

Marlins rule pool in Catholic League swim meet

Farmington Hills Mercy continued a longtime tradition and extended its reign as Catholic League champion in girls swimming and diving Saturday.

The Marlins scored 469 points at Royal Oak Dandere High School to finish well ahead of runner-up Birmingham Mercy (396). The order of finish included Harper Woods Regina (128), Livonia Ladywood (113), Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Madison Heights Bishop Foley and Royal Oak Shrine.

"It's something we could easily get complacent about," Mercy

coach Jim Downs said. "No matter how many wins Mercy has, the kids always look at that meet as a tradition.

"We didn't go in looking ahead of it or behind it. We went in focused on that meet. It's a tradition that we do well in that meet. Even though we've got a lot of people focusing on the state meet, it was no different this year. We've been pretty good at taking one meet at a time."

Kelly Carlin and Amy McCullough were double winners for Mercy. Kristin Loidas, Elizabeth MacDonald, Erin Downs

and Elizabeth Posvar won one individual event apiece. Loidas, MacDonald, Downs, McCullough (100 freestyle) and Posvar swam their best times.

"And they're not even tapered," Downs said. "They're still finishing up this week."

The Marlins won all three relays and set league records in both freestyle events.

Mercy had key contributions from other girls, too.

"Posvar swam three relays," Downs said, adding he could have put her in another open event and she would have won.

"I tried to spread the wealth around and give some other people an opportunity. We were able to do that and still win by a comfortable margin."

For example, Katie Matous finished third and freshman Katie Benedict fourth in the 100 freestyle with their best times of the season.

"(Benedict) was a big surprise," Downs said. "It would be a question of keeping a kid like that out of the meet. (Matous) had a bad foot last year and was incapacitated. She really came through for us this year."

CATHOLIC LEAGUE MEET

MERCY RESULTS

200 medley relay: 1. Mercy (Kelly Carlin, Elizabeth Posvar, Erin Downs, Kristin Loidas), 1:53.59.

200 freestyle: 1. Kristin Loidas, 2:00.08; 2. Lauren Yagels, 2:01.94; 3. Jenny Banowch, 2:05.73; 5. Becky McKenna, 2:07.03.

200 IM: 1. Kelly Carlin, 2:19.04; 6. Elizabeth MacDonald, 2:23.72.

50 freestyle: 1. Elizabeth MacDonald, 25.72; 4. Kristin Jarzenkowski, 26.50; 5. Michelle Kelly, 26.52; exhibition: Katie Becca, 26.58; Rebecca Hallin, 26.92.

Diving: 4. Danielle Carling, 276.90; 6. Susan Neel, 239.90.

100 butterfly: 1. Erin Downs, 59.28; 3. Elizabeth MacDonald, 1:03.12; 6. Becca Runyan, 1:04.69.

100 freestyle: 1. Amy McCullough, 54.35; 3. Katie Matous, 56.37; 4. Katie Benedict, 57.62.

500 freestyle: 1. Kelly Carlin, 5:19.06; 2. Lauren Yagels, 5:20.06; 4. Jackie Barrowchiff, 5:33.76; 6. Courtney Skiles, 5:53.40.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Mercy (Kelly Carlin, Kristin Loidas, Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar), 1:41.18, league record.

100 backstroke: 1. Amy McCullough, 1:00.80; 5. Erin Downs, 1:03.92; 6. Kaelah Gould, 1:05.30; 8. Becca Hallin, 1:06.28.

100 breaststroke: 1. Elizabeth Posvar, 1:08.27; 4. Anabelle Alberts, 1:13.75; 5. McKenzie Mayne, 1:14.73; 6. Lindsay Robb, 1:15.70.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Mercy (Kristin Loidas, Elizabeth MacDonald, Amy McCullough, Elizabeth Posvar), 3:43.54, record.

