard and fast. Livonia Stevenson is a powerful team, but we're not going to give them the title just yet."

Buckler agreed. "Chuck Olson is one of the best coaches around here," he said. "I'm not about to count his kids out of anything."

swimming

WESTERN LAKES SWIM RELAYS

Saturday, Dec. 15 at Plymouth Salem

Team results: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 102; 2. Plymouth Salem, 75.3; Northville, 81; 4. Livonia Churchill, 56; 5. Farmington, 38; 6. Plymouth Canton, 27; 7. Walled Lake Central, 21; 8. Livonia Bentley, 17; 9. Farmington Harrison, 16; 10. Walled Lake Western, 2.

400 medley: 1. Salem (Don Harwood, Rick Cummings, Jamie Dunn, Jim Burns), 4:07.8; 2. Stevenson, 4:10.8; 3. Canton, 4:18.9; 4. Farmington, 4:24.5; 5. Northville, 4:42.3; 6. Canton, 4:43.5.

400 freestyle: 1. Stevenson (D.J. Ward, Louie Ministrelli, Jeff Albert, Steve Taormina), 3:28.6; 2. Farmington, 3:33.6; 3. Salem, 3:36.0; 4. Churchill, 3:49.1; 5. Canton, 3:52.2; 6. Northville, 4:08.6.

200 breaststroke: 1. Churchill (Eric Hutchison, Eric Baird, Brian Papierski, Stefan Antekci), 1:52.1; 2. Stevenson, 1:53.6; 3. Canton, 2:02.7; 4. Northville, 2:12.8; 5. Northville, 2:18.2; 6. Canton, 2:25.5.

200 backstroke: 1. Northville (Darius Mikalinos, Randy Holway, Doug Buell, Jeff Bainbridge), 1:52.1; 2. Stevenson, 1:53.6; 3. Canton, 2:03.2; 4. Churchill, 2:04.8; 5. Salem, 2:06.1; 6. Farmington, 2:19.4.

400 butterfly: 1. Farmington (Eric Davis, Jay Weaver, Mike Wolford, Chris Telorico), 1:47.3; 2. Stevenson, 1:47.5; 3. Northville, 1:50.2; 4. Canton, 1:52.5; 5. Salem, 1:57.7; 6. Churchill, 2:01.3.

Diving: 1. Salem (Bob Longridge, Jay Schmidt), 345.5; 2. Northville, 343.4; 3. Churchill, 345.5; 4. Stevenson, 345.5; 5. Bentley, 345.5; 6. Bentley, 345.5.

400 individual medley: 1. Northville (Dave Wayne, Darius Mikalinos, Jeff Bainbridge, Doug Buell), 4:08.3; 2. Stevenson, 4:08.3; 3. Salem, 4:08.4; 4. Bentley, 4:29.4; 5. Churchill, 4:36.6; 6. Canton, 4:50.9.

Crescendo: 1. Stevenson (Martin Ebner, D.J. Ward, Chris Morasky, Jeff Albert), 4:33.7; 2. Farmington, 4:37.7; 3. Salem, 4:37.9; 4. Farmington, 4:48.5; 5. Northville, 4:55.4; 6. Canton, 5:05.3.

200 medley: 1. Stevenson (Joe Saunders, Kevin Everhart, Paul McAree, Louie Ministrelli), 1:47.5; 2. Salem, 1:54.5; 3. Canton, 1:55.6; 4. Churchill, 1:58.8; 5. Farmington, 2:04.5; 6. Western, 2:07.2.

200 freestyle: 1. Churchill (Vic Valente, Paul Tetatit, Eric Hutchison, Eric Baird), 1:54.4; 2. Bentley, 1:59.7; 3. Stevenson, 1:40.2; 4. Northville, 1:42.4; 5. Salem, 1:44.5; 6. Canton, 1:46.4.

N'wood downs Eagles

The score might not have indicated it, but Orchard Lake St. Mary's basketball game at Northwood Institute Saturday was a one-sided affair.

True, the Eagles lost by just a basket — 76-74 — when, as coach Tim Domke said, "We missed a couple easy shots down the stretch and they made theirs."

The difference was that St. Mary's missed its "easy shots" from the floor. Northwood's easy shots came at the line.

The Eagles dumped in 10 more baskets than Northwood and still lost. That's because the Northmen shot 38 free throws — making 26 — to a

basketball

mere 6 for St. Mary's (4 converted).

St. Mary's led 38-33 at the half but Northwood kept chipping away, doing its greatest damage from the free throw line.

Despite the defeat, the Eagles seventh against two wins, Domke liked what he saw.

"We played well," he said. "We came together as a team, played well as a team."

Lance Davis, who also prepped at St. Mary's, paced the Eagle offense with 16 points and 9 assists. Keith Brooks contributed 12 points. Mike Cozad had 11, and Steve Kopicki pumped in 10 points and nabbed 12 rebounds.

Northwood (6-4) was led by Frank Flagstead's 19 points.

St. Mary's is idle until Dec. 29, when it plays at Wayne State at 3 p.m. The Eagles open the new year at the 16-team National Catholic Tournament Jan. 3-5 in Dubuque, Iowa. St. Mary's meets Belmont Abbey (N.C.) in the opening round Jan. 3.

in the pocket

by W. W. Edgar

Area bowlers inducted in Hall

The area bowling fraternity played a major role in the annual Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame festivities Saturday night when Lois Hoffman McAllister and Bob Hilt were inducted into the Hall and Al Wick, owner of the Woodland Lanes, was honored with the prestigious Judge Watts plaque.

More than 50 members of the gathering at the Fairland Club were on hand to greet the honorees.

WESTLAND BOWL — Ken McNabb, who has rolled a pair of perfect games, finally earned membership in the 700 club when he linked games of 279, 209 and 244 for 732. Joining him with the new members of the club was Tim Smitley of the Tri-City men's league, who fashioned a 700. It was his first. In the Sun Risers loop, Carol Hilt was high with 615 and in the ladies classic Pam Howard set the pace with 620.

MERRI-BOWL — Gary Nagle was headed for the 700 club until he tired in the final game. After counts of 236 and 248 he slipped to 203 and settled for 687. In the ladies doubles Judy Murphy was high with 615 and in the ladies classic Pam Howard set the pace with 620.

WOODLAND LANES — Tony Catner, bowling with his father in the Catholic Central league, rolled a 682 to take top honor. In the ladies league, Donna Kress was high with 249 and Linda Dumont was next in line with a 231.

SUPERBOWL — Pins were flying at a great rate as Tom Brudginski rolled a perfect game in the Classic and Ken Mehl of the hydrodynamic league opened with a 274 on the way to a 708 series.

BEL-AIRE — Jan Vandervill showed the way in the ladies classic with a 263. On the men's side Don Weise showed the way with a 268 in 678 and Gary Sackau was right behind with 643.

GARDEN LANES — Dan Ballinger, with a 682, set the pace for the men. His closest rival was Ray Slade with 629. In the St. Linus league John Fries was right behind with 614.

Tracy Dunn had 640 in the Vinco League and Brad Lacey was one pin behind.

WONDERLAND LANES — In the women's league Dana Anzora was high with 633 and Oleza Kessel finished with a 600.

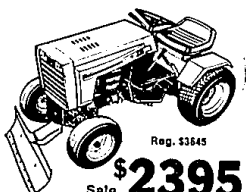
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