

# Kim Schneider is making big waves at national level

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — For Kim Schneider, a recent national championship served as the perfect ending to her collegiate swimming career.

It could also be just the beginning of much greater exploits.

"She has so much talent that has never come out," said Nazareth College Coach Rick Aronberg.

Regarding his star swimmer's work ethic, Aronberg is equally complimentary. "This is a true statement — she is the most focused athlete I have ever dealt with," he observed.

That's pretty high praise coming from Aronberg, who has certainly dealt with some of the best as a former Division I swim star at Clemson University.

Lately, it's been the 22-year-old Schneider who has made waves in the collegiate ranks. The senior recently proved herself as the nation's best in the NCAA Division III 100-yard women's butterfly, winning the national championship with a time of 56.74 seconds in competition held March 11 in Williamstown, Mass.

In addition to her national crown, Schneider has earned nine state championships over her past three seasons in a Nazareth career marked by rapid-fire success out of relative obscurity.

During her high-school days, Schneider's claim to fame was swimming on a boys' 400-yard relay which advanced to state qualifiers during her senior year at Naples High. It wasn't until her sophomore season at Nazareth that she began attracting widespread attention.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Kim Schneider March 11 won the NCAA Division III national championship in the 100-yard butterfly in Williamstown, Mass. She is now training to qualify for the 1996 U.S. Olympic swim team.

Schneider won two state titles that year, and two more as a junior before netting five state championships this season to go with the national title.

Schneider said she didn't get too carried away by the hoopla surrounding her recent championship.

"I'm really concerned about the clock. You want that gold medal, but as long as you're satisfied with your performance, that's what should matter," Schneider said.

Her progress, she acknowledged, can be traced more to attitude than ability.

"As I got older, I took swimming in a different light," Schneider said. "When

"I enjoy it; I don't mind being in the water. When I do take a break, I'm about ready to go nuts. I enjoy working out and pushing myself beyond my limits," she remarked.

There are some drawbacks, she admitted. "I don't have as much of a social life. After I come home from practice, I don't want to be out until all hours of the morning."

"Sometimes I find myself studying like this," the senior added as she put her head in her hands.

Now Schneider is pushing herself toward a possible berth in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. She will continue to train with the Marauders as she finishes up work on her environmental science degree; she's due to graduate from Nazareth next fall.

Schneider hopes to

become eligible for the Olympics in the 100 butterfly, which she considers to be her top event. She is also aiming to qualify in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

In assessing Schneider's chances at making the Olympics, Aronberg noted that her times are better than most current Division I swimmers.

Although "the more elite are a little ahead of her," Aronberg added that Schneider "is going forward very quickly."

The difference, once again, might be that mental edge.

"Her level of commitment is very high," Aronberg remarked. "Kim is so excited that nothing is standing in her way."

## First places continue for BK color guard squad

IRONDEQUOIT — Bishop Kearney High School's color guard and dance ensemble is once again enjoying a dominant year.

The unit captured first place at the Northeast Regional competition held March 12-13 at SUNY College at Brockport. This followed victories at the Northeast Ohio Regionals and Eastern Regionals, both held in February. In the Northeast Ohio compe-

dition, the Kings edged out Miami-burg High School of Ohio — the same team BK replaced as national champions a year ago. In the Eastern Regionals, held in Virginia, the Kings competed against 30 other guards.

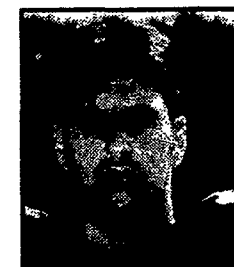
Since its competitive season began in January, Kearney has earned first place in each event it has entered. National competition is scheduled for April.

## Football players secure scholarships

The *Catholic Courier* was recently notified of four high school football players who have earned scholarships to play football at the college level in the fall.

Aaron Medina, a lineman who led McQuaid Jesuit in tackles this past season, will attend the University of New Hampshire, a Division I-AA school. Medina recorded 122 tackles this past fall, earning second team All-State honors.

Patrick Russo, a former parishioner at St. Helen's Church in Gates and St. Pius X Church in Chili, will play Division I-AA football at the University of Connecticut. Russo, a defensive lineman, is a senior at Union-Endicott High



Patrick Russo



Aaron Medina

School in Broome County. He collected 181 tackles last season.

Matthew and Christian DiPaolo, seniors at Aquinas Institute, will play for Division I-AA Cornell University next fall.

The twin brothers, who both stand 6-foot-3 and weigh 235 pounds, will play at defensive end.

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