

Orris takes European tour

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Ron Orris is a swimmer, first. But it was his high profile in that sport which has earned him the dual role of goodwill ambassador for the United States.

Orris, a senior at Plymouth Salem High School, will travel to Europe with the Junior National Team for two World Cup meets later this month.

The Americans, who leave Jan. 27 and return Feb. 8, will compete in Paris and later in East Berlin, the previously closed city and site of astonishing political change in the last several months.

"We're going to be the first U.S. team in any sport to be in East Berlin since the (Berlin) wall came down," Orris said.

"I don't know about politics, but I hope to talk to them. We were told to bring a lot of T-shirts, anything we might want to trade, like baseball hats."

Orris was chosen for the U.S. team based on his performances last summer at the Junior National meet. The team is composed of 15- and 16-year-olds but Orris, 17, still qualified since his birthday fell after the August deadline.

"Naturally, we're all pretty excited for Ron," Salem coach Chuck Olson said. "He's had some national recognition, and that certainly sets well for our area and state, for that matter."

Orris, who will swim the 200- and 400-meter individual medleys and 200 freestyle, went to Colorado last November for advanced training and



Ron Orris going to Europe with U.S. team

testing in preparation for the trip. The concentrated, five-day program took place at the Air Force Academy, where the elevation is 7,000 feet above sea level.

The tests covered everything from stress tests to psychologicals to determine moods and confidence levels, Orris said.

"It was 10 times harder, because getting oxygen into your lungs was so much harder," he said. "It took four or five days to get used to it. We were pretty dead at the end of that."

The U.S. swimmers were briefed on other things to expect outside of swimming during their Colorado visit.

"THEY GAVE us all kinds of information on jet lag and what to do to stay healthy over there," Orris said. "Paris is more Americanized, but there might be more of a problem with the food in Berlin. They told us how to change our diet and sleeping habits about four days before we go."

"They said U.S. sports teams are looked up to," he added. "People are usually curious about us and will have a lot of questions. But I think we'll have more questions than they do with everything that's happened."

But Orris is going there to swim, first and foremost, and that should be quite a challenge in itself.

"We're going to eat at the Eiffel Tower," and (U.S. officials) said there'll be some sightseeing," he said, "but I haven't concentrated too much on that. I'm thinking about swimming."

Orris is accustomed to swimming high school events, measured in yards, but the international competition will be done in meters.

His metric times at the Junior National meet last summer were 2:10 in the 200 IM, 4:34 in the 400 IM and 5:29 in the 200 freestyle. In yards, that translates into 1:52, 4:04 and 1:40.4, respectively.

"THOSE ARE my strongest events," Orris said, "so I'm hoping to make the finals for the night session. But this competition is supposed to be really tough. I'm looking forward to it, because I only get the opportunity to swim against kids this fast a couple times a year when I go to the nationals."

Orris added he was told a time needed to be among the top eight is the rough equivalent of a senior national cut, "and I've been around there lately," he said.

Orris, the lone Michigan swimmer on the team, made the senior national cut in the 200 freestyle and 200 IM last year. University of Michigan freshman Noel Strauss also is on the 35-member team, but he is from Arkansas originally.

When Orris comes back, he'll have the high school season's biggest meets remaining. There's the Western Lakes Activities Association meet on Friday, March 2, and the state meet on Saturday, March 10.

"I don't think it will affect him," Olson said. "The way he trains and prepares himself I don't think it will

swimming

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U.S. swim team member

be a problem for him to handle being gone several days.

"AND HE'S going to get some pretty good coaching while he's gone. The only thing that concerns me is the travel, but I think it will be a great experience for him."

"It will give some other guys (on the Salem team) a chance to swim," he added. "We're not looking for them to be quite as fast as Ron, though I hope he does great, and we'll try to do our best without him."

Orris and his U.S. teammates will meet in New York and fly to Amsterdam, Holland, and then to Paris where the team will spend seven days — four in training and three in competition. The last four days will be spent in Berlin.

"When we meet in New York, they said they'd give us some information on who will be there," Orris said. "They're supposed to be some of the best athletes in Europe. I guess they don't want us to be too intimidated."

