

Stevenson looks toughest in tough WLAA

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Chuck Olson and Pat Duthie aren't big on hype.

The two Observeland swim coaches could be best described as low key in their assessments of area talent and teams.

So when the two proclaim the Western Lakes Activities Association as the best swim conference in the state — lake head.

The WLAA is on display this week at Plymouth Salem. The conference meet began Wednesday with the preliminary races. The diving competition is Thursday night, and the finals are at 7 p.m. Friday. And if you take Olson's and Duthie's assertions lightly, consider this:

AT LEAST three performers in each event have already swum state-qualifying times. In the 200-yard individual medley, the top seven seeds have qualified for state. The top seven backstrokers are also state qualifiers. The top five seeds in the 100 butterfly have qualified.

Last year's state champion in the 200 IM, Sherrie Sudek of Livonia Stevenson, is the No. 3 seed in the league meet this season.

"When you consider that 60 to 70 percent of the swimmers use the league meet to qualify for state, the fact that so many have qualified prior to the meet is pretty incredible," said Olson, who is the head man at Plymouth Salem.

Olson and other coaches have predicted that next season, it is likely that 13 WLAA swimmers will qualify for state in the backstroke.

"Isn't that something — you're good enough to swim in the state meet, but you can't score points in the league," Olson said.

Duthie, the North Farmington coach, observed: "As a league, from top to bottom, I don't think there is any better."

THE IRONIC thing about this WLAA meet,

OLSM eyes improvements on cage scene

By C.J. Risaak
staff writer

What faces Orchard Lake St. Mary's college basketball coach Tim Domke this year isn't a lack of height, or experience, or quickness, or depth. Rather, it's a puzzle, one that he must solve quickly if the Eagles are to enjoy a successful campaign.

"I'm excited," Domke said about the challenge. "We're a better team at everything except, right now, defense."

The always-optimistic Domke doesn't want that to be misinterpreted, though. As talented as OLSM is, it may be awhile before it pulls things together.

ONE REASON is a monstrous schedule. The Eagles, coming off a 17-17 season that included 13 wins in their last 15 games, have treacherous tests ahead in Northwest Institute, Saginaw Valley State, Indiana State, St. Bonaventure, Wayne State, Hillsdale, Youngstown State and Oakland University.

All are in the next month. And OLSM plays 14 of its first 18 games on the road.

"We're not going to start 12-2," said Domke. "We'll be lucky to be .500 at Christmas."

"We're still young. Even the players returning are young. And we're not playing real well right now. We're still thinking through things."

THAT WILL have to change if the Eagles are to enjoy any pre-Christmas success. Domke does have some experienced players to build around. All six of the returnees have started during their careers.

Steve Kopicki, a 6-foot-4 senior forward who averaged 17 points and 13 rebounds a game, and Erich Hartnett, a 6-3 sophomore guard (from Plymouth Salem) who contributed 14.5 points, 5.8 rebounds and 5.6 assists, provide the nucleus.

Others who will contribute heavily are Lance Davis, a 5-9 junior point guard from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep School, seven points and 8.8 assists a game last year; Gary Peterson, a 6-3 junior center-forward, 12.3 points and 7.6 rebounds; Mike Belczak, a 6-6 sophomore forward (from Redford St. Agatha); and Rod Scharbonau, a 6-3 junior guard-forward who was sidelined with a broken hand last year.

And yet, even these seasoned performers aren't guaranteed starting positions. That's because Domke has a bevy of top-notch recruits, some of whom will earn instant playing time.

THOSE WHO figure to contribute quickly are Amos Brown, a 6-4 forward from Pontiac Northern; Bob Bringham, a 6-4 guard-forward from Oregon, Ohio; Theodor Pearson, a 6-4 forward from Detroit Murray Wright; and Jerome Washburn, a 6-6 center from West Branch who was redshirted last year.

There are others who could fill roles on the team. Tim Morton, a 6-11 junior (from Auburn Hills Avondale) who transferred from Michigan Christian College, and freshmen Reggie Anderson, 6-4 from Pontiac Northern, and Jimmy Ford, 5-9 from Dearborn Edsel Ford, could help at guard.

All of which makes Domke's puzzle more complex. "We have to find the right combination," he said. "That's really the question. I'm supposed to be a good coach, but I can't tell who to play and when. They all have their moments, good and bad."

"I know we have 11 or 12 players we can go to. This is the most depth we've ever had. When we go to the bench, we could actually get stronger."

IN OLSM's season opener against Alliance College, Domke started freshmen Brown and Bringham with Hartnett, Kopicki and Davis. That proved to be a mistake; the Eagles lost 90-80.

"We were too small," he admitted. "We're going to have to start either Peterson or Washburn." What Domke is hoping for is a second improvement by the end of the year to keep OLSM in the hunt for an NIAA District 23 playoff berth. That won't be easy, considering Aquinas, Stens Heights, Hillsdale, Northwest and Saginaw Valley are also in the class.

"It's going to be close," Domke said. "But at the end of the year we could be one of the better small-college teams around."

The question is if OLSM can survive its brutal schedule until then.

though, is that most teams have just about conceded the league title to Livonia Stevenson — and not out of any respect for tradition.

Stevenson has won the three previous league crowns, but this year's version of the Spartans may be the most powerful.

"I just don't see how anyone can catch them," Duthie said.

That's discouraging news to the rest of the league because most coaches feel that North has the best chance at topping Stevenson.

"I'm not totally convinced Stevenson has a lock on this thing," Olson said. "I was very impressed with North Farmington's dual meet team. I'll say this, I don't think Stevenson can take them lightly. I'm sure they remember how close we came to them last year."

