

All-Area team showcases top swim talent

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Some area schools might need deeper pools to meet standards, but there's no problem with the depth on this year's All-Area boys swimming team.

There's talent galore among the first team and at-large selections, including several from schools in Livonia and Farmington which aren't able to swim at their own pools because they aren't deep enough by Michigan High School Athletic Association standards.

Seven of the top 15 teams at the Class A meet came from Oberverland, including six from the Western Lakes Activities Association.

The area had a pair of state champions — Westland John Glenn's Matt Martin and Livonia Stevenson's Alex Goecke.

The future looks promising as well, considering there are five juniors and one sophomore among the nine first-team selections.

Following is a profile of each member of the All-Area team:

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Jonathan Kershaw, N. Farmington, 200-yard freestyle: A Junior, Kershaw is a repeat choice for first team All-Area in the 200 freestyle. He was fourth in the 200 freestyle (1:43.2) and fifth in the 100 freestyle (47.23) at the Class A state meet. His times in both events were the best in the area. Kershaw placed first in the 100 freestyle (48.78) and second in the 200 (1:46.9) at the WLAA meet.

He's a very dedicated, hard-working swimmer. North coach Jon Teal said, "He'll probably be highly recruited next year, just like Karl (Kozicki)."

Karl Kozicki, N. Farmington, 200



Chuck Olson
Salem coach

SWIMMING

1993 ALL-AREA BOYS SWIM TEAM

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

200 free: Jonathan Kershaw, N. Farmington
100 free: Karl Kozicki, N. Farmington
50 free: Fred Locke, Plymouth Salem
Diving: Jason Fowler, Plymouth Canton
100 free: Matt Martin, Westland John Glenn
100 free: Jeff Clark, Plymouth Canton
500 free: James Leslie, Catholic Central
100 back: Ryan Freeborn, Liv. Stevenson
100 breast: Alex Goecke, Liv. Stevenson

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley: Stevenson (Ryan Freeborn, Alex Beard, Gordy Gatewood, Jeff Buckler)
200 freestyle: Stevenson (Ryan Freeborn, Alex Goecke, Gordy Gatewood, Jeff Buckler)
400 freestyle: North Farmington (Adam Kammer, Karl Kozicki, Jonathan Kershaw, Steve Doornick)

COACH OF THE YEAR

Chuck Olson, Plymouth Salem

AT-LARGE INDIVIDUALS

200 free: Mike Orris, Plymouth Canton
200 IM: Gordy Gatewood, Liv. Stevenson
50 free: Paul Magoulick, Catholic Central
Diving: Daryl Ballios, Plymouth Canton
100 free: Steve Reinko, Catholic Central
100 free: Craig Steshetz, Plymouth Canton
500 free: Jon Carlson, Liv. Churchill
100 back: Scott Brown, Farmington
100 breast: Dan Barnett, Wayne Memorial

AT-LARGE RELAYS

200 medley: Salem (Scott Helmstadter, Alex Beard, Matt Erickson, Fred Locke)
200 freestyle: Salem (Fred Locke, Matt Erickson, Alex Beard, Dave Bracht)
400 freestyle: Canton (Craig Steshetz, Paul Montresor, Mike Orris, Jeff Clark)



Medley relay: Plymouth Salem had the second-best team in the area. The Rocks are (from left) Scott Helmstadter, Alex Beard, Matt Erickson and Fred Locke.

Individual medley: Another Junior, Kozicki earned his way on the first team this season after being honored as an at-large choice a year ago. Kozicki placed second at the Class A meet in the 200 IM (1:56.18) and third in the 500 freestyle (4:37.38). Both were lifetime bests.

He also was WLAA champion in the 200 IM (1:57.6) and 500 freestyle (4:42.62), the latter being a league meet record.

Kozicki is a Junior National qualifier in the 200 IM and his best 500 freestyle time is a school record.

Karl is probably our hardest working swimmer and has come around as a team player this year," Teal said.

Fred Locke, Salem, 500 freestyle: A Junior, Locke was WLAA champion in the 500 freestyle (22:45) and placed seventh in the event (21:68) at the state meet. Locke also was a member of Salem's three state-qualifying relays. Locke has helped establish school records in the medley relay (1:38:29); 200 freestyle relay (1:27.91) and 500 freestyle (21:68).

"Fred had one of the finest seasons of any Plymouth Salem swimmers ever," Salem coach Chuck Olson said. "Hard work and dedication made Fred one of the state's best freestyle sprinters."

