

Swimming

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team," Baker said. "When he had a fast race, the team also rose to the occasion."

Joe Rhode, CC, diver: One of the most constant contributors to CC's strong swim team was junior diver Joe Rhode. He took first place at the CHSL meet with a composite score of 383.25 in his dives, more than 70 points better than his nearest competitor. His points will be counted on even more next year, when the Shamrocks lose several strong senior swimmers.

"He was clearly our top diver, and one of the better ones in the state," Baker said. When we really needed it, he came through with his best stuff."

Brett Meconis, CC, butterfly: Filling the role as the "go-to guy," senior Brett Meconis stepped up in a big way for CC this season. He swam as the anchor in most of the team's relay units, set three different pool records and finished seventh in the state in the 100 butterfly.

"As the anchor on our relay teams, he was our go-to guy," Baker said. "His experience provided great leadership for our team."

Joe La, Canton, 100 freestyle: There are two very impressive things to remember about Joe — he finished 11th in the 100 free at the state finals (48.56) and he's just a sophomore.

Le also placed third in both the 50 (22.76) and 100 (49.30) free at the WLAA meet.

"Joe had an outstanding sophomore season," said Weber. "His success will lay the path for his future. Joe is going to do great things for Canton swimming and diving."

Nick Dixon, Salem, 500 freestyle: Dixon is a major part of the future of Salem swimming. A freshman, he finished just out of the scoring in the 500 freestyle, placing 13th (4:51.13) in a time that was more than four seconds better than his previous best. He also won the 200 individual medley (2:05.20) and placed second in the 500 (4:55.16) at the WLAA finals.

"Nick showed in his freshman year that the future of swimming at Salem will continue with his desire to excel in practice and compete at the highest level," said Olson.

Catholic Central, 200 freestyle relay: "Three seniors and a freshman" sounds like a parody of a movie from the 1980s, but when it came to CC's swimming team, the things these four accomplished was no joke.

Seniors Kevin Ryan, Bryant Steele and Brett Meconis, along with freshman Rob Cyrek, ranked among the top 200 freestyle relay teams in the state, winning the Catholic League title and taking fifth overall at the Division 1 state meet. The unit set new pool records for the race at Lincoln Stevenson, Lake Orion and Farmington Mercy High Schools, and were first at the Eastern Michigan Relays.

"The seniors really provided great leadership for the underclassmen," Baker said. "This relay just missed the team record



Tim Ryan
Catholic Central



Robert Cyrek
Catholic Central



Kevin Ryan
Catholic Central



Brett Meconis
Catholic Central



Joe La
Plymouth Canton



Nick Dixon
Plymouth Salem



Brad Nilson
Plymouth Canton



Matt Newman
North Farmington



Ryan Ahern
Plymouth Canton

and provided some great swims during the season."

Brad Nilson, Canton, backstroke: Nilson, a senior, has been a state-level qualifier for four years and has set three school records, including this year in the 100 backstroke (54.74). He finished second at the WLAA finals in the 100 back (56.70) and was part of Canton's 200 medley relay that finished first in the WLAA (1:41.54).

"Brad has been a four-year state qualifier and a three-year school recordholder," said Weber. "Now he ends his swimming career with over a second drop at the state meet (in the 100 back). He is a very dedicated athlete who deserves the success he's received."

Matt Newman, N. Farmington, breaststroke: Newman was the WLAA champion with a time of 1:03.78 and was fourth in the Oakland County meet. He had the second best time in the area at 1:03.74.

Newman joined the North Farmington team as a sophomore when his family

moved to the United States from England and quickly earned the respect of his teammates, according to coach Pat Duthie.

"Matt works hard, which has resulted in steady improvement," Duthie said. "He is also an excellent competitor. He is an outstanding team member who motivates, encourages and supports his teammates."

Canton, 400 freestyle relay: This foursome didn't swim together at the WLAA finals, but they proved how devastating they could be by finishing seventh at the state meet (3:14.38). At the conference finals, they were together in the 200 free relay, and they finished first (1:29.00).

Ahern is one of three seniors on this quartet. He placed third at conference in the 200 free (1:50.66) and was seventh in the 500 free (5:07.43).

"Ryan has been a key part of the leadership that has led Canton to consecutive Western Division championships," said Weber.

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