

Raider tankers eye 12th title in 13 tries

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

North Farmington swim coach Pat Duthie is a humble man. His swim teams have won 11 North-west Suburban League swim titles in the last 12 years. This year, his teams have dominated the league throughout the dual meet season.

By all accounts, the Raiders shouldn't be contested in Friday night's NSL swim meet at Westland John Glenn. But to talk to Duthie, one would think North will be firmly tested.

"I don't know, anything can happen," he said. "Removing myself a bit and looking at it as an objective spectator, I would say North Farmington will be difficult to beat. I think we'd have to hurt ourselves to be best."

Considering that North has the top seed in eight of 11 events, and that the Raiders have all their front-line swimmers seeded in the top 12 in each event, Friday's meet should again

prove to be a battle for second place.

"ASSUMING THAT we do win it," said the forever ebullient Duthie, "I would think that Livonia Franklin would be second and then John Glenn." The league meet, the final league gathering for the disbanded NSL, will feature just five teams for the first time. Garden City has dropped its boys swim program.

All-American Brian Gula will highlight the field Friday. The Raider senior is the top seed in both the 100-yard backstroke (\$5.9) and the 200 free-style (1:46.3).

Sophomore Mike Turney, who has been battling a virus for the better part of five weeks, is the No. 1 seed in both the 100 butterfly (54.4) and the 200 individual medley (2:03.4).

Mike Butti should be the third Raider to score a pair of league championships as he is seeded on top of both the 50 free (22.6) and the 100 free (50.1).

Keith Lee is the other Raider individ-

ual to be seeded No. 1, he'll lead the free field.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN, who was supposed to host the meet but had to pull out because of a broken diving board, will be led by a swift medley relay team (1:45.3) and the versatile talents of Brian Niedbala, Ramon Letero, Bryan Madigan and Dave Gorak.

John Glenn's Jim Jensen should give Turney a solid push in both the butterfly and the IM.

Redford Thurston possesses the No. 1 100-breaststroke swimmer in Mark Pratt who has gone 1:02.7 — second best in Observeland.

Redford Union's Matt Ford, the second best diver in Observeland, will battle Franklin's Bill Givier for the league title. Ford's best to date was 269.4, while Givier has nailed 252.

The preliminary heats will be at 7 p.m. Thursday. The finals will be at 7 p.m. Friday. John Glenn is on Marquette Road west of Wayne Road.



Mike Turney and two other Raider swimmers are seeded No. 1 in a pair of events in Friday's NSL swim meet at John Glenn.

Spartans look unbeatable in WLAA pool



By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The scoreboard in the Plymouth Salem pool will read 0-0 before Friday night's finals of the Western Lakes conference swim meet.

But Salem coach Chuck Olson knows better than to believe that scoreboard. The way I have it figured, "said the veteran Rock coach whose teams have never lost a Western Lakes league meet, "Livonia Stevenson has a 91-point lead on us right now."

"Right now" was last Tuesday, the morning after the league's coaches sat down to figure out the seedings for the big meet.

It is no mystery why Livonia Stevenson will enter the league meet as overwhelming favorites. After all, the powerful Spartans dominated the dual meet season, won the league's relay meet and pummeled its closest competitor, Salem, by 60 points.

Still, Stevenson coach Doug Buckler is wisely approaching the league meet with cautious optimism.

"WE'RE PRETTY healthy, but I think Plymouth Salem can still win," he

said. "If we don't swim well, they'll beat us."

Said Olson: "We're going to have to swim awfully well and Stevenson will have to swim poorly if not horrible."

Both coaches, however, know that anything can happen. Especially since the rest of the field, most notably Farmington, Northville and Livonia Churchill, have talent enough to take points away from both Stevenson and Salem.

"In fact, we're going to have to get some help from them," Olson said. "But, we can't afford for them to give us too much help. We're not that far ahead of third place. We have to swim well just to keep second place."

Farmington and Northville should have quite a war for third place, with Farmington Harrison and Churchill close behind.

The Spartans are seeded first in six of the 11 events and are seeded in the top three in all but two events.

Kevin Everhart is seeded No. 1 in both the 100 yard backstroke (\$8.2) and the 50 freestyle (22.5). In the 50 free, Stevenson has garnered the top three seeds with Everhart, Dennis Ward (22.7) and Chris Morasky (23.2).

Joe Saunders is picked to place first

in the 100 butterfly with his 56.0. That's just .2 better than Farmington's Eric Davis, however.

WARD SHOULD win the 100 freestyle for Stevenson with his 50.0. And Stevenson has the top times in both the 200 medley relay (1:45.6) and the 400 freestyle relay (3:21.9).