SWIMMING

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

(state cut: 1:56.79)
Farmington Hills Mercy, 1:56.48
Livonia Stevenson, 1:53.59
North Farmington, 1:54.05

200-YARD FREESTYLE

(state cut: 2:01.09)
Amy McCullough (Mercy), 1:52.58
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy), 1:57.45
Julie Kern (Stevenson), 1:57.03
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 1:58.47
Angela Smetskosky (Churchill), 1:58.87
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 1:59.32
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 1:59.75
Kristin Loidas (Mercy), 2:00.08
Katie Clark (Stevenson), 2:00.29
Meghan Moeckel (Stevenson), 2:00.47
Julie Kluka (Harrison), 2:00.70

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

(state cut: 2:17.62)
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 2:08.78
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 2:12.43
Katie Clark (Stevenson), 2:13.77
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 2:13.89
Amy McCullough (Mercy), 2:14.44
Christina Moeckel (Stevenson), 2:16.45
Lindsay McElrean (H. Farm.), 2:17.58
Nevea Alver (H. Farmington), 2:18.22
Erin Downs (Mercy), 2:19.00

50-YARD FREESTYLE

(state cut: 25.59)
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 24.47
Jessica Makowski (Stevenson), 25.18
Katie Clark (Stevenson), 25.51
Christina Moeckel (Stevenson), 25.65
Kristin Loidas (Mercy), 25.65
Marti McKenzie (Stevenson), 25.70
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy), 25.72

DIVING

Katy Ballantine (Stevenson), 256.75
Erin Uzara (Westford Union), 220.60
Laural Deit (Stevenson), 219.90
Angela Anersous (Churchill), 218.20
Allison Bentley (Lakewood), 215.00
Michelle Kiam (Stevenson), 202.65

100-YARD BUTTERFLY

(state cut: 1:02.29)
Erin Downs (Mercy), 59.28
Katie Clark (Stevenson), 59.30
Julie Kern (Stevenson), 1:01.10
Teri Hanson (Canton), 1:01.20
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 1:01.45
Lorissa McKay (Salem), 1:01.77
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 1:02.06
Danielle Drysdale (Canton), 1:02.05

Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy), 1:03.12

100-YARD FREESTYLE

(state cut: 55.19)
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 53.41
Amy McCullough (Mercy), 54.35
Kristin Loidas (Mercy), 54.85
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 55.13
Katie Clark (Stevenson), 55.19
Julia Makowski (Stevenson), 55.72
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 56.09
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 56.17
Katie Matous (Mercy), 56.37

500-YARD FREESTYLE

(state cut: 5:25.29)
Amy McCullough (Mercy), 4:57.00
Julie Kern (Stevenson), 5:06.10
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 5:13.02
Angela Smetskosky (Churchill), 5:14.08
Elizabeth MacDonald (Mercy), 5:14.24
Kristin Loidas (Mercy), 5:16.56
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 5:18.04
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 5:19.32
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 5:20.23
Julie Kluka (Harrison), 5:21.75

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

(state cut: 1:43.09)
Farmington Hills Mercy, 1:41.44
Livonia Stevenson, 1:43.64
Plymouth Salem, 1:44.24

100-YARD BACKSTROKE

(state cut: 1:05.19)
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 1:00.60
Amy McCullough (Mercy), 1:00.66
Lindsay McElrean (H. Farmington), 1:01.55
Danielle Drysdale (Canton), 1:02.30
Kelly Carlin (Mercy), 1:02.52
Lindsay Dolin (Stevenson), 1:02.59
Kari Fouz (Salem), 1:02.97
Christina Moeckel (Lakewood), 1:03.10
Erin Downs (Mercy), 1:03.74

100-YARD DRASTROKE

(state cut: 1:14.49)
Lindsay Fellers (Harrison), 1:07.88
Elizabeth Posvar (Mercy), 1:08.27
Nevea Alver (H. Farmington), 1:09.73
Marti McKenzie (Stevenson), 1:10.69
Christina Moeckel (Lakewood), 1:12.79
Jennifer Denack (H. Farmington), 1:13.22
Anabelle Alberts (Mercy), 1:13.48

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

(state cut: 3:50.59)
Farmington Hills Mercy, 3:37.17
Livonia Stevenson, 3:42.27
North Farmington, 3:46.66

Swimming from page C1

qualified in every event but diving, will try to score in the 100 freestyle and individual medley again. She was fourth in the IM (2:09.76) and sixth in the freestyle (53.56) last year.

