

All-area swimmers among state's best

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

NORTH FARMINGTON AND Farmington Hills Mercy had two of the state's finest girls swim teams this year, so it follows they would have the majority of athletes on the 1990 All-Area Team.

Each school placed five individuals on the 17-member squad and also produced the top relay teams. The Western Lakes Activities Association champion Raiders had the best 200-yard medley and 400 freestyle relays, Mercy the top 200 freestyle unit.

This year's honor squad includes seven repeat selections: state champ Kerry Doran, Karrie Kranz, Anna Palmer and Carrie Worthen of North, Ellen Lessig, Livonia Churchill, Katie Knipper, Mercy, and Jennifer Knapp, Livonia Stevenson.

Pat Duthie of North was selected coach of the year.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Kerry Doran, 200 freestyle, N. Farmington; Doran is the Class A champion in this event, winning the title last month with a pool-record time of 1:51.26 in the finals at Michigan State University. She dropped more than four seconds off her school record of 1:55.28 and qualified for the senior nationals in the process.

Doran, the only female swimmer in North history to win a state title, also was second in the 500 freestyle at 4:58. She captured Oakland County championships in the IM and 500 freestyle earlier in the season, and she was the WLAA champ in the IM and butterfly. Doran is a four-time All-American, a four-time finalist at junior nationals and holds school records in four individual events and two relays.

"It sure was nice that an athlete as outstanding as Kerry has been for North Farmington could go out with a state championship," North coach Pat Duthie said. "You don't get too many kids like that to work with."

Anna Palmer, 200 IM, N. Farmington; Palmer dropped more than eight seconds in the IM from the start of the season, realizing her greatest improvement in that event. She was third in the WLAA and 13th at state with a 2:14.63 time in the IM.

Also an outstanding breaststroker, Palmer placed eighth in Class A at 1:02.23. She was second in the league in the breaststroke.

Palmer has been a member of North's All-American medley relay the last two years and has competed in junior nationals three times.

Ellen Lessig, 50 freestyle, Churchill; Lessig was undefeated in all individual dual-meet events this year. She excelled in sprint freestyle races as well as the butterfly.

She swam a lifetime best of 24.70 in the 50 freestyle at the state meet finishing sixth, and she had a season best of 54.63 in the 100 freestyle. Lessig, the most valuable swimmer at Churchill, also anchored the 200 freestyle relay, which set school and pool records.

"Ellen is one of the hardest, most-focused swimmers I have ever coached," Churchill coach Ken Stark said. "She challenged herself not only at meets but



Kerry Doran
N. Farmington



Anna Palmer
N. Farmington



Ellen Lessig
Churchill



Amy Kodrik
Canton



Lynda Goldstein
Mercy



Erika Smith
Mercy



Tara Ditchkoff
Churchill



Julianne Markey
N. Farmington



Katie Knipper
Mercy



Jennifer Knapp
Stevenson



Carrie Worthen
N. Farmington



Mandi Falk
Thurston



Jill Knapp
Stevenson



Karrie Kranz
N. Farmington



Jamie Anderson
Stevenson



Jenny McCombs
Mercy



Polly Tenuta
Mercy



Pat Duthie, coach
N. Farmington

in practices as well. Ellen is the type of athlete every coach dreams about having on his team."

Amy Kodrik, diving, Canton; Kodrik is the WLAA champion, setting a variety record for 11 dives with a 398.55 score. She also was ninth at the MISGA Invitational and 10th in a state regional. Kodrik combined with teammate Becky Holsington to win the WLAA Relays.

"Amy is an outstanding academic athlete," coach Hooker Wolman said, adding Kodrik maintains a 3.7 grade point. "She has improved greatly from last year. We have her back for one more year, and for sure she will do a tremendous job next year."

Lynda Goldstein, butterfly, Mercy; Goldstein placed third in the state in the butterfly and the IM. In the butterfly, she swam 58.43 in the finals and moved up one place from the prelims.

Goldstein also had the area's fastest time in the IM, swimming 2:07.58 in the Class A finals and qualifying as an All-American. She also was Catholic League champ in the butterfly and helped the

Marlins win the 200 freestyle relay. "Lynda is one of the most talented swimmers I've coached," Mercy coach Teri Eudi-Teeters said. "The way she swam this season could mean great things for next year. She's training year round with a few goals in mind."

Erika Smith, 100 freestyle, Mercy; Smith swam 54.42 in the Class A prelims to move atop the area rankings with the fastest time in the 100 freestyle. She finished 12th in the state.

Smith swam all the freestyle events and could have qualified in any one with specific training, according to Eudi-Teeters. She is a two-time state qualifier.

"Erika is a great part of our team," Eudi-Teeters said. "For a sophomore, she is a talented and great competitor. If I need relays won on the end, Erika and Lynda (Goldstein) are excellent choices."

