

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Ar

New Coach For Mercy Swim Team

By JOHN DOSER

There's no way Our Lady of Mercy High School girls' swimming team can not put together the best swimming record of any girls' swimming team in the Diocese this spring.

That's partly because Mercy has the only girls' swimming team in the Diocese and partly because its new coach, Bruce Smith, won't settle for anything but the best.

The best in this case, he says, is a sixth place finish among the top girls' teams in Monroe County.

Smith is new to Mercy — he succeeds Tom Hayes — but he isn't new to swimming. He also coaches swimming at Perkins Swim Club in addition to his fulltime job at Eastman Kodak Co., in research.

He more or less assumed the Mercy job as part of the unofficial package which accompanied his agreement to coach at Perkins.

He's a good friend of Perkins' owner and top diving coach Betty Perkins and found it impossible to say 'No' to her revelation that Mercy girls' swimming might disappear if together they couldn't help solve the problem.

Smith also has coached amateur and AAU swim teams in Greece (the Greece Marlins) and at Greece Olympia.

The girls at Mercy no longer have to get up at 5 in the morning to practice at Perkins Swim Club at 7. Now they receive an hour a day, usually in the afternoon, at Perkins.

The girls have to pay their own way, but it's nominal — \$16 for eight weeks, plus another \$26 for a team swim suit — but there are few

objections because of the alternative — no swim team.

More than 30 girls reported for initial swim team drills, but Smith says the squad is down to 24 at the present. He didn't cut anyone; they just dropped out, he says.

Mercy competes against Monroe County and City schools, but mostly county. The girls lost their opener to Irondequoit last week, 51-30, and saw two other meets canceled.

One was against Webster Thomas (Mercy didn't have their required 15 days of practice in) and the other against Webster Schroeder (sickness and vacations).

Mercy, like most other diocesan and public schools in Section 5, is closed this week for spring vacation. Smith hopes to make up for some lost time during the break.

Mercy is eligible for Section 5 girls' tournament competition even though it isn't a member of either the Monroe County or City School swimming leagues.

Smith finds being locked out of both leagues somewhat frustrating, but he thinks his swimmers are good enough to be among the Section's Top Ten.

He says he hopes to "break this league barrier down" one day, in one league or the other.

Mercy's strongest swimmer, Smith says, is freshman Lisa Kenney who swims the 50 and 100 yard freestyle.

"She's really third in the county right now; her teammate from Penfield holds the sectional record and they're both freshman. I hope she makes the states as one of the top two. She has the most talent of anybody on our team."

Sophomore Therese Siebert, team captain, is a swimmer whom Smith can plug into most any event because she swims all the strokes.

"She's not a super swimmer, but she can fill in any place on the team I need her and she works very, very hard," Smith explains.

Erin Sheehy, another sophomore, swims the breaststroke and Smith says she should finish among the top six breaststrokers in the county.

Joanne Monagan, another freshman, handles the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly and junior Mary Beth Pulsifer also swims both events.

Kathy Smith, freshman, is the team's backstroke who learned her fundamentals from Rochester Recreation. She lowered her backstroke time from 1:12 to 1:10 in the Irondequoit meet.

Cathy Shaw, still another freshman, swims the 50 freestyle and learned her basics from the Spencerport AAU.

Most of the other girls on the team are just starting out for the first time, Smith says.

The fact that Mercy doesn't have a pool and the girls have to get over to Perkins Swim Club each day for an hour doesn't minimize Smith's optimism — he says his girls are already lowering their times impressively — and he's had only one meet (as of this writing) so far this season.

His goals for his team are high — as high as is possible for a coach who volunteers his time.

His assistant coach is John Sims, former Greece Arcadia and Brockport State swim star who also is on the Perkins' coaching roster.

Equal Time

What is an important value characteristic for a Christian to have?

DESALES

MIKE WESTFALL senior, bowling



"Awareness. Being aware that you are a Christian which means you just don't follow a crowd or gang and do what they're doing because they're doing it. Also at work, walk away from disagreements and try to teach others about the Christian values that you have been taught throughout your Catholic education."

KAREN CANNULI junior, softball



"Honesty. It is always better to tell the truth. I think people are drifting away from Christian values because they don't want to stand up for what they believe. It would be a better world if Christians lived their values. Greed has seemed to have pushed honesty out of today's world."

DENISE PORTERFIELD junior, cheerleader



"I think the most important value is faith because that's what the Catholic religion is based on — faith in God and faith in people. People have to trust each other and this is where faith comes in. Without faith, in trying times you wouldn't have anything to turn to and would be more miserable. The loss of faith in society is a problem."

