



Keith Falk
Livonia Stevenson
Joe Bublitz
Livonia Stevenson
Matt Zald
North Farmington
Andrew Locke
Plymouth Salem
Joe Lebovic
North Farmington
James McPartlin
Westland John Glenn
Ryan Meekins
Catholic Central
Brian Mertens
Plymouth Salem
Devin Hopper
Farmington

All-Observer

Western Lakes trio dominates honors team

SWIMMING

The state finals and was the WLAA runner-up.

Locke, who was named MVP of the Salem team, was on the All-American 200 freestyle relay team last year. He relayed this year in the medley relay, 100 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay.

"Andrew has been one of the area's best swimmers the past four years," coach Chuck Olson said. "As a senior, he proved to be one of the best in the state."

Joe Lebovic, diving, N. Farmington: Lebovic was undefeated in dual meets with a high score of 281.75, which is also an Obernondorf record. He placed second in the Oakland County meet (257.65) and the regional (368.95), the latter qualifying him for state. Lebovic was a four-time qualifier for the county meet.

James McPartlin, butterfly, Westland Glenn: McPartlin capped an outstanding career by finishing eighth in the 100 butterfly at the state meet with an area best time of 52.64. He was the top swimmer in the 200 IM (1:50.34).

McPartlin also excels in the classroom, carrying a cumulative 3.85 grade-point average.

"James has had an outstanding swimming and academic career at Glenn," coach Jim Daniel said. "He is one of the best swimmers in the school's history. Young men like James don't come into your program often. We will miss him very much."

Keith Falk, 200 IM, Salem: Falk scored in two individual events each at the state meet. Salem's Andrew Locke, Westland John Glenn's James McPartlin and Bublitz scored in one piece.

The 1999 All-Observer team:

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Keith Falk, 200 freestyle, Stevenson: Falk, a four-time member of the All-Observer team, finished third in the 200 freestyle (1:42.15) and sixth in the 500 freestyle (4:41.4). He was the state meet. He was the WLAA champion in both events.

His leadoff time of 47.43 in the 400 freestyle relay would have put him 11th in the 100 freestyle relay if he had swum in the 100 freestyle relay meet.

"Keith is one of the best swimmers ever at Stevenson High," coach Doug Bucker said. "He's a very hard worker, and he always gives his all for the team."

"Keith can swim all the events and excels at all of them. He's a leader in and out of school. He is very dedicated in his training and will do very well at the next level."

Joe Bublitz, 200 IM, Stevenson: Bublitz finished third in the individual medley at the state meet with a time of 1:53.82 and has a chance to post an All-American time.

He also was the Western Lakes champion in the 200 IM and finished second in the backstroke (a school record).

Stevenson's 400 freestyle relay team also took 10th in Class A as Bublitz recorded an impressive 100 split of 46.43.

"Joe's time in the 200 IM is the fastest I have ever coached," Bucker said. "He is just a sophomore, but he is already one of the best swimmers in Stevenson history."

"I look for great things out of Joe the next two years. He's very coachable and is a great all-around man."

"You will see great times out of Joe before his career is over at Stevenson."

Matt Zald, 50 freestyle, N. Farmington: Zald finished fifth in the state and broke his own school record in the Class A prelims with a time of 23.54. He also set a North Farmington pool record of 23.68.

Zald was the Oakland County and Western Lakes champion in the 50; he was undefeated in dual meets, too. Zald also placed 11th in the 100 freestyle (47.64) at the state meet.

Andrew Locke, 50 freestyle, Salem: Locke has the fastest 50 freestyle time in the area, swimming 21.19 in the state-meet prelims. He placed sixth in

the state finals and was the WLAA runner-up.

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The 1999 All-Observer team:

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Matt Casillas, 200 freestyle, Salem: Casillas was a state qualifier in the 200 freestyle, had one of the area's best times at 1:49.30 and finished third in the WLAA. The team captain also was a member of Salem's state-qualifying 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams.

"Matt has been one of the most

improved swimmers on the Salem team the past two years," Olson said. "His abilities in any stroke at any distance make him very valuable to the team success. This is why he has been important in Salem winning the WLAA all four years."

Paul Perez, 200 IM, Salem: Perez had the top Obernondorf time after the Stevenson duo of Keith Falk and Joe Bublitz at 2:04.26. At the WLAA meet, he was third in the IM with that time, as well as second in the butterfly (55.64). Perez also was a member of Salem's all-state medley and 400 freestyle relay teams.

"These guys did a great job with this relay," Bucker said. "They all swam their best times in the relay, which goes to show how much they think team over themselves."

