

Girls swimming from page D1

set school records of 1:48.61 and 1:40.36, respectively.

But Jim Downs, who begins his 36th year of coaching, knows the Marlins can't be content with what they've done, wait for November and expect to win again. There's hard work to be done in the meantime.

"I was just telling the girls when we started last week we have to approach it like we did before," he said. "Maybe some people will be asking them 'Can you do it again?' But I've told them we just have to go one at a time."

"When the first meet comes up, we'll worry about that, and then we'll worry about practice the next day. We're not going to focus down the line, because that's not helpful."

"The kids feel more secure if we're taking it a day at a time. That's our philosophy. The whole thing about looking way ahead is almost detrimental."

In the nearly three months before the next state meet, the Marlins will be trying to get better. Hard work begins a winning attitude, Downs added.

"At the end of last year, I made the statement to them 'The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is a necessity,'" he said.

"That's the way we have to approach it. Do the preparation, and that will to win comes with it."

The Marlins also return senior diver Danielle Darling and senior swimmers Jackie Barrowcliff, Katie Matous, Rebecca Runyan, Rebecca McFerran, Liz Krusiewski and Patrice Fino.

Mercy has added senior Jenny Blacklock, a transfer from West Bloomfield who qualified for state in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

The Marlins are further strengthened by four "solid freshmen," according to Downs, in Elizabeth Garlow, Caitlin Kelly, Annette Merchant and Emily Howard.

The Marlins were the No. 1-rated private, large-school team in the country based on last year's results and 16th overall nationally among both parochial and public schools.

Downs doesn't downplay the obvious. Mercy has an extremely talented team.

"I told the kids I don't think there's been as much talent set foot on this (pool) deck since the beginning of the school in 1972, and these kids won the state title," he said.

"Now, what they do with it is up to them. They can do anything they want, or they can let themselves get nonchalant about things."

"I've been coaching for 35 years, in this area for 30 years; I remember the talent that's gone through this area, and I can say there hasn't been as much talent (on one team)."

"Mercy never had as big a package as this. If they can do the very best they can with this talent, that's what we're interested in — wherever that takes us."

North Farmington

The Raiders are led by sophomore Lindsay McEneaney, who had an outstanding rookie year and made the All-Observer first team in the backstroke.

McEneaney was seventh in the state meet in that event and set a school record (59.38). She also was 15th in the IM and qualified in the breaststroke.

In the Western Lakes Activities Association meet, McEneaney was second in the backstroke and third in the IM.

"Quite honestly, she may be as talented a swimmer as I've worked with," North coach Pat Dutchie said. "This girl could be a big-time swimmer. We're excited about her potential for this year and the future."

The senior captains are diver Katie Brown and swimmers Tara Grider, Whitney Hawkins and Lauren Turner.

Grider was fifth in the 100 freestyle and sixth in the backstroke in the WLAA. Turner placed seventh in the butterfly and ninth in the 200 freestyle. Hawkins swims breaststroke and distance freestyle.

Brianne Silverschein is another returning senior diver, and senior Kara Varilone is a first-year diver.

Juniors Jennifer Bendick was fifth in the breaststroke and 10th in the IM at the league meet. The other juniors are Jackie Burke (freestyle/butterfly), Nikki Little (freestyle) and

Danielle Navas (all-around).

Leading the sophomore class are Sarah Pake, who was seventh in the 200 and 500 freestyle, and Melissa Navas, who was 11th in the 200 freestyle.

The Raiders return sophomore divers Susan Doty and Abby Johnson, and Kiersten Cummings has switched from swimming to diving. They're joined by first-year sophomore divers Lindsay Silverschein and Alex Rosenhaus.

The list of sophomore swimmers includes Danielle Blair, Stephanie Karos, Allissa Melvin, Nicole Moundros, Laura Naughton, Sarah Reading, Katie Ryan, Lisa Scher and Lindsey Taub.

The Raiders are helped by a strong freshman class filled with swimmers who have summer club experience.

The newcomers are Sari Adelson, Rachel Expose, Beth Danielewicz, twins Carrie and Chris Gabriel, Angela Hanks, Breanna Kubie, Lauren Sundquist and Kristen Wolff. The freshmen divers are Angela Altus, Serra Cerikci and Ali Grosel.