MARGIE PETERS senior, Right to Life



"Probably the most important value is understanding. I think before we can start to grow or understand ourselves and before we can go anywhere we have to understand other people, their feelings — that's where it all starts. Then we can start to understand ourselves and show ourselves to the world and give a better picture of what a true Christian truly is."

LINDA HUGHES freshman, cheerleader



"Trust is an important value because as a Christian you should believe in what people say and believe in what they are. If people really believed in trust, they would go on believing in others. There is a lack of trust among people today. Trust starts in the home and its value is continued taught throughout school."

DAVID BERO senior



"To be able to get along with other people in jobs and in school is an important value — also learning to take orders. And not fight with people but take what comes in stride. A lot of people are drifting away from their Christianity today. The world would be better off if people practiced their Christian values; there wouldn't be so many wars or riots."

MIKE MYERS senior, Class secretary



"Honesty because you will always get ahead with it. It is better to always tell the truth. Honesty is the one lacking principle in society today. Also, you have to be honest with yourself."

MIKE MACKAY freshman



"I think there are two: perseverance — to be able to stand up and say I'm a Christian and this is what I believe in and not worry about what people think. You also have to have understanding about the definite cultures and beliefs of other people. Everyone has the right to believe what they believe in is right — so tolerance is another value that is important. For the most part, society hasn't been tolerant but people are beginning to accept different ideas."

Sports Who's Who

Editor's Note — This weekly series of short, brief news items about Diocesan athletes (mostly high school) is a perfect opportunity for mom, dad or coach to drop Raparound Sports Editor John Doser a clipping or a note about your son or daughter's athletic achievement or progress at the high school level or above.

Send the information to RAPAROUND Sports Who's Who, 51 Boxwood Lane, Fairport, N.Y. 14450. Be sure to include the name of his/her high school.

Vince Balamonte (McQuaid) scored a decision in the 180.5 pound class to help a team of Rochester's best high school wrestlers earn a 5-5 tie against the Polish Junior World Team in an

exhibition meet at Greece Athena High School.

Glen Hagen (ex-Mooney) scored 20 points for the East which defeated the West, 136-124, in the championship game of the Aloha Classic all-star basketball game in Honolulu. He scored 14 and 12 points in the tournament's first two games.

Dave Merkel (Aquinas), who earned a 10-3 won-loss record on the mound last year, has since transferred to Gates-Chili High School.

Jack Palvino (ex-Aquinas) will MC the third annual Manufacturers Hanover Greece Athlete of the Year Awards dinner, Thursday, May 11, at Mother

of Sorrows Church. Athletes who live in Greece attending Catholic high schools outside of the town are eligible to be nominated.

St. John Fisher would like to land 5-10 5-10 Martha Brodzik of Buffalo for its women's basketball team; the Cardinals already have her sister, Stacy Brodzik, one of their top performers, on the team.

Mark Zabkar (McQuaid), now a sophomore, is one good reason for Knights' baseball coach Tim Jordan's optimism this spring. Zabkar was McQuaid's leading pitcher last year as well as the team's top hitter with a .300 average.

Other veteran players

back this season for McQuaid include Pete Hill, Bill Cooper and Don Condello.

Fred Recchio (ex-Aquinas), saw his RIT lacrosse squad defeat Albany 7-5 to even the Tigers' early season record at 1-1. RIT lost its opener to Geneseo State, 1-1.

Former UCLA head basketball coach John Wooden and University of Iowa wrestling coach Dan Gable will head a coaching clinic at the Americana Hotel, May 5-6.

Other basketball coaches on the panel with Wooden are Jim Boehm (Syracuse), Pete Carril (Princeton), Jack Leaman (Massachusetts), Speedy

Morris (Roman Catholic H.S., Philadelphia), Joe O'Brien (Assumption), Jim Valvano (Iona) and Tom Young (Rutgers).

Other wrestling coaches on the panel with Gable are John Clark (St. Lawrence), Gus DiAugustino (N. Allegheny H.S., Pennsylvania), Stan Dziedzic (Michigan State), Russ Hellickson (Wisconsin) and Dr. James Key.

The Rochester Lancers will give area students, including athletes, an opportunity to attend Lancer home games at no charge under its 1978 Straight "A" program — that means during the fourth quarter of the present school year, the Lancers will give two free tickets to a selected game to any student who

records an "A" average. School principals will oversee the program.

The Rochester Red Wing Knot Hole Gang is already forming its membership in Diocesan and public elementary and high schools which allows youngsters to attend 11 different Red Wing games for only 35 cents.

The Red Wings open the home season at Silver Stadium Friday, April 21 at 2 p.m. against the Richmond Braves. The first 2,000 fans of high school age attending the opener will receive a free embroidered Red Wing shoulder patch. Most students will be out of school for spring vacation — the Red Wings anticipated one of the largest opening day crowds in many years.