"Mike Malik did a fine job and helped to make the whole team better. Brad Buckler swam with a lot of heart. He and Mike were tops in two events in the league meet."

"Great time, guys — a real good job!"

"Paul had an outstanding conference meet with four swims being all-conference," Olson said. "His versatility allows for so much flexibility in our lineups that the team success is easy to understand. Paul is going to be even more important the next two years."

Chris McFarland, diving, Westland Glenn: McFarland set a school record this season with a six dive total of 357.20 points. He also finished sixth at the regional with an 11-dive total of 377.60 en route to a 28th-place finish at the state meet. McFarland also took third at the Western Lakes meet.

"Chris has one of the toughest diving lists in the state," Glenn assistant coach Randy Ferguson said. "He improved tremendously this year and will be a top competitor in the state next year."

Brett Meconis, butterfly, Redford CC: Meconis proved to be one of the state's best freshmen, qualifying for the Class A meet in the butterfly. His time of 54.39 seconds was 22nd at the state meet.

"Brett is a determined swimmer," Knipper said. "As soon as his drive to work catches up with his fast swimming, he could be one of the state's best butterfly swimmers."

Brandon Digaia, 100 freestyle, N. Farmington: Digaia was a state qualifier in the 100 freestyle, and his best time of 48.85 gave him second place in the conference meet. He also went to state in the 200 freestyle and was a relay swimmer for the Raiders, too.

Justin Kettner, breaststroke, Stevenson: Kettner ranked fourth in the state in the 200 freestyle with a time of 5:04.63.

He also finished in the top six in the second consecutive year in the WLAA in the 500. This season he took fifth with a clocking of 5:11.44.

"Justin has done a fine job his first two years at Stevenson," Bucker said. "With a harder off-season training program this year, we think Justin will become a great swimmer at Stevenson."

"Justin trains very hard; he knows what it takes to become very good, and I believe he has two very good seasons left here."

Aaron Reeder, backstroke, Canton: Reeder swam his best time of 56.27 in the Class A prelims and finished 29th overall. He was fourth in the WLAA meet at 56.35.

Kevin VanTiem, breaststroke, Stevenson: VanTiem was third in the state meet in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:04.97. At the WLAA meet, VanTiem

took eighth.

"Kevin was one of the hardest workers we had on our team this year," Bucker said. "He leads in the pool as well as out of the pool."

"I enjoy coaching Kevin. He is a real good person with a great team attitude. He is a great leader for our team next year, and we look forward to working with him."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, N. Farmington: Jim Gabriel, Adam Farber, Mark Wachsberg and Matt Zald won the WLAA championship (1:40.37) and were 17th in the state meet (1:40.88). Their conference time was the second best in Obernondorf.

200 freestyle, N. Farmington: Brandon Digaia, Mark Wachsberg, Jim Gabriel and Matt Zald finished seventh in the state meet (1:28.0) and set a school-record in the process. The Raiders also set a pool record with a 1:29.65 swim.

400 freestyle, Stevenson: Keith Falk, Brad Buckler, Mike Malik and Joe Bublitz won the WLAA championship (3:18.6) and finished 10th in the state meet (3:18.28).

"These guys did a great job with this relay," Bucker said. "They all swam their best times in the relay, which goes to show how much they think team over themselves."

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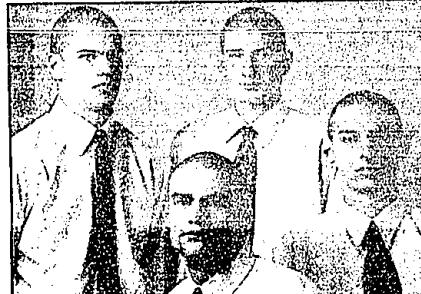
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Salem medley relay: Paul Perez (left to right), Andrew Locke (seated), Eric Lynn and Aaron Shelton.



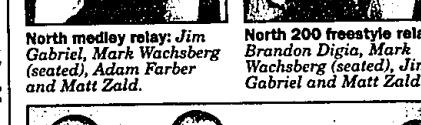
Salem 200 freestyle relay: Andrew Locke (left to right), Matt Casillas (seated), Mike Johnson, Aaron Shelton.



North Farmington 100 freestyle relay: Jim Gabriel (left), Mark Wachsberg (seated), Brandon Digaia (middle) and Matt Zald (right).



North 200 IM relay: Ryan Meekins, Brandon Digaia, Jim Gabriel and Mark Wachsberg.



Stevenson 400 freestyle relay: Brad Buckler (left to right), Joe Bublitz, Keith Falk and Mike Malik.



Stevenson 200 medley relay: Justin Kettner, Aaron Reeder, and Kevin VanTiem.

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