"We're looking to swim well at the end of the season as we usually do," Dutchie said. "We'll use the dual meets along the way as preparation for the championships at the end of the year."

"It's a real nice group to work with, so we'll be teaching some skills, getting kids in shape and, hopefully, by the end of the year be a respectable swim team."

Farmington Harrison

Lindsay Fettes, one of Observerland's all-time swim standouts, returns for her senior with the Hawks.

The three-time all-star and team co-captain was top-six in two events at the state meet for the third year in a row, finishing fifth in the breaststroke and sixth in the IM.

Fettes also is the defending WLAA champion in both events.

"We're looking for a big year from her," coach Ross Bandy said. "She carries a lot of weight on her shoulders and does a nice job. She trains hard and shows a lot of leadership qualities."

"We hope to qualify her in every event. We just hope she does well in everything she does."

Lindsay is a great student and very level-headed young lady. A lot of schools are interested in her."

Senior co-captain Leslie Pickering is a versatile swimmer who can swim just about any event. Senior Kathleen Light is a second-year diver.

Taylor Goad leads the junior class. She was 10th in the 500 freestyle at the league meet and was a key part of relay teams.

The Hawks also return juniors Ellen Dougherty, Heather Schuman and Arley Golembek. Sophomore Laura Uridge is another key swimmer and relay participant.

The freshman class consists of Jackie Waldeck, Danielle Liebowitz, Kori DeHuff and Katie Riley.

Bandy has the largest team he's had in years at Harrison with 28 members, double the number on last year's team.

"We're trying to be at least .500 as far as wins and losses," Bandy said. "Because we have a lot of young swimmers, we want to keep things exciting and interesting for everybody and keep them active in the program."

Farmington High School

The Falcons have a new coach, Jason Cavicchioli, who is familiar with the program and the school.

He was an assistant last season and took over as head for the last month. Cavicchioli also was a four-year letter winner at Farmington, graduating in 1997.

"It's a little different (being the head coach) due to the fact I have two sisters in the program and I've grown up with a lot of the girls on the team," Cavicchioli said.

"The transition from friend to authority figure is a little difficult, but I've been able to do it."

Cavicchioli attends Oakland Community College and plans to transfer to a four-year university next semester.

One of Farmington's best swimmers is senior tri-captain Tina Cavicchioli, who specializes in the breaststroke, having finished ninth in the league meet.

The Falcons also return seniors Katie Bosler, Kristin



Elizabeth Poer
Farmington Hills Mercy



Erin Downs
Farmington Hills Mercy



Kelly Carlin
Farmington Hills Mercy



Amy McCullough
Farmington Hills Mercy



Elizabeth MacDonald
Farmington Hills Mercy



Kristin Lordin
Farmington Hills Mercy



Lindsay Fettes
Farmington Harrison



Lindsay McEneaney
North Farmington



Coach Jim Downs
Farmington Hills Mercy

DiCostanza, Jenny Reeve and Erin Ward. Bosler, Ward and DiCostanza are sprint freestylers, and Reeve swims distance freestyle. DiCostanza and Reeve are the other captains. Cavicchioli expects junior Claire Walker, a transfer from Saginaw, to provide immediate help along with sophomore Barb DeMattia.

Junior Amy Lennon and sophomores Lauren D'Agostino and Jillian Hollek should be among the top swimmers, and the freshman class includes

younger sisters Erin Lennon and Tammy Cavicchioli.

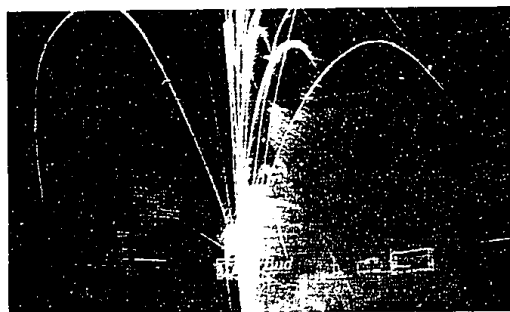
The Falcons, who didn't win a dual meet last year, also have a larger team with 28 members.

"I think we'll be stronger than we were last year," Cavicchioli said. "We're going to be a lot stronger due to the number of freshmen (nine). We have a lot of girls who swim year round."

The Falcons have been practicing at Beechview Swim Club and will swim home meets at North Farmington until their pool is ready, probably in October.

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