

Smooth operators

Observer's best take to the water well

By Brad Emone
staff writer

OBERVERLAND can be proud of its accomplishments this season in boys swimming.

Individually, Plymouth Salem's Ron Orris leads this year's 1989-90 All-Area squad. Considered one of the nation's top-ranked prep performers, Orris set a pair of state records at the Class A meet earlier this month in Ypsilanti.

Redford Catholic Central was the area's top team, finishing eighth in Class A. The Shamrocks also won the Catholic League title.

Coach of the Year honors goes to veteran Salem coach Chuck Olson, who led the Rocks to the Western Lakes Activities Association crown for the third consecutive season.

The Rocks captured the league meet after finishing behind North Farmington in the Lakes Division final meet, and Northville in the Class A Relay back in December.

"Area coaches gathered recently to select the top individual and relay performers. Here are the results of that meeting.

FIRST TEAM

Alan Afsari, Redford CC, 200-yard freestyle: The junior qualified for the Class A meet in both the 100 and 200 freestyles. He finished first in both events at the Catholic League meet. His best time in the 200 freestyle this season was 1:45.94.

The six-time All-Catholic League pick was the Shamrocks' lead-off man in the 400 freestyle relay with his best split of 49.1.

"Alan has a great feel for the water and swims a smart race," said CC coach Chuck McClure. "He is starting to believe in himself. He may be the best 200 freestyler I've ever worked with. He makes it look easy."

Aaron Rieder, Liv, Stevenson, 200 IM: The sophomore lived in three firsts at the Western Lakes meet — 200 IM, 100 backstroke and 200 medley relay. He also scored at the state meet in the 200 IM with a time of 1:58.99.

"Aaron is one of the best swimmers I've coached," said Stevenson coach Doug Buckler. "He is a hard worker and a hard competitor. I look forward to working with him the next two years. With hard work, he should be All-State next year."

Taki Caranicolos, Liv, Stevenson, 50 freestyle: The junior finished second in the WLA meet in the 50 freestyle with a time of 22.91. He also finished fourth in the 100 butterfly (55.29) and was a member of Stevenson's league champion 200 medley relay squad.

He was a state qualifier in the 100 butterfly.

"Taki will be our captain next year because he has already shown leadership this year," said Buckler. "I look forward to him having a great year in 1990-91."

Pat McManaman, Ply, Salem, diving: The junior took third in the WLA meet and fifth in the Class A Region II meet. He took eighth in the 100 CA meet at Eastern Michigan University.

McManaman scored personal bests of 256.35 points (six dives) and 410.25 (12 dives) this season.

"Pat has been Salem's No. 1 diver for the past two years, and has always given the team his best efforts when needed," said Olson. "He works hard in practice and should have an outstanding senior year in 1990-91."

Ron Orris, Ply, Salem, 100 butterfly: His accomplishments are so numerous that not all can be mentioned for the senior captain, who is being recruited by sev-



Chuck Olson
Coach of the Year

eral big-name schools including Texas, Michigan and Michigan State.

Here are a few highlights:

- Undeclared this season.
- Holds seven Salem varsity records and two pool records.
- State Class A record holder in the 100 butterfly (47.70) and 200 individual medley (1:50.96).
- Holds league records in the 200 freestyle (1:42.38), 200 IM (1:57.34), 100 butterfly (51.59), 100 freestyle (47.41) and 500 freestyle (4:44.23).
- Led Observerland rankings in seven different events.
- Held All-American status five different times.

The great thing about his accomplishments was maintaining a 3.6 grade-point average," said Olson. "He also showed great respect for his teammates, opponents, coaches and fans."

"He's the best young man I've coached in 20 years."

Chuck Chuba, N. Farmington, 100 freestyle: The senior won both the 100 freestyle (49.89) and 50 freestyle (49.89). He was also a member of the WLA champion 400 freestyle relay squad which qualified for state.

The team captain is a four-year letter winner who was voted Outstanding Specialist by his teammates.

Chuba helped North to two straight Lakes Division crowns.

"He's worked hard all season to win the 50 and 100 at the conference meet," said North coach Sue Gendron. "He's a talented athlete. We've had a lot of fun."

Troy Shumate, Redford CC, 500 freestyle: The junior finished first in the Catholic League meet in both the 200 IM and 100 butterfly.

At the Class A meet, Shumate took fourth in both the 200 and 500 freestyles, while leading the 400 freestyle relay team to a seventh place (46:32 split).

His best time this season in the 500 freestyle was 4:42.58.

