

Mercy dominates meet

Farmington Hills Mercy was impressive to say the least in defending its title Saturday in the 11th Annual Griffin Memorial Swimming and Diving Relays.

The Marlins, who have won the Brighton High School meet three consecutive years, captured first place in six of the 19 events and set records in three.

It was also the second straight year Mercy has won the meet with only four divers, coach Chuck McClune added. The Marlins had 98 points, West Bloomfield 62, Milan 60, Brighton 54, Adrian 50 and Northville 46.

Mercy's record-setting swims came in the 800- and 400-yard freestyles and the 200 medley. Michelle McCaffrey, Liz DeMatia and Becky Wilquist were on both freestyle relays. They combined with Erika Smith for an 8:19.48 time in the 800 and with Karen Neyer for a 3:47.69 showing in the 400.

DEMATTIA AND Neyer

swimming

teamup with Katie Westhoff and Katie Knipper to set a pool record as well as a meet standard of 1:54.75 in the medley.

"We really went after the medley and the 400 and 800 freestyles and stacked those relays," McClune said. "We tried to put our best lineup in these relays to see what they could do."

The Marlins also were the best in the 200 backstroke, 200 freestyle and 200 breaststroke relays.

McCaffrey came back to help with the latter, along with Joan Huellmetel, Jennifer Duda and Katie Scanlon in 2:07.69.

Scanlon, Neyer, Westhoff and Polly Tenuta won the backstroke in 2:02.76, and Wilquist, Mary Quinn, Jenny Nelson and Smith recorded a 1:48.4 time in the freestyle event.

Linda Goldstein of West Bloom-

field was named the meet's top swimmer. She anchored the Lakers' first-place crescendo relay team with a 5:15 time in the 500-meter portion.

Lansing Waverly won the 400 medley (4:18.86), Milan the diving and Adrian the 400 individual medley (4:36.52). The Marlins would have finished second in the IM but were disqualified when a swimmer started too soon.

MERCY ALSO took second in the 400 medley with Tenuta, Huellmetel, Knipper and Quinn swimming 4:26.94 and fifth in the crescendo as Mison, Quinn, Renee LaForest and Tenuta finished in 5:29.1.

The Marlins will get a major test on Tuesday, Sept. 19, when they swim against Ann Arbor Huron, a leading candidate to win the Class A title, in a dual meet.

"We have a lot of depth," McClune said. "We lost only four swimmers, so it's looking real hopeful."

WLAA event rates toss-up

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Hooker Wellman, coach of the Plymouth Canton girls swim team, became a father for the second time late Monday night.

Sean Marcus Wellman was born at 11:19 p.m., and his arrival could mean good news for more than just the Wellman family.

"Whenever we have a baby around here, something good seems to happen," said Hooker Wellman, referring to Saturday's Western Lakes Activities Association Relays in which the Chiefs are the defending champs.

Plymouth Salem will serve as host for the meet, which begins with diving at 11 a.m. and follows with the swimming portion at 1:30 p.m.

"The last time (when Charlie Wellman was born) Andy Fowler won the state (title in diving)," Wellman said. "Maybe it's an omen. Maybe something good will happen on Saturday."

CANTON HAS the talent to repeat, but a number of other schools, including North Farmington, Livonia Stevenson and Churchill, Plymouth Salem and Northville are strong possibilities, too.

"We definitely have a shot at it, but the league has changed considerably," Wellman said. "North Farmington has a lot of people back, Northville won the conference meet by over 100 points and Churchill and Salem are real strong."

Instead of submitting entries this year, coaches had

only to name the events they will participate in and give seed times.

Wellman hasn't seen any of that information, but he said Bill Faunce, the meet director, told him the Chiefs will have to swim faster than last year if they hope to win again.

Canton's only competition thus far was a scrimmage meet with Novi, so the Chiefs have no time to waste getting their feet wet.

"I think we've got a balanced lineup and as strong as we can put together," Wellman said, "but it depends where other teams put their kids."

"WE HAVE A good 400 medley, but if North Farmington, Churchill, Northville and Salem decide they want to go for it, too, we could end up fourth or fifth," North coach Pat Duthie, whose Raiders won the meet two years ago, agrees with Wellman's assessment of the unpredictability of such a meet.

"A couple of teams could load up in one event, and you could have a couple of pretty good swimmers finishing down the road in that event," he said.

"We like to approach it like a fun situation. We don't attach an awful lot of importance to the meet, but we're certainly going to try and do the best we can."

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North impressive in '89 debut

North Farmington was going at full speed when it hit the water Tuesday night for its season debut in girls swimming.

The Raiders registered seven state-qualifying swims in defeating host West Bloomfield 103-69. The meet was to have taken place at North, but the roof over its pool is still being repaired.

"It was a good jumping off point for us," North coach Pat Duthie said. "We have lots of good stuff ahead of us, but it was nice to have a meet and get our minds off the

pool situation and focus on what swimming is all about."

Christie Duthie won the 50- and 100-yard freestyles and met the qualifying standards in each with 25.54 and 55.63 times.

Kerry Doran had one individual first but qualified in two events. She won the butterfly in 1:00.95 and was runner-up to West Bloomfield's Linda Goldstein with a 1:57.55 time in the 200 freestyle.

Goldstein swam 1:57.31. In other events, North's Karrie Kranz and freshman Anna Palmer won the individual medley and

breaststroke, respectively, with state-best times of 2:17.93 and 1:11.01.