Sophomores Amy McCullough and Elizabeth MacDonald are entered in the 200 and 500 freestyle. Both scored in the 200 last year. McCullough, who has the top Observerland times in both events, was third (1:54.03) and MacDonald eighth (1:56.77).

The 200 freestyle has the potential to be a big event for the Marlins, who also have junior Kelly Carlin and freshman Julia Kluka in that one. Loidas also will swim the 500 freestyle and junior Erin Downs the butterfly.

Mercy's medley relay team of McCullough, Posvar, Downs and Carlin was seventh (1:51.89) last year and will have another go this year.

Posvar, Carlin and McCullough helped the Marlins finish fifth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.02) and will be joined this time by Loidas, Downs, Carlin, Kristin Loidas and MacDonald comprise the 200 freestyle team.

"The key things are the relays," Downs said. "Our whole thing is to get as much power as we can in the relays, so we can score double points."

That's why Carlin is going in three relays. She could probably score somewhere else in an open event, but we're using her power in a situation where we need her

and there's double points offered. It's the smartest way to do it if we want to put points on the board."

Public school qualifiers

Farmington Harrison junior Lindsay Fellers, Harrison senior Julie Kluka and North Farmington freshman Lindsay McElrean will swim in two events each. North senior Nevea Alver qualified in one event.

Fellers finished fourth in the breaststroke (1:07.47) and eighth in the individual medley (2:11.77) last year. She also qualified in the 200 and 500 freestyle this year.

"We're hoping for big things," Harrison coach Ross Bandy said. "Last year didn't go quite as planned, but this year I think we're prepared walking in the door. We're hoping to make her all-state (top six) in both events."

"She's worked hard all year long and is really focused. She's been all-state in the breaststroke two years and once in the IM. She has a good shot at doing it (in both events) and is looking forward to it."

Kluka will compete in the 200 and 500 freestyle events, and she just missed qualifying in the 100 freestyle.

"Julie has worked hard, too, and her times have come down quite a bit from where she started at the beginning of the season," Bandy said.

"Anything can happen. It just depends how mentally prepared she is. Julie is physically capable of doing anything she wants to do. This being her senior year has to be some inspiration."

McElrean plans to swim the IM and backstroke, and she also made the cut in the breaststroke.

"I expect Lindsay to have some good swims," North coach Pat Duthie said. "She's a half second off the (school) backstroke record. We'll see if she can get closer or swim a new record for us in that event."

Duthie said McElrean won't be awed by her first state meet, adding she has been in a lot of big meets.

"The conference meet didn't rattle her one bit," Duthie said. "I don't think being at the state meet will distract her or disrupt

her. She'll handle that just fine." Alver was sixth in the breaststroke (1:08.41) last year and will try to equal or better that performance.

"Nevea is an outstanding competitor and I'd like to see her come back and score again this year," Duthie said.

"Any event, when you get to the state meet, has a pretty good set of people, and her time in the breaststroke puts her in a position where she can do well again."

McElrean, Alver and junior Tara Grider will compete on two relay teams. They will be joined by senior Kristen Burke in the medley and junior Lauren Turner in the 400 freestyle.

"It would be great to see our relays go faster," Duthie said. "but quite honestly it's pretty difficult to score at the state meet. You never know what's going to happen, but we look for improved performances."

"We have some people who weren't ready to go for their fastest at the conference meet. Hopefully, they'll do an even better job for us at the state meet."

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