Salem didn't grab any top seeds, but they have plenty of depth. Greg Wolff is the No. 2 seed in the 200 free (1:51.3) and the No. 3 seed in the 500 free (5:02.6). Jon Cain is right behind Ward in the 100 free (51.4). And the Rocks are seeded No. 2 in the 400 free relay and No. 3 in the medley relay.

Farmington Harrison's Kirk Raddatz will be a major point producer Friday as he is seeded No. 1 in two events. The talented senior is on top of both the 200 free (1:50.0) and the 500 free (4:52.3).

Livonia Churchill is expected to dominate the breaststroke with Eric Hutchison (1:02.6) and Eric Baird (1:04.3) the top two seeds. Baird is also seeded third in the 200 individual medley (2:09.8).

Farmington's hopes rest with the talents of Eric Davis and Jay Weaver.

Davis is seeded No. 2 in the butterfly (56.2) and Weaver is seeded in both the 100 free (third, 51.9) and the 100 backstroke (second, 58.5). The Falcon relays are also seeded high, second in the medley and third in the freestyle relay.

BUT, THE event of the meet could be the diving competition. Plymouth Canton's Andy Flower and Churchill's Vic Valente have been warring on the spring boards for two years. So far this year, Flower has had the better score, 275.85 to Valente's 263. But, Valente is the defending champ and champions don't die easily.

"It's going to be an interesting meet," Olson said. "Stevenson has an awful lot of power. We have to score two and three kids in each event to take them. It'll be difficult."

Stevenson, meanwhile, is not about to grow complacent with their success this season. Buckler said that 15 of his swimmers have shaved their heads for the league meet.

"I think we'll swim well," said Buckler. The finals begin at 7 p.m. Friday night at the Salem pool (Salem is on Joy Road, west of Canton Center).

Mike Wofford and his Farmington teammates will have a tough time catching Stevenson in Friday night's WLAA swim meet at Salem.

Fouls, Seaholm trip North in OT

SEAHOLM 52, N. FARMINGTON 51, 3 OT: The game was at Birmingham Seaholm. North's Paul Wahman and Rick Anderson fouled out, Anderson very early on. Seaholm made 18 of 22 free throws. North 7 of 11.

"I don't say nothing about the officials," said Raider coach Tom Negoshian. "We still had our chances to win the game. We missed a layup at the end of regulation, we didn't score in the first overtime."

Neither team scored in the first overtime, each team scored a bucket in the second, and when Seaholm went up by 3 in the third OT, it was more than the Raiders could overcome.

Wahman led North with 16 points. Dean Temple and Bob Chwalik scored 10 each.

Rob Bosart (14) and Dave Kuhn (13) led Seaholm (12-6). North falls to 13-6.

FARMINGTON 58, W.L. WESTERN 51: Some clutch free throw

basketball

shooting and the tenacious defense of reserve Brian Looser enabled Farmington to win this Western Lakes consolation game.

Looser came off the bench in the second quarter and limited Walled Lake Western's top gun, Dan Gabrielle, to just 8 points the final 3 quarters.

Meanwhile on the offensive end, Bruce Kratt was pouring in 24 points, including 8 of 9 from the free throw line. Farmington hit 10 of 14 free throws in the final quarter to seal the win.

Dwayne Kratt, Greg Feenstra and Bill Robinson clipped in 8 apiece for the Falcons (9-10). Farmington will host Northville on Thursday.

Raider spikers outlast Franklin

North Farmington's girls volleyball team cannot win the Northwest Suburban League championship, but it isn't about to let anyone sneak second place away from it.

Livonia Franklin found that out Monday, as the Raiders held off a talented Patriot team, 7-15, 15-17, 15-13.

"I'm really proud of this team," said North coach Sandy Lubienleki. "Our top hitter, Julie Pistole, was really sick and could hardly play. But, our sophomores came on played just fantastic front and back row."

Tammy and Terry Spengler, a talented set of twins, sparked the Raiders. And with Pistole out of the line-up much of the time, Brooks Landback and Donna Konjarevich picked up the hitting pace.

Landback hit 16 of 17 spikes with 5 aces while Konjarevich hit 10 of 12.

North trailed 10-13 in game three, but Tammy Spengler served 4 straight points and Patti Kozicki aced match point.

The Raiders are now 25-8 on the season, 8-2 in the NSL, with one league match remaining.

FARMINGTON HARRISON played tough but No. 1-ranked Livonia Stevenson posted a 10-15, 15-17, 15-7 on Monday.

"I think we're bored," said Stevenson coach Lee Cagle about his team's performance. "The girls are playing way below their ability level. The excitement just isn't there, and I think the level of competition has something to do with it."

Cagle had praise for Harrison's Diana Raddatz. "She played real nice at the net blocking and taking us by surprise with her roll shots," he said. Stevenson is 42-2 on the season.

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