The Raiders also took first place in the backstroke with Julianne Markey swimming a 1:05.84 time, and North prevailed in both relays, too.

Christie Duthie, Jennifer Wagner, Kranz and Doran posted a qualifying time of 3:48.66 in the freestyle relay, and Markey, Palmer, Kristin Celko and Anna Palmer combined efforts for a 2:00.98 time in the medley relay.

Falcons trip Harrison; Raiders rout Ferndale

Farmington put an end to Farmington Hills Harrison's modest, two-game winning streak in girls basketball Tuesday night, and North Farmington extended its unbeaten streak to three games.

The Falcons (1-2) notched their first victory 55-54, and dropping the Hawks to 2-2. North trashed winless Ferndale 62-23 and improved its record to 3-0.

Harrison led 38-36 after three quarters, but Farmington outscored the Hawks 19-6 in the final quarter.

"We switched our press to a zone press, and that seemed to do the trick," Farmington coach Diana Fair said.

The Falcons got a second-half lift from Mandy Cannon and Kim Owczarzak, both of whom were in-

basketball

jured in last Thursday's game and didn't play in the first half. Cannon scored 12 points in two quarters to lead Farmington and also made nine steals. Jennifer McGlinch and Rachael Cannon added eight apiece.

"I really think they sparked us," said Fair of Mandy Cannon and Owczarzak. "Mandy and Shellie Gaul had some key steals in the fourth quarter."

Andrea Najarian scored a game-high 16 points, which included four triples, for the Hawks. Heather Hopkins, a freshman forward, tossed in

14 points, and Shari Barnes had 14 rebounds and four points.

"We just made some bad decisions," Harrison coach Jim Nerve said. "It's inexperience, I guess. I start two sophomores and a freshman."

NORTH 62, FERNDALE 23: The Raiders scored in double figures in every quarter while the Eagles (0-3) never did. North jumped in front 17-8 and led 30-17 at halftime and 47-21 after three quarters.

Kim Gurecki, the senior point guard for the Raiders, scored a game-high 21 points, Eve Claar (junior guard) supported with 15 and Vikki Seamons (senior center) added 12.

Ferndale's best was Ginger Donoghue, who managed six points and eight rebounds.

Salem gets needed boost at expense of Mercy club

A young Plymouth Salem girls basketball team did a lot of growing up Saturday night.

After starting the season with three losses, the Rocks defeated a good Farmington Hills Mercy outfit 42-28 in the Salem gymnasium.

"We knew, with this team, it was going to take some time and we've got a long ways to go," Salem coach Fred Thoman said. "But it definitely is a building block. I think we've got it in place and can take this game and grow."

The Rocks, who have two players idle with injuries, used balanced scoring and, most importantly, solid defense to get their first victory.

Salem's objective was to keep Mercy center Lee Albrecht, who had 18 points in a loss to South Lyon last week, away from the basket and point guard Jenny Clinton from penetrating.

"WE WORKED to keep them on the perimeter, and our players did a real nice job of doing that," Thoman said. "We did a great job of controlling the defensive boards, and that was one of the key factors in the game."

"It was one of those games that was very methodical-

ly played on our part. We tried not to have a big flurry of points scored by the other team. We're not a sensational offensive team yet, but that's where we're at. It was a workmanlike effort."

Sarah Ruete led the Rocks with 13 points and was the only player on either side to hit double figures. Emily Giuliani added seven, Kelly Austin and Lydia White six apiece.

For the team's young players — Giuliani and Austin are sophomores, Yolanda Jackson a freshman — Thoman said the victory was especially beneficial.

"No question, this was a growth game for them," he said. "They've been feeling the heat from a lot of teams, and Mercy was no different. But they handled the pressure and because of that we were able to be successful."

As a team, Mercy (1-2) never reached double figures in any quarter and was helped by 14-of-21 shooting at the free-throw line. The Rocks made eight of 12 free throws.

Carrie Walton led the Marlins with nine points, and Joanne Stephens and Albrecht followed with four apiece.

Chiefs return to defend title

Plymouth Canton will return to defend its crown in the Mercy Hoops Classic tonight when it plays St. Joseph in the first round at 6:15 p.m.

The other matchup has the host Marlins playing Trenton at 8 p.m. The championship is slated for 7:45 p.m. Saturday.

The Chiefs were 19-2 a year ago and are 1-1 under first-year coach Bob Blohm. St. Joseph had the same record last season, and Trenton, a loser to Canton in the 1988 opener, was 25-2 and a Class A semifinalist.

Canton defeated Waterford Kettering 54-47 to win the Hoops title last year, and Traverse City downed Mercy 64-45 in the consol-

ation game. Canton guard Michelle Fortier, one of four scholarship players to play in that tournament, was named the most valuable player.

The other players who are now on scholarship in the college ranks were Traverse City's Wendy Merriman and Lisa Anderson (both at Central Michigan) and Kettering's Nicole Leigh (Oakland University). Fortier is at Western Michigan.

Among the top players this year

will be Canton center Susan Ferko, a Mercy Hoops all-star last year, guard Jenny Russell and forward Sacey Thompson. The Marlins (1-2) are led by center Lee Albrecht, swing player Joanne Stephens and point guard Jenny Clinton.

Tracy Bloodworth, a Class B all-star, is the driving force behind the St. Joseph team, and Trenton returns 5-1 Kim Hoppes and 6-0 Katie Mans from its Final Four team.



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