

SPORTS

New wave of interest buoys Mercy swim program

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

They frequently practice at 6:30 a.m. at a facility located six miles away. The program vies for members at a school with established sports such as soccer, cross-country, tennis and volleyball.

Yet despite these challenges, an increasing number of Our Lady of Mercy athletes are finding girls' swimming to be well worth their time.

Third-year head coach Todd Yunker notes that membership has risen from 18 athletes in 1993 to its current total of 35. The surplus of swimmers has made a noticeable difference in the water, with an all-time high of 19 Monarchs having already qualified for the Section 5 Class B meet Nov. 10-11 at the University of Rochester.

"The program is beginning to take off," Yunker commented. "Before, it wasn't really taken seriously."

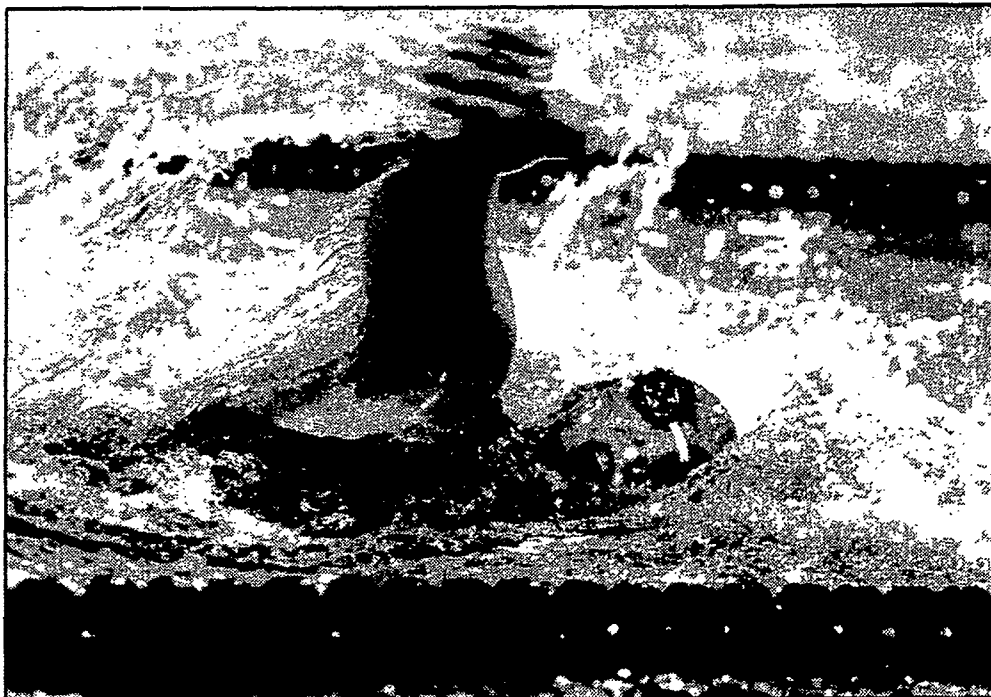
The Monarchs now take their sport seriously enough that they don't mind traveling to Monroe Community College for early-morning practices and to other schools for all their meets (Mercy does not have its own pool).

"There's been a lot of dedication from the kids and the parents," Yunker noted.

Mercy has posted a 4-4 record in dual meets and is shooting for a top-three team finish at sectionals. The team placed fourth in Class B last year.

A top Mercy event is the 200-yard freestyle relay which set a school record of 1 minute, 47.10 seconds earlier this fall. Relay members are senior Michelle Moosbrugger, sophomore Christina Brasser, freshman Elizabeth Maxwell and sophomore Cassie Ingersoll.

Other relay lineups include the medley combination of Brasser, Moosbrugger, junior Jennifer Moffett and Ingersoll; and the 400 freestyle quartet of Moffett, junior Laura Belgiorno, Maxwell and junior Emmie Ingersoll.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Mercy junior Laura Belgiorno takes a quick breath as she competes in the 500-yard freestyle event during the Monarchs' Oct. 12 meet at Penfield.