Tara Ditchkoff, 500 freestyle, Churchill; Ditchkoff was undefeated in the 200 and 500 freestyles during the dual season. She is the league champion in the 500 with a 5:21.33 time and was second in the 200 with a 2:00.97 finish.

Ditchkoff holds school and pool records in the 500 in which she placed seventh in the state at 5:11.47. She also qualified in the 200 freestyle.

"Tara is a very hard worker who sets high goals for herself, not only at meets but in practice sessions as well," Stark said. "Her work ethic was a good example to the rest of her teammates."

Julianne Markey, backstroke, N. Farmington; Markey had the area's fastest time in the backstroke at 1:01.05, which she swam in the state prelims. She placed 12th in Class A.

Markey is the WLAA champion in the backstroke and was second in the 100 freestyle. She has the school record in the former event and has been on an All-American medley relay team for two years.

Katie Knipper, breaststroke, Mercy; Observant had a wealth of good breaststrokes this year, and Knipper was the best, finishing fourth at state with the top area time of 1:07.08. She holds the Mercy pool record in the event, too.

Knipper, the most valuable swimmer for the Marlins, qualified in four events. She had a split time of 29.67 for the 50 breaststroke as part of the medley relay and is a candidate for All-American honors.

"Katie is very dedicated to her sport," Eudi-Teeters said. "She not only does what you ask her, but she understands how important the training is to her long-term goals. Katie keeps things organized as her A average athlete."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Pat Duthie, N. Farmington; Duthie guided the Raiders to their second consecutive WLAA championship and third in four years. North also was undefeated in dual meets for the second straight year and finished sixth in the state.

"(The season) was nothing short of fantastic," Duthie said. "The success was the result of all 21 kids working hard. It was wonderful."

"When you're the coach of the year, it's really a salute to the athletes you're working with. Great athletes make great coaches more so than the other way around."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, N. Farmington: The Raiders were third in Class A with the team of Julianne Markey, Anna Palmer, Kerry Doran and Karrie Kranz swimming 1:50.93, which is the top Observant time and could bring an All-American title to the quartet.

200 freestyle, Mercy: The foursome

of Katie Knipper, Michelle McCaffrey, Polly Tenuta and Lynda Goldstein finished eighth at state in 1:41.15, putting the Marlins atop the list of area bests. Each had a split time of better than 25.6. McCaffrey and Tenuta are seniors, Knipper and Goldstein juniors.

400 freestyle, N. Farmington: North's team of Markey, freshman Sherri Richardson, Kranz and Doran established the top area time in this event by swimming 3:38.98 in the state meet and finishing fourth. The Raiders are being considered for All-American individual.

AT-LARGE INDIVIDUALS

Jennifer Knapp, Stevenson; Knapp is a three-time WLAA champion, three-time all-star and two-time All-American in the breaststroke. She was fifth in the state this year at 1:07.82. Knapp was won her team's most valuable swimmer award twice.

"Jennifer's honors speak for themselves," Stevenson coach Greg Phil said. "She's an outstanding swimmer and competitor."

Jill Knapp, Stevenson; Knapp, a freshman and top newcomer for the Spartans, was third in the WLAA and sixth in the state as a breaststroker. She posted a time of 1:08.58 in the state prelims. She earned all-state honors with her top-six finish.

"Jill has tremendous talent and a lot of good years ahead of her," Phil said.

Carrie Worthen, N. Farmington; Another of the area's line breaststrokers, Worthen placed 12th in the state in that event. Her best time was 1:09.88 in the Class A prelims.

In the league, she was fourth in the breaststroke and third in the IM. Worthen qualified for state in the latter, too. She was on the 200 freestyle relay team that set the school record.

Mandi Falk, Redford Thurston; As a freshman competing in Class B, Falk finished third in the breaststroke at 1:08.10 and fifth in the IM with a time of 2:14.61. She was the Tri-River League champion in both events.

"She is a real hard worker, and she keeps up her grades despite swimming all those hours," Thurston coach Shelly Morse said. "I expected her to do well (in her first year of high school competition) from the times and way she was working in practice. She has good form and a really good stroke."

Karrie Kranz, N. Farmington; Kranz was 12th in the state in the 200 freestyle with a 1:59.72 time. Her best was a 1:52.23 in the state prelims.

In the WLAA meet, she won that event and the 100 freestyle. She is the county champ in the 200 freestyle and was third in the 100. Kranz received All-American accolades for her contribution to North's medley relay team.

Jamie Anderson, Stevenson; Anderson was 10th in the state in the 200 freestyle, swimming 1:58.18 in the finals, and third in the league. She also was fourth in the 500 freestyle at the WLAA meet.

"Jamie always leads by example," Phil said. "She's an excellent trainer, and all of her success is well earned."

Jenny McCombs, Mercy; McCombs placed 10th in the state and holds the pool record in the backstroke. She swam 1:01.52 in the Class A prelims. She was Catholic League champ in the backstroke and IM, and she helped the Marlins win the medley relay at that meet, too.