Matt Martin, John Glenn, 100 breast: The only reason this senior isn't a repeat selection is because he was trying to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials during the 1991-92 season. Martin failed to qualify but made the most of his senior year on the high school circuit at John Glenn.

Martin established a state record by winning the butterfly in 49.49 in the Class A meet and set another record in the backstroke prelims (50.29) before being in the record erased by Dearborn's Jeff Neumeyer in the finals.

Martin had Oberverland's best times in the butterfly (49.49) and backstroke (50.29).

"He just makes my whole year," Glenn coach Ron Staples said. "His work ethic is above and beyond what a kid, in coaching, you dream about that comes around only once in 10 or 20 years. He has so much power in his arms and legs that he just jumps out of the water just excites and snaps through the turns."

Jeff Clark, Canton, 100 freestyle: Clark's first-place finish in the 50 freestyle at the MISCA meet was a spring board for the rest of his season. Clark took second in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle at the WLAA meet and came in sixth (21:68) in the 500 freestyle at the state meet. He was ninth in the 100 freestyle at the Class A meet and swam on the 400 freestyle relay team that placed 11th at state.

"Winning the MISCA meet in the 50 freestyle gave Jeff a lot of confidence," Canton coach Hooker Wellman said. "Being an all-state swimmer will give Jeff more confidence for next year. Jeff works very hard in the pool and the weight room. He's a great example for other kids around him from our team."

Jason Fowler, Canton, diving: Fowler led area divers from the start of the season to the end. He placed 12th in the Class A regional and 21st at the state meet. His best score was 245.90 points. Wellman believes Fowler only a sophomore, has a chance to challenge at the state meet in the future.

"Jason has changed physically a lot from last year," Wellman said. "He's stronger and with better body control. He has the time and ability to become a state-level diver."

James Leslie, Catholic Central, 200 freestyle: Leslie was a repeat choice as Catholic League champ in the backstroke and was on the 200 freestyle relay. He had the state's best time with a school-record 4:55.73 in the 500 freestyle at the state meet but ended up finishing second overall. Leslie also was fourth in the 200 IM (1:55.69) at the state meet.

He set a school record last year in the backstroke and helped set a school record in the medley relay. He's a repeat All-Area selection.

"James is afraid of no competitor," assistant coach Bob Kravtuke said. "His will to win is a healthy I've ever seen, and he will make a great all-around college swimmer."

Ryan Freeborn, Stevenson, 100 backstroke: Freeborn took third in the backstroke at the WLAA meet, and he had his best time in the event at the state meet (54.74). He has played key roles in the Spartans' successful relays which earned All-America recognition.

"Ryan has always been there for us," Stevenson coach Doug Butler said. "Ryan worked very hard to swim fast and I will miss him. I will always remember him as a leader, as a swimmer and as a great young man."

Alex Goecke, Stevenson, 100 breaststroke: Goecke, a repeat All-Area selection, was an undefeated Class A champion in the breaststroke (56.89). He gained momentum earlier in the season with championships at the MISCA and his fourth-straight WLAA title. His best time was nearly five seconds faster than the second-best time in Oberverland.

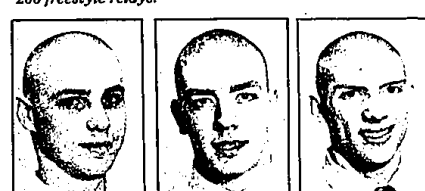
Goecke is Buckler's first state champion and holds many pool and school records.



Canton quartet: Plymouth Canton boasts the second-team relay in the 400 freestyle with (from left) Mike Orris, Craig Steshetz, Jeff Clark and Paul Montresor.



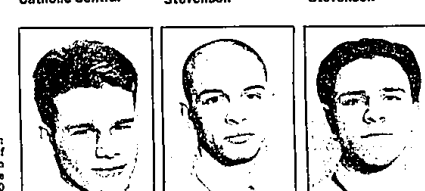
Double standard: The Stevenson foursome of (from left) Alex Goecke, Ryan Freeborn, Gordy Gatewood and Jeff Buckler set the Oberverland standard in the medley and 200 freestyle relays.