"Even though Troy was sick the week before the state meet, he still had three great swims with his best coming in the 400 freestyle relay," said McClure. "He really pulled together for the team."

Mike Hoeflein, Redford CC, 100 backstroke: The junior holds one distinction — he was the only area swimmer to have a better time than Orris in the 100 backstroke (55.27).

Hoeflein took eighth in Class A in both the 100 backstroke and 200 freestyle. He was first in the Catholic League in the 100 backstroke and fifth in the 50 freestyle.

He holds the Belleville Invitational record in the 100 backstroke and his nine-time All-Catholic League pick.

"This year Mike really learned how to race," McClure said. "He pulled out a great swim as the anchor of our 400 freestyle relay team (47.6 split)."

"Mike is just beginning to show us how

great a swimmer he really is."

Dan Knipper, N. Farmington, 100 breaststroke: The senior took second in the WLA meet in the 100 breaststroke and 11th at the state meet (1:01.05). Was also a member of the conference winning 400 freestyle relay squad.

The four-year varsity performer and team captain set a school record in the 100 breaststroke. He was also voted the team's Outstanding Competitor.

Knipper was a big factor in North's second straight Lakes Division title drive.

"Dan is a tremendous competitor and a hard trainer," said Gendron. "He set his goals this season and through hard work, talent and dedication, attained them. He's a great young man and I'm going to miss him."

Aaron Rieder, Alex Goetzke, Scott Dowell and Taki Caranicolos — Liv, Stevenson, 200 medley relay: This quartet took first at the WLA meet with a time of 1:40.62. They also combined to gain a top 12 split at the state meet (1:40.78).

Goetzke is a freshman, while Rieder and Dowell are 10th graders. Caranicolos is a junior.

"This relay, being so young, has 'All-American' potential if they work hard and keep the right attitude," Buckler said. "I look forward to coaching them next year."

Troy Shumate, Alan Afsari, Brian Dynda and Mike Hoeflein — Redford CC, 400 freestyle: The four juniors took first place at the Catholic League meet and a seventh (3:14.52) in the state Class A meet.

Among their top splits this season — Shumate, 48.3; Afsari, 49.1; Dynda, 49.5; and Hoeflein, 47.6.

"I'm very optimistic about next year," said McClure. "Dynda, although he did not have an individual swim at the state meet, was a real team leader and set the attitude of the relay."

AT-LARGE PICKS

Jason Barringer, Farm, Harrison: The junior placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke at the WLA meet and took ninth with a time of 1:03.08 in the same event at the state Class B championships.

"Jason is a very hard worker and an extremely motivated athlete," said Harrison coach Peter Leonhardt. "I feel he could be the area's top breaststriker in the 1990-91 season."

Ryan Koonce, Farm, Harrison: The junior recorded the area's second best dual meet score (six dives) with 552.20 points. He also finished fourth in the WLA meet and took seventh in Class B.

"Ryan's goal was to do his best diving at the state meet and finish as high as he could," said Leonhardt. "He did a great job and I feel he'll be the diver to beat next year."

Randy Teeters, Redford CC: The sophomore qualified for the Class A championships in both the 200 IM and 500 freestyle.

He also took first in the Catholic League's 500 freestyle and added a second in the 200 IM. Teeters recorded a split of 26.9 in the 50 backstroke to lead off CC's 200 medley relay squad.

"Randy really prepared for this season and is the hardest worker on the team," said the CC coach. "His desire is only matched by his ability."

Devon Fekete, Redford CC: The sophomore qualified for the state meet in the 100 breaststroke.

He also finished second in the 500 freestyle and third in the 100 breaststroke at the Catholic League meet.

A transfer from Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Teeters was valuable addition for CC this season.

"Devon added great depth to our team and gave us a breaststriker when last year we had none," said McClure. "He swam better all year and will surprise people next year."

Leo Moreira, Red, Thurston: The junior is an exchange student from Brazil who broke a 10-year Thurston varsity record in the 500 freestyle (4:55.1).

He took first in the 100 freestyle at the Tri-River League meet and added a second in the 200 freestyle.

At the state Class B meet, Moreira gained ninth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:49.5. He also took eighth in the 500 freestyle.

"Leo is an excellent student and fun to be around," said Thurston coach Shelly Morse. "He motivates the team and could be a top-notch swimmer next year. We're hoping we'll be back next year."

Moreira competes as a triathlete. He also runs track and plays soccer.

Bryce Anderson, Kevin Beach, Mark Ealovaga and Craig Steshetz — Ply, Canton, 200 medley: This team finished third at the WLA meet and qualified for state with a best time of 1:42.44 (19th best in the state).

