

Observer Classifieds sell! Call (800) 579-SELL

Cranbrook, Forest Hills renew their rivalry at NSSL finals

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

The Cranbrook and Forest Hills swim clubs battled right down to the final relays in last summer's thrilling Northwest Suburban Swim League championship meet.

Cranbrook Swim Club of Southfield edged Birmingham-based Forest Hills Swim Club by less than 20 points to claim its first NSSL championship in 26 years. Troy's Beachwood Recreation Association was a distant third.

Cranbrook and Forest Hills again are expected to vie for top honors at the 16-team meet slated for this weekend at the Beachwood Recreation Association in Troy.

The 41st annual NSSL 'A' league championship meet begins with preliminary rounds 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The top 12 swimmers from each of the 52 events qualify for the finals set to begin approximately 10 a.m. Sunday after the always-popular Parade of Champions.

While Woodside, Beverly Hills Athletic Club and host Beachwood have enjoyed fine seasons, Cranbrook and Forest Hills are expected to dominate the action.

"Cranbrook and us are probably going in as the favorites, but you never know what's going to happen," said veteran Forest Hills Swim Club coach Karl Hodgson.

"I think we definitely have a shot at winning, but you can't get much closer than we were last year. We're as good as anyone else out there," he said. "It's going to be exciting. I coach the Seaholm girls team, and this is just as exciting as taking the girls to the state meet."

Forest Hills defeated Cranbrook by a slim six-point margin in their thrilling dual meet held two weeks ago. The victory enabled Forest Hills to clinch the regular-season crown with a perfect 6-0 mark and wrap up its fourth consec-

WHAT: Northwest Suburban Swim League 'A' championship meet.

WHERE: Beachwood Recreation Association, Troy.

WHEN: July 27-28.

Preliminary rounds July 27. Championship swims begin 10 a.m. July 28.

DEFENDING CHAMPION:

Cranbrook Swim Club.

OTHER COMPETING CLUBS:

Forest Hills Swim Club;

Beachwood Recreation

Association; Woodside

Athletic Club; Village

Athletic Club; Compton-

Buckingham Swim Club;

Beverly Hills Athletic Club;

Bloomfield Surf Club;

Huntington Woods Aquatic

Club; Heart of the Hills

Swim Club; Kendallwood

Club; Pleasant Ridge Swim

Club; Beechview Swim

Club; Farmington Glen

Aquatic Club; Woodbrooke

Hills Swim and Tennis;

Orchard Valley Swim and

Racquet.

utive undefeated dual-meet

season.

Cranbrook placed second in

the league at 5-1, while

Woodside and Beachwood

Recreation Association tied for

third.

"You can't really judge which

team is better by the dual-

meet results," said Hodgson.

"It's really not a true test of

who has what because of vaca-

tions and others who may have

missed the meet."

Forest Hills, which won

three consecutive NSSL titles

before Cranbrook surprised

the field last summer, is led by

its 9-10 and 11-12 age divi-

sions. "Both the boys and the girls in those divisions are the heart of our team," said Hodgson.

Forest Hills swimmers set three club records this summer, including the 40-year freestyle relay team of Lauren Matthews, Jim LaFave, Meghan Jones and Lauren Nichols.

Individually, Matthews, swimming in the 9-10 division, established new standards in three events - the 50-back, 50-fly and 50-free. Jenna Hart (11-12 division) set a new club record in the 50-meter breaststroke.

Cranbrook Swim Club, coached by former swimmer Kristi Moore, set four new club records this season.

The 40-year freestyle team of Rob McGowan, Mitchell Kessel, James Schlabbach and Justin Glanda set a relay record.

The individual records were established by Kristi Moore in the 9-10 50-back, Kessel in the 9-10 50-back and McGowan in the 8-under 25-back.

Cranbrook's team strengths are the boys divisions from top to bottom - the 8-under and 9-10 divisions were undefeated in dual meet action.

Moore would love to see a repeat of last summer, but she knows it's going to be a closely contested competition.

"We're hoping to be in the running for a repeat, but I think it's going to be difficult because there are several teams that will be right up there," said Moore, whose team had the most (nine) individual event champions in last year's meet.

"We have an exceptionally strong group of boys and I'm counting on them to maintain position, and I'm counting on our girls inching up a bit and having some great swims," she said. "The key will be to have our girls have some nice time drops, and I expect we will do pretty well in relays."

mbudner@eehome.com.net | (248) 901-2561

Walk-Ours!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
July 26th, 27th & 28th

Our ANNUAL PORCH SALE is the BIG SALE you can't miss! Save 35%-75% on home furnishings, both outside on our porch and inside!

Enjoy summertime tunes brought to you by a "BARBERSHOP QUARTET"! Music Friday 7-8 p.m.

ENTER TO WIN! Saturday and Sunday we'll have drawings for unique accent pieces from the PGA Tour Home Collection by Hooker.*



Walker/Buzenberg
fine furniture

240 N. Main Street • PLYMOUTH • (734) 459-1300

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 12-5

www.walkerbuzenberg.com

*Drawing to be held 5:00 pm Saturday & 4:00 pm Sunday
No purchase necessary • See store for additional details

Need A Quick Gift In A Hurry?

We Have Some Great Gift Ideas!

Try one of our
"CRAZY for DAISIES"
vases..... \$19.99
only.....

The best value in town is our...

"VALUE VASE or BASKET"
includes fresh flowers in season
only..... \$35.00

Try one of our famous
MIXED BOUQUETS
priced at..... \$6.99,
\$10.99,
\$15.00,
\$20.00,
and up

PREMIUM
CARNATIONS
with baby's breath
and greens
only \$10.99

Every Saturday is...

1/2 OFF SATURDAY!

We celebrate the weekend by selling
ALL our IN STOCK FRESH FLOWERS
and ARRANGEMENTS 50% OFF
(does not include any special orders or deliveries)

Best quality available
DOZEN ROSES
in a VASE
only \$39.99

Flowers from Joe's

• Fresh Flowers for All Occasions • Green & Blooming Plants
• Custom Silk Arrangements • Home Decor & More

by Carolynn

33018 W. Seven Mile (Just E. of Farmington)