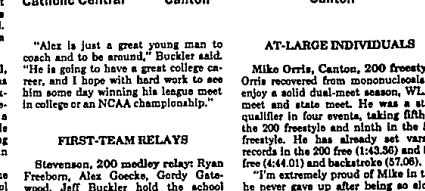
Area's best: North Farmington's 400 freestyle relay team is the fastest in Oberverland. Team members are (from left) Karl Kozicki, Steve Bockneh, Jon Kershaw and (seated) Adam Kammer.



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N. Farmington
Karl Kozicki
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Fred Locke
Salem
Matt Martin
John Glenn
Jeff Clark
Canton
Jason Fowler
Canton



James Leslie
Catholic Central
Ryan Freeborn
Stevenson
Alex Goecke
Stevenson
Mike Orris
Canton
Gordy Gatewood
Stevenson
Paul Magoulick
Catholic Central



Steve Reinko
Catholic Central
Craig Steshetz
Canton
Daryl Ballios
Canton
Jon Carlson
Churchill
Scott Brown
Farmington
Dan Barnett
Wayne Memorial

AT-LARGE INDIVIDUALS

Mike Orris, Canton, 200 freestyle: Orris recovered from mononucleosis to enjoy a solid dual meet season, WLAA meet and state meet. He was a state qualifier in four events, taking fifth in the 200 freestyle and ninth in the 500 freestyle. He has already set variety records in the 200 free (1:43.36) and 500 free (4:44.01) and backstroke (57.08).

"I'm extremely proud of Mike in that he never gave up after being so sick," Wellman said. "He showed our team and other teams a lot of will and character in his performance this year."

Gordy Gatewood, Stevenson, 200 individual medley: Gatewood was second in the WLAA and sixth in Class A in the 200 IM. Gatewood has been all-state six times in his career, including twice in IM, and three times swam on All-American relays. He was first-team All-Area last year.

"Gordy was a leader and one reason why Stevenson has done so well in swimming over the past years," Buckler said. "Gordy will be a winner in whatever he does. I had a lot of fun coaching him."

Paul Magoulick, Catholic Central, 50 freestyle: Magoulick's best time in the 50 freestyle (22.19) earned 25th place at the Class A meet. He also swam on the 200 freestyle relay team that was Catholic League champion.

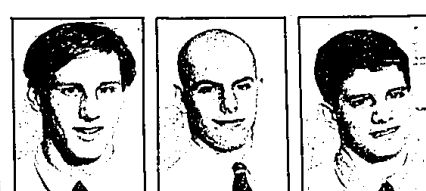
"We're just beginning to see the real talent," Paul has," Kravtuke said. "He's a future all-star, a very intense swimmer."

Steve Reinko, Catholic Central, 100 butterfly: A Catholic League champion in the butterfly, Reinko qualified for the state meet a second-consecutive season. He also swam on the 200 medley relay that was first at the Catholic League meet. His best time (55.50)

was third fastest in the area.



Area's best: North Farmington's 400 freestyle relay team is the fastest in Oberverland. Team members are (from left) Karl Kozicki, Steve Bockneh, Jon Kershaw and (seated) Adam Kammer.



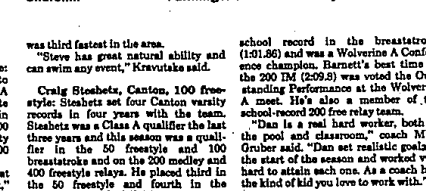
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AT-LARGE RELAYS

Salem, 200 medley relay: Scott Helmstadter, Alex Beard, Matt Erickson and Fred Locke set a school record (1:38.29) with a ninth-place finish at the Class A meet. They also placed fourth in the WLAA (1:41.77) and gave the Rocks a boost in each dual meet.

"The Salem medley relay always got the team started fast," Olson said. "All four swimmers were very capable and experienced."

Salem, 200 freestyle relay: Fred Locke, Matt Erickson, Alex Beard and Dave Bracht had a Salem record time by finishing seventh in the Class A meet (1:27.91). They were second in the WLAA (1:30.91).

"The 200 freestyle relay was one of the few events in dual meets I counted on for a win and continued to swim at peak level right through the state meet," Olson said.

Canton, 400 freestyle: Craig Steshetz, Paul Montresor, Mike Orris and Jeff Clark placed 11th at the state meet (5:16.8) and fifth in the WLAA. Everyone but Steshetz will return next year.



Salem swimmers: The Rocks claimed second-team honors with the 200 freestyle relay squad of (from left) Alex Beard, Matt Erickson, Fred Locke and David Bracht.