

# ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

## Mooney mermen in the swim during first-season competition

By Tom Dixon  
 Cardinal Mooney High School  
 Skeptics said that Cardinal Mooney's first-year swim team would be lucky to win one meet this year. With the idea of disproving that theory in mind, the Mooney mermen went to work, entering their first meet against Marshall upset-minded and confident. The whole meet was close. Going into the last event with a 32-31 lead — as a result of Bill Riddell's key first-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke — the Cards knew they had a chance. Riddell, Ed Browne and Aaron Baker won the 400-yard relay to give the Cardinals their first varsity victory, 38-34, at Marshall.

As the season developed, so did the Cardinals' prowess. Although they lost to such well-developed teams as Aquinas, McQuaid and Edison, they finished with a 7-5 record and a second place spot in the City-Catholic League's Division 2.

Mooney's biggest win of the season came against Wilson during the regular season. With the Cardinals behind as they entered the last two events, Riddell, a junior, pulled out a clutch win in the 100-yard breaststroke, setting a pool record 1:10.24. Within reach

but still trailing, the Cards forced Wilson into a false start in the last relay, and swam to victory.

The second time around, though, the Cardinals were not as fortunate, and the much-improved Wilson team came away with a win. Many personal bests were recorded by both teams, but the Cards came up short. Riddell gave a stellar performance, taking first place in the 100-yard breaststroke to break his own pool record with a 1:09.09 finish. In his last regular-season meet, Riddell defeated HAC's all-star swimmer Jon Lederer in the 100-yard breaststroke with a 1:09.50 finish. The win gave the Mooney swimmer a 12-1 record in the event for the season.

The climax of the season came on February 11 and 12 in the City-Catholic championships at East High School. Most people didn't expect much from the team, but Mooney surprised the doubters. The Cardinals took home two medals and 11 ribbons,



and the team accomplished more than ever seemed possible.

Riddell took third place in the individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke, splashing to a new school record of 1:08.4 in the breaststroke.

Other winners were Browne with a sixth-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly, Bill Clay with a seventh in the individual medley, and Baker with a ninth-place showing in the 100-yard backstroke.

The medley relay team of Baker, Clay, Browne and Tom Dixon took sixth place, and the 400-yard relay team of Browne, Dan DiCesare, Dixon and Riddell took fifth.

"I never expected to do this well," said first-year coach Greg McMaster. "I thought we could win two or three meets (at best), but seven was incredible for any first-year team."

The feeling of accomplishment pervades the squad, and with eight of 12 swimmers returning, the mermen of Mooney look tough for next year.

### Equal Time

Nazareth Academy  
 Do you think smoking should be prohibited?

**CHRISTINE FOLEY, senior**

Everyone knows that cigarette smoking is unhealthy. Why, even the Surgeon General warns us of this on cigarette containers. Yet regardless of these warnings, people continue to smoke, and as a result, may die of lung disease. Therefore, since we cannot stop people from smoking through warnings, should we stop them from smoking by a cigarette ban? This is definitely a controversial question, yet I personally feel that if we ban nicotine, we should also ban other (substances that cause heart disease). People should have some control over what they put into their bodies. It is the government's duty then to better educate people through an increase in health awareness.



**LOURDES SOLAUN, senior**

I believe smoking should be prohibited in the workplace. When someone smokes, he or she affects everyone around them. Eventually, smoking should be eliminated in restaurants, but for now, there are at least smoking and non-smoking sections. On the whole, I think smoking should be totally prohibited, but realistically, I don't think it will ever reach that point.



**MARIA PADULA, senior**

I believe smoking should be banned. It is a very annoying habit to the people around the smoker. It is very irritating, especially in restaurants, and you shouldn't have to deal with it. For this reason, I believe it should be restricted in restaurants. As for the workplace, I think special smoking lounges should be available to solve the conflict between the smokers and non-smokers.



**JEANNINE SOJKA, junior**

I think smoking should be prohibited in public places, because it endangers the health of both the smoker and the people around the smoker. This restriction may also help encourage people to quit smoking and, at the same time, save money. I cannot see it being totally prohibited, because people would feel as if their rights were being violated.



By Shealyn McGuire  
 Our Lady of Mercy High School  
 Yesterday, Ash Wednesday, marked the beginning of one of the most difficult seasons of the liturgical year: Lent. Difficult, perhaps, more for teenagers than any other group.

In the past two weeks, students have been asking each other, "What are you going to give up for Lent?" Answers to this question have included "candy," "soda," "junk food in general," "fighting with my brother or sister," "school" and "brussel sprouts" — and the list is endless.

It has occurred to me, however, that people spend more time trying to figure out what to give up for Lent than actually sticking to their vow of sacrifice. It is almost as bad as making a New Year's resolution (which is kind of sad, considering that Lent is only 46 days long!)

Another problem that people have with giving something up for Lent is that they are not really aware of why they should be doing it. "Well," many of them say, "if I give up junk food, I'll lose weight and improve my complexion." This attitude, unfortunately, is very common. Our main reasons for sacrifice are often not the right ones.

So why do we continue this sacrificial ritual between Ash Wednesday and Easter? This question elicits many answers, most of which could probably be answered extensively by your priest, your theology teacher or even your parents. The primary reason, however, is that each of us remember and appreciate the sacrifice that Christ made for us through his persecution and crucifixion. Is this why you give up whatever you give up for Lent?

I do not want to preach, though, because I am not an authority on the subject, and

### Speaking Out

also because I have a very difficult time myself when it comes to Lent. I would, however, like to acknowledge and commend those people who are successful in giving things up for the full season of Lent — and for the right reasons. You are very strong and inspiring to others.

For those who find sacrificing things for Lent next to impossible or possibly meaningless, I have found another way to deal with this important season. There is a more positive approach to Lent. Instead of giving up things, why not try doing constructive things that you may not usually do? For example, try avoiding disputes with friends or family members by leaving out that "last word" that you usually find yourself saying. Or how about taking care of your responsibilities around the house before your parents have to tell you to?

Another idea would be to write a letter to your grandparents to tell them what is going on in your life, even if they already know. (To receive things other than the "usual" mail brightens anybody's day!) It also could be as small a gesture as saying "hi" to the person in school whom nobody talks to. Doing positive things during Lent can be just as meaningful as sacrificing something. (The positive approach is even more meaningful if you can try to do at least one thing every day.)

Lent can be compared to the idea of cleaning your house before your guests come over. Realistically, not many people like to clean, but the job still needs to be done.

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**HOUSE OF GUITARS**  
 We received 19 correct entries identifying Kim Carnes as the recording artist of the #1 song: "Bette Davis Eyes."  
 The winner was **Jeff DeWandler** of Jefferson Ave.

**MUSIC TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**  
 What band named themselves after Dorothy's dog in "The Wizard of Oz?"

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**  
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.  
 If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.  
 All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

**The Courier-Journal Music Trivia**  
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