Orris doesn't plan to let that happen, however.

"I want to swim as fast as Ron Orris ever has," he said.

Bedford champion off CC tournament

By Ray Seilcock
staff writer

wrestling

Bedford Catholic Central wrestling coach Mike Rodriguez sat slumped in his chair. It was almost the end of what he referred to as a long and frustrating day.

The Shamrocks, who have been state contenders for much of the last two decades, were about to finish fifth in Saturday's 26th Annual Catholic Central Invitational.

Temperance Bedford (289 points) won the invitational. They placed 10 wrestlers in the finals and boasted seven champions.

Jason Walling (heavyweight), Louie Tabai (103 pounds), Al Harnhizer (112), Nick Buchanan (130), Marcus Manz (135), Denver Beck (145) and Brian Wingate (171) all won championships for the Mules.

Holt, led by Charles McDowell's championship at 160, finished second with 163.5.

RALPH AMINE's title at 189 and Steve Searthout's at 119 helped Warren Lincoln to a third place finish with 140.5.

Birmingham Brother Rice settled for fourth, thanks to Jason Lerdahl's championship at 152. He pinned Kurt Achenbach of Milford Lakeland in the second period.

CC finished fifth with 110.5. Senior Jay Heim (140 pounds) won the Shamrocks' only championship. He beat Bedford's Ryan McBroom 5-2.

"I knew he couldn't beat me," Heim said. "I've wrestled him before and knew what to expect."

Following Heim's match, Rodriguez discussed his frustration about not just the invitational, but the season.

"I really thought we would be able to show a little more out here today," Rodriguez said. "Bedford just came in here and ran away with the thing and we had nothing to say about it. In past years, we would have given them something, but not this time."

Rodriguez was quick to praise Heim and his efforts.

"HELM is just outstanding," Rodriguez said. "I am convinced that he is the best in the state. Today he controlled everybody, including McBroom in the finals. Those two have wrestled before and anytime you do that you become more and more familiar with each other. That makes it harder to win because they have seen your moves. Jay did a good job."

Heavyweight Bub Sylvester also made it to the finals for CC, but was pinned by Walling in the third period.

"I think Sylvester is really coming on strong for us," Rodriguez said. "I'm just afraid it's a little late."

Rusty Fowler and Joe Tandoc recorded third place finishes for the CC.

Mount Clemens' Clarence Weaver beat Warren Lincoln's Jeff Mayer 9-1 to win the title at 125.

Wayne Memorial, with just 34 points, salvaged a 10th-place finish. They placed no wrestlers in the finals. Dan Vaughan's third place finish at heavyweight proved to be the Zebras' only bright spot.

RODRIGUEZ says the invitational assured one thing and that was how tough Bedford is.

"They really ran the show today," Rodriguez said of Bedford. "Anytime you put 10 wrestlers in the finals, you've accomplished something."

Lerdahl of Brother Rice earned the invitational's Outstanding Wrestler Award. Besides pinning Achenbach, Lerdahl also decisively defeated the Mike Dushane 14-8 and pinned Davidson's Mike Lewis in 3:02.

See statistical summary on page 5C.

CC bests Churchill

Bedford Catholic Central, winning nine of 11 events Tuesday, easily defeated host Livonia Churchill in boys swimming, 112-59.

The Shamrocks, 5-1 in dual meets, won both relays. Mike Hoeftlein, Troy Shumate, John Brogan and Handy Teeters captured the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:44.0.

Shumate, Teeters, Brian Dynda and Dave West finished first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:30.21).

Alan Alsari won two events for the Shamrocks, finishing first in the 200 freestyle (1:52.39) and 100 freestyle (51.4). Other CC winners included Shumate, 500 freestyle (4:50.66); Teeters, butterfly (59.14); Hoeftlein, 50 freestyle (23.6); Jason Mayeda, backstroke (1:06.72); and Chris True, breaststroke (1:10.6).

For Churchill, Jeff Danner won the 200 IM (2:26.7) and Hob Moore the diving. The Chargers are 2-5 overall.

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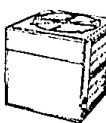
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