

Making A Splash At State!

They successfully defended their state title and proved that they were truly the best.

The girls water polo team, state champions for the past two years, had a winning way about them. Team member, Lynne Monton, explained that they did not get the recognition that they deserved. "I wish that water polo was more recognized and supported by the students at Sycamore. A lot of people at this school don't even know what water polo is!"

Nonetheless, the water polo team played consistently well all season. When asked what components in the water polo program make it so strong, Coach Mark Sullivan replied, "Our team is comprised of outstanding swimmers. We spend much more time practicing than some other state teams. Also, when a water polo program is good at a school, team members work very hard, partly because motivation is involved," he said.

"An interesting fact," Coach Sullivan said, "is that most of the girls on the team had never played the game until their freshman year. In this short amount of time, the girls become excellent players with much skill." Team member Meagan Ciccarelli

"Winning State was a great finish on an undefeated season."

-Meagan Ciccarelli

agreed with Sullivan, saying, "We are an experienced team with a lot of good players and depth. This was exhibited throughout the season."

When Ciccarelli was asked how she felt the team performed this past season, she replied, "This year we were virtually unchallenged by other teams.

Our toughest game was the final match, against Princeton, for the state championship. We played our hardest, and we came out on top."

The highlight of the season for both Monton and Ciccarelli was winning the state championship.

"Winning state was a great finish on an undefeated season," Ciccarelli said.

Some of the team's noted players were: senior Karen Queen, juniors Ciccarelli and Julie Beerman, and Freshman Mandy Hester. Awards that were distributed at the fall sports awards night were received by the following: Ciccarelli was awarded the most valuable player, Senior Stacey Patterson and Kerry Bennett shared the award of most improved player, and Queen was given the "Spirit of Sycamore" award which recognized her team spirit and constant encouragement.

by Stacy Walter



State Champions!...Just after winning the State Championship game, the girls proudly show off their trophy.

Defense!...Julie Beerman blocks the opponent from shooting, while Kathy Christensen prepares herself as goalie.