Anderson holds a Canton varsity record in the 100 breaststroke (1:57.14), while Beach reached the WLA finals in the same event.

Ealovaga was a top 12 finisher in the 100 butterfly at the WLA, while Steshetz set a Canton freshman mark in the 50 freestyle (24.04).

Three of our top four coming back and we're pleased with that," said Canton coach Hooker Wellman. "But Anderson's leadership and swimming ability will be missed."

Chuck Chuba, Chris Knoche, Dan Knipper and Jerry Jehle — N. Farmington, 400 freestyle relay: This quartet became WLA champions with a time of 3:19.55 (also a state cut).

Chuba and Knipper are both members of the first team (see above), while Knoche qualified for two individual events at the state meet. He took second in the 200 freestyle (1:47.62) at the WLA meet and added a third in the 100 breaststroke (1:03.21).

The versatile Jehle was also a key member for the Raiders, who went undefeated in dual meet competition in the Lakes Division.

all-area swimming

1989-90 ALL-AREA BOYS SWIMMING

INDIVIDUAL FIRST TEAM

200 free: Alan Afsari, Redford CC
200 IM: Aaron Rieder, Liv, Stevenson
50 free: Taki Caranicolos, Liv, Stevenson
Diving: Pat McManaman, Ply, Salem
400 free: Ron Orris, Ply, Salem
100 free: Chuck Chuba, N. Farmington
500 free: Troy Shumate, Redford CC
100 back: Mike Hoeflein, Redford CC
100 breast: Dan Knipper, N. Farmington

FIRST TEAM RELAYS

200 medley: Aaron Rieder, Alex Goetzke, Scott Dowell and Taki Caranicolos — Liv, Stevenson
400 freestyle: Troy Shumate, Alan Afsari, Brian Dynda and Mike Hoeflein — Redford Catholic Central

INDIVIDUAL AT-LARGE

Jason Barringer — Farm, Harrison
Ryan Koonce — Farm, Harrison
Randy Teeters — Redford CC
Devon Fekete — Redford CC
Leo Moreira — Redford Thurston

AT-LARGE RELAYS

200 medley: Bryce Anderson, Kevin Beach, Mark Ealovaga and Craig Steshetz — Plymouth Canton
400 freestyle: Chuck Chuba, Chris Knoche, Dan Knipper and Jerry Jehle — North Farmington

COACH OF THE YEAR

Chuck Olson — Ply, Salem



Alan Afsari
Redford CC



Aaron Rieder
Stevenson



Taki Caranicolos
Stevenson



Pat McManaman
Salem



Ron Orris
Salem



Chuck Chuba
N. Farmington



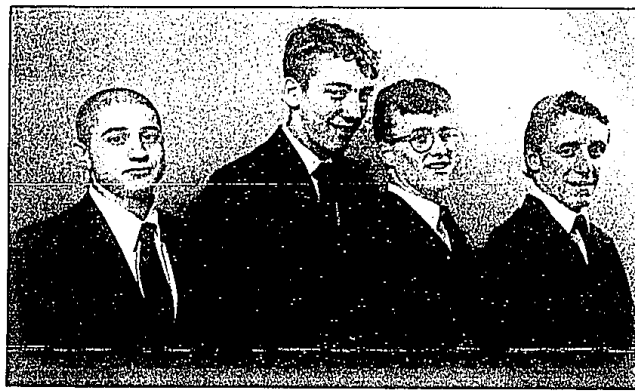
Troy Shumate
Redford CC



Mike Hoeflein
Redford CC



Dan Knipper
N. Farmington



Livonia Stevenson's first-team All-Observer 200-yard medley squad consists of (from left) Taki Caranicolos, Scott Dowell, Alex Goetzke and Aaron Rieder.



Redford Catholic Central's first-team All-Area 400 freestyle relay squad is comprised of (from left) Troy Shumate, Alan Afsari, Brian Dynda and Mike Hoeflein.



At-large berths went to (left to right) Devon Fekete of Redford Catholic Central, Ryan Koonce of Farmington Harrison, Randy Teeters of CC, Jason Barringer of Harrison and Leo Moreira of Redford Thurston.



Plymouth Canton's 200 medley squad (from left) Mark Ealovaga, Kevin Beach, Craig Steshetz and Bryce Anderson were named at-large.



North Farmington's 400 freestyle relay squad of (from left) Jerry Jehle, Dan Knipper, Chris Knoche and Chuck Chuba were named at-large.