

Swimming from page 1B

will swim the breaststroke and the sprint freestyles. Steve Bockneck will swim the 50 and 100 freestyles, while and Chris Dambeck will swim the 100 freestyle.

Sophomore Drew Sophia (breaststroke and distance freestyle) and junior Chris Drellis (backstroke) will also be important cogs for North.

Teal, who also swam for Oakland University, feels that his team has accepted him.

"I think they like the fact that I am fresh out of college and am up-to-date with all the training techniques," Teal said.

"This is something I always wanted to do. My biggest pressure as a coach this season will be to try to teach the team to swim as a unit."

FARMINGTON

Ross Bandy is used to yelling at his workers during the day at his landscaping firm, but come late afternoon, it's time for Bandy to relax.

Bandy's vocal cords get a rest at his other job — coach of the Farmington swim team, the same part-time job he's had for 10

seasons.

"I never have to raise my voice at practice," Bandy gloated. "It's enjoyable going to practice. When you're not having fun coaching, you might as well quit. But I'm having fun."

"It's great to walk-in to practice everyday, tell the team to get lane lines ready and they are. I have never had a team so dedicated. I have had great individual swimmers in the past, but never a team. It's nice to know that they are not working hard for me, or for mom and dad, but they are doing it for themselves."

Farmington is off to a fast start, winning its first two meets, including a 128-57 decision Tuesday over host Livonia Churchill. Dan Belanger led the Falcons with victories in the 200 Individual Medley (2:15.37) and 100 breaststroke (1:06.67).

Scott Brown, Steve Scanio and Don Boyer were other individual winners. Brown won the 50 freestyle (23.50), Scanio took the 100 butterfly (1:03.62) and Boyer the 100 freestyle (53.53).

The Falcons' 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay and 400 free-

style relay also were victorious.

Farmington will have to make up for the loss of diver Brandon Richardson, who finished fifth in the state last season, sprinter Scott Frump, diver Chris Martin and Jeff James, who posted a 1:03.00 time in the 100 breaststroke.

A solid crop of swimmers do return, however, along with a mixture of new and promising swimmers.

Bandy's positive mood also results from last season's fifth place finish in the WLAA — the team's best mark during Bandy's tenure. But more important to Bandy than a high WLAA finish is a strong representation of individuals in the post-season state meet.

A trio of sophomores may qualify for the state meet, according to Bandy. Jon Reed is the team's premiere distance swimmer and will swim the 200 and 500 freestyles.

Scanio (100 freestyle and 200 individual medley) and Brown (50 freestyle and 100 backstroke) will also try to avoid the sophomore jinx.

Another possible state qualifier is Boyer, a junior sprint freestyler. Boyer's key to success may be to stay injury-free after a season spent on the sidelines with bronchitis.

Senior Kevin Yoder, who just missed the Falcons' breaststroke record last season, returns as the team leader. Another returning senior is sprint freestyler Craig Mathe, who came back last season after recovering from heart surgery.

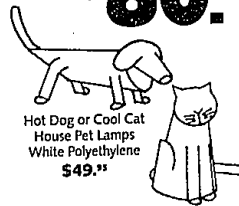
Junior Mark Kurzer and sophomore Mike Enburg are two strong returning distance swimmers.

Bandy also is excited about Belanger, a freshman who will compete in the breaststroke and individual medley. Another newcomer is sophomore Richard Hammon, a move-in who will also see time in the pool.

"The next few years will be good for us," Bandy said.

Editor's note: The Farmington Hills Harrison coach Lisa Collins was unavailable for comment. The Hawks' preview will run in Monday's Farmington Observer.

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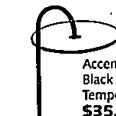
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Jingle Bell Run turns out 1,200

More than 1,200 runners braved 25-degree weather and a stiff winter wind in Max & Erma's 5K Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis, Dec. 6 at Oakland University in Rochester.

Clint Verran, 17, of Lake Orion was the overall male winner in 15:35. He edged runner-up Barry Purse, 24, of Tecumseh by five seconds.

The women's race also was a nail-biter, as Kathy Kubicki, 26, of Birmingham, edged Nancy Grayson, 42, of Northville. Kubicki finished in 18:13, while Grayson was four seconds off the lead pace in 18:17.

Redford Roadrunner Robyn Frankowicz, 40, of Northville took the women's masters division, finishing in 21:03.

Chuck Storm of Washington, 45, won the men's masters title in 17:45.

Corporate team awards went to CimLine, Inc. in the male division with a cumulative time of 56:11; Team Chrysler in the women's division, 50:45; and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers in the mixed category, 63:36.

The O&E team consisted of Beth Sandila, Terry Davison, Carol McCloud, Matt Jachman, Mike Perrot and Marybeth Dillon.

The Spirit of Detroit Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, dressed as Christmas elves, won the costume competition.

A \$100 Max & Erma's gift certificate went to Gayle Smith of Bloomfield Hills, Joy Wirick of Redford, Nora Conn of Huntington Woods, Jan Dillon of Redford and Maureen Maher of Westland, as they debuted in their inaugural Motor City Striders road race.

Stingray Swim Club hosts popular meet

The Michigan Stingrays Swim Club of Farmington Hills will host the third annual Winter Invitational Swim Meet Friday and Saturday at Eastern Michigan University.

Swim clubs from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois are entered in the 100-event meet. The meet will feature prelims and finals heats for the senior group swimmers, while the younger or age group swimmers will swim timed finals only.

Stingrays coach Jeff Cooper is looking forward to another successful meet.

"The Stingrays have a very good reputation of hosting quality meets and our plan was to stage an event that was good

for swimmers interested in swimming fast," Cooper said. "Eastern has one of the best facilities for such an event and we have had excellent success with the meet."

The Stingrays have a membership of 175 swimmers aged 7-18 and practice at Farmington high school pools. Cooper gave credit to EMU and a parent support group formed by the Stingrays.

"We have a dedicated parent support group," Cooper said. "Under the guidance of meet directors Barry and Joanne Swartz, we have many willing parents who make this meet so popular."

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