THE SPARTANS, 5-0 in the dual meet season and champions of the Lakes Division, earned five first-place seeds. Sheila Taormina (3:11.8) edged Livonia Churchill's Audra Martin (3:12.0) in the 200 IM. She is also the favorite to win the butterfly.

Ann Bollinger (25.8) is favored to win the 50 freestyle over North's Margo Cramer (25.6). Stevenson is heavily favored to win the 400 freestyle relay.

To top it off, the Spartans are expected to pull a 1-2-3 sweep in the backstroke. Bollinger, Sodek and Kathy Sullivan are the top three seeds. North Farmington's Jennifer Rowe will enter the meet favored in both the 200 free (1:36.7) and 500 free (5:08.1). She'll get a strong challenge in the 200 from Stevenson's Michele McKenzie and Juli Quinlan.

North Farmington (1:57.2) and Livonia Churchill

(1:57.6) should have quite a battle for first place in the 200 medley relay.

Salem's Kristal Taylor and Stevenson's Quinlan should provide a stirring race in the 100 free. Both are seeded first with 58.0 clockings. On their tail is Plymouth Canton's Lynn Massey (58.3).

CHURCHILL'S Audra Martin and North's Cindy Cramer are less than one second apart in the 100 breaststroke with Canton's Julie Cox close behind.

The competition for the diving points is as intense as ever. Defending champ Cathy Stalford of Stevenson will get a strong fight from John Glen's Jamie Koester.

Yes, Stevenson is favored to win the WLAA title, and with good reason. But as Olson said: "Funny things can happen in a league meet."

'I don't think Stevenson can take (North Farmington) lightly. I'm sure they remember how close we came to them last year.'

— Chuck Olson
Salem coach

**PINE
CASHWAY
LUMBER**

"DECK THE WALLS" WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM PINE

"EVERY PANEL ON SALE"
Over 40 styles to choose from!

**100
off**

**200
off**

**300
off**

ANY PANEL Reg. Price
\$9.09 - \$11.29

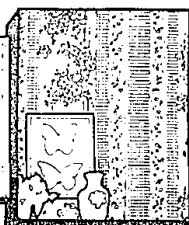
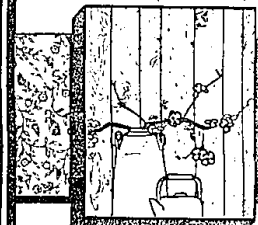
ANY PANEL Reg. Price
\$11.30 - \$13.99

ANY PANEL Reg. Price
\$14.00 - \$18.69

NOW ONLY \$8.09 - \$10.29

NOW ONLY \$9.30 - \$11.99

NOW ONLY \$11.00 - \$15.69

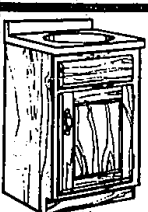


WHITE LATEX
WALL PAINT
4.99 GAL.
GUARDIAN
FLAT LATEX
WALL PAINT
— hundreds of
colors — **8.99** GAL.
GUARDIAN
LATEX SEMI-
GLOSS **10.99** GAL.

FURRING STRIPS
1x2-8' 1x3-8' 2x2-8'
39¢ 59¢ 75¢
PANEL ADHESIVE
OVER 1/3 OFF!
77¢ Reg. \$1.19
#63517
PANEL BACKER
Covers 32 sq. ft. when used
with 1x3 furring.
2.99 PKG.

CEILING
15% OFF
OUR EVERYDAY
LOW PRICE ON
ALL
ARMSTRONG
CEILING IN
STOCK!
2'x4' CHAPERONE
1.99
Reg. \$2.39

**SECURITY
LIGHTS**
• 300 watt
halogen bulb
included
14.99
**EXTENSION
CORDS**
16-3 Outdoor **4.95**
50 FT.



OAK VANITY CABINETS
BY MIAMI-CAREY

	Square Panel	Cathedral Panel
18x16 1 Door	49.99	...
24x18 2 Door	69.99	71.99
30x18 1 Door/ 2 Drwr.	95.99	97.99

'MARBLE' TOPS:
19x17.... \$40.00
25x19.... \$50.00
31x17.... \$57.00
**15% OFF ALL MIAMI-CAREY
MEDICINE CABINETS**

**PINE
CASHWAY
LUMBER**

BRIGHAM
FENTON
LINCOLN PARK
MT. CLARENS
RISFORD
SOUTHFIELD
UTICA
YPSILANTI

425 MAIN ST.
14375 TORREY RD.
2324 FORT ST.
8 S. GARDNER
12224 RIVINGTON RD.
22800 W. 8 MILE
48075 VAN DYKE
655 NORTH FAUCON

227-1831
439-3300
396-8177
449-3200
937-9111
353-3578
739-7443
481-1698

OPEN: MON., TUE.
WED., THU.
THURSDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

8 A.M.-6 P.M.
8 A.M.-6 P.M.
8 A.M.-6 P.M.
8 A.M.-6 P.M.
10 A.M.-3 P.M.

462 ASHMAN
1316 E. MAIN ST.
7274 HIGHLAND RD.

431-4296
723-9111
646-3400

OPEN: MON.-FRI.
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

8 A.M.-6 P.M.
8 A.M.-6 P.M.
10 A.M.-3 P.M.

Cash & Carry
Prices Good Thru
November 26, 1985

SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE
AT ALL LOCATIONS. ALL ITEMS CASH &
CARRY. NO SALES TO DEBITORS.