In individual events, leading Monarchs include: 200 free - Belgiorno and Maxwell; individual medley - Cassie and Emmie Ingersoll, along with their sister Josie, a seventh-grader; 50 free - Brasser, Moffett and senior Meredith Cirilla; diving - senior Katie Ernst and junior Gina DeBergalis; 100 butterfly - Moffett and Josie Ingersoll; 100 free - Moosbrugger, sophomore Jill Deininger and junior Sara Haines; 500 free - Belgiorno, Maxwell and her sister Jennifer, a senior; 100 backstroke - Brasser, Elizabeth Maxwell and sophomore Seema Dhaliwal; 100 breaststroke - Moosbrugger and sophomore Sarah Conezio.

More sports highlights

Aquinas Institute finally notched its first football win with a 20-0 decision over Wilson Oct. 14. Kyle Magee led the Irish (1-6) by completing a 57-yard touchdown pass to Jay Wegman and also

scoring on a one-yard TD run.

Elmira Notre Dame football (7-0), ranked No. 12 in the state Class C poll, rolled to a 56-0 win over Newark Valley Oct. 13. The Crusaders' Ian Lampman scored three touchdowns and gained 115 yards on only six carries.

In girls' tennis, Our Lady of Mercy reached the Section 5 Class B finals. The Monarchs (9-3) won 5-0 over Wellsville in the Oct. 10 quarterfinal round, and 4-1 over Victor in the Oct. 11 semifinals. A tight championship match saw Mercy get edged by Pittsford Sutherland, 3-2, on Oct. 12 despite victories at first singles by Sue Ciccone and at second doubles by Jan Ricci and Margaret Rickard.

In boys' soccer, Bishop Kearney (7-9) won 7-0 over Geneva Oct. 10, 1-0 over Newark Oct. 12 and 4-2 over Midlakes Oct. 14. Goalie David Sleight earned the shutouts against Geneva and Newark.

BK girls' soccer (11-3-1) also enjoyed a

3-for-3 week: 2-0 over Brighton Oct. 9, 4-1 over Waterloo Oct. 11 and 7-0 over East Oct. 13. Sandy Moll had a goal and an assist against Brighton and added a pair of goals against Waterloo.

McQuaid Jesuit, behind Wesley Thurmond's second-half goal, upped its soccer record to 11-2-2 with a 1-0 triumph over Elmira Free Academy Oct. 14. Earlier that evening on the McQuaid field, Our Lady of Mercy (13-1-1) scored a 6-0 win over Holy Angels of Buffalo as six different Monarchs scored.

Aquinas boys' soccer (11-3) closed out its week with a 5-0 blanking of East Rochester Oct. 14. Mike Marques paced the Irish with three goals and one assist.

Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer (11-3) ran its victory streak to six games by winning 4-3 in overtime over Horseheads Oct. 10, 3-1 over Corning Oct. 12 and 3-0 over Troy Oct. 14.

Notre Dame boys' soccer (3-8) gained a 2-1 win over Corning Oct. 11 as Chris Steed and Neal Adamus scored second-half goals for the Crusaders.

Nazareth Academy girls' soccer (8-5-2) won 5-0 over Eastridge Oct. 12 behind Tina Sementino's three goals.

Geneva DeSales girls' soccer (5-9-1) won 2-0 over Romulus Oct. 13 as Melissa Liberatore scored both goals and goalie Theresa Patrick earned the shutout.

In cross-country, McQuaid placed second in Division I of the Fairport Classic held Oct. 14 at Mendon Ponds Park. Also at that meet, Nazareth's Karen Scozzafava recorded the fastest run of any girl with her time of 19 minutes, 8 seconds.

In boys' volleyball, McQuaid made the championship round of the Penfield Tournament Oct. 14. The Knights' Brian Chamberlain and Kevin O'Dell was named to the all-tournament team.

Mercy girls' volleyball (7-6) downed Nazareth (9-8) Oct. 10 by scores of 15-10, 5-15, 16-14 and 15-8. In another Private-Parochial League clash, Kearney (12-3) earned a 15-12, 15-10, 15-3 sweep over Aquinas (0-10) Oct. 12.

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