"Jenny has made incredible improvement this year. In all of her strokes, especially the back and IM," Eudi-Teeters said. "Jenny was voted this year's most improved."

Polly Tenuta, Mercy; Tenuta was Catholic League champ in the 200 and 500 freestyles. She qualified for state in two events and was 13th in the 500.

"Polly was the worker and leader every coach hopes to get," Eudi-Teeters said, adding Tenuta received the Yanger Award for exemplifying a Christian attitude toward life and sports. "It was nice to see Polly reap some rewards for her hard work."

AT-LARGE RELAYS

200 medley, Mercy: The team of Jenny McCombs, Katie Knipper, Lynda Goldstein and Erika Smith has the second-best time in the area at 1:53.15. The Marlins had the top-ranked team in the state but were disqualified at the state meet.

"Our entire relay returns next year, and our goal is not only to be in the top of the state but to see where we place in the nation," Eudi-Teeters said. "We put the medley relay out of mind by the time the 200 free came around. We had a great meet... without dwelling on the negative."



The foursome of Mercy swimmers Jenny McCombs (from left), Katie Knipper, Lynda Goldstein and Erika Smith posted the second-best time in the 200 medley.



Canton swimmers Jeni Cooper (from left), Tami Santomaro, Pam Pritchard and Chris Lang comprised the at-large selection in the 200 freestyle relay.



Runner-up for area honors in the 400 freestyle relay is the Mercy team of Michelle McCaffrey (from left), Polly Tenuta, Joan Huellmantel and Erika Smith.

1990 ALL-AREA GIRLS SWIMMING

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
200 freestyle: Kerry Doran, senior, N. Farmington.
Individual medley: Anna Palmer, sophomore, N. Farmington.
50 freestyle: Ellen Lessig, junior, Livonia Churchill.
Diving: Amy Kodrik, junior, Plymouth Canton.
100 butterfly: Lynda Goldstein, junior, Farm. Hills Mercy.
100 freestyle: Erika Smith, sophomore, Farm. Hills Mercy.
500 freestyle: Tara Ditchkoff, junior, Livonia Churchill.
100 backstroke: Julianne Markey, senior, N. Farmington.
100 breaststroke: Katie Knipper, junior, Farm. Hills Mercy.

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS
200 medley: North Farmington (Julianne Markey, Anna Palmer, Kerry Doran and Karrie Kranz).
200 freestyle: Farmington Hills Mercy (Katie Knipper, Polly Tenuta, Michelle McCaffrey and Lynda Goldstein).
400 freestyle: North Farmington (Julianne Markey, Sherri Richardson, Karrie Kranz and Kerry Doran).

COACH OF THE YEAR
Pat Duthie, North Farmington

AT-LARGE INDIVIDUALS
Jennifer Knapp, junior, Livonia Stevenson; Jill Knapp, freshman, Livonia Stevenson; Carrie Worthen, sophomore, N. Farmington; Mandi Falk, freshman, Redford Thurston; Karrie Kranz, junior, N. Farmington; Jamie Anderson, junior, Livonia Stevenson; Jenny McCombs, sophomore, Mercy; Polly Tenuta, senior, Mercy.

AT-LARGE RELAYS
200 medley: Farmington Hills Mercy (Jenny McCombs, Katie Knipper, Lynda Goldstein and Erika Smith).
200 freestyle: Plymouth Canton (Jeni Cooper, Tami Santomaro, Pam Pritchard and Chris Lang).
400 freestyle: Farmington Hills Mercy (Michelle McCaffrey, Polly Tenuta, Joan Huellmantel and Erika Smith).

200 freestyle, Canton: The Chiefs won the WLAA title, set a league record and qualified for state with the team of seniors Tami Santomaro and Chris Lang; sophomore Pam Pritchard and junior Jeni Cooper. They had the second-best time in the area at 1:42.9.

Santomaro and Lang were four-year swimmers who scored in individual events in the WLAA meet. Cooper was league champ in the 50 and 100 freestyles and set varsity records in both. She also scored in two relays at the WLAA meet. Pritchard, who also scored in four league events, is an outstanding talent, according to Wellman.

400 freestyle, Mercy: Michelle McCaffrey, Polly Tenuta, Joan Huellmantel and Erika Smith placed 11th in the state with a 3:45.19 time.

"Our goal was to place all three relays at state," Eudi-Teeters said. "After our first relay was disqualified, the pressure was on these kids to come through. It was a real emotional moment, and they did a great job."



The top 200-yard medley relay time belonged to North Farmington's team of Julianne Markey (from left), Anna Palmer, Kerry Doran and Karrie Kranz.



Mercy's team of Katie Knipper (from left), Polly Tenuta, Michelle McCaffrey and Lynda Goldstein had the fastest time in the 200 freestyle relay.



North Farmington had the area's best 400 freestyle team with Julianne Markey (from left), Sherri Richardson, Karrie Kranz and Kerry Doran.