

SWIMMING TO SUCCESS

Waterpolo teams dive into achievements

Senior Karen Christensen holds the ball high in the air as she waits for a fellow teammate to get open so she can complete her pass.

Junior John Hilb waits patiently for one of his teammates to pass him the ball.

“After the 1990-91 season, the boys’ and girls’ waterpolo teams dove right back to success this year under the coaching of Mark Sullivan.

The girls’ waterpolo team won the state title for the third consecutive year. Captain Meagan Ciccarelli said, “Since it was the third time in a row it was very special. However, this championship game was the toughest and most challenging game we had ever played. This made the victory even sweeter. The other seniors and I were happy to win since it was our last year.”

With a record of 15-1, the championship game against Napoleon was an exciting match. During the second quarter, the Aves trailed 5-2, but in the fourth quarter the game was tied up. Sycamore ended up winning 8-7 in overtime. Sophomore Liz Neal explained, “I feel that our working together as a team contributed a lot to our success. The players on the team with more experience helped the other players to improve their game. Everyone listened and took it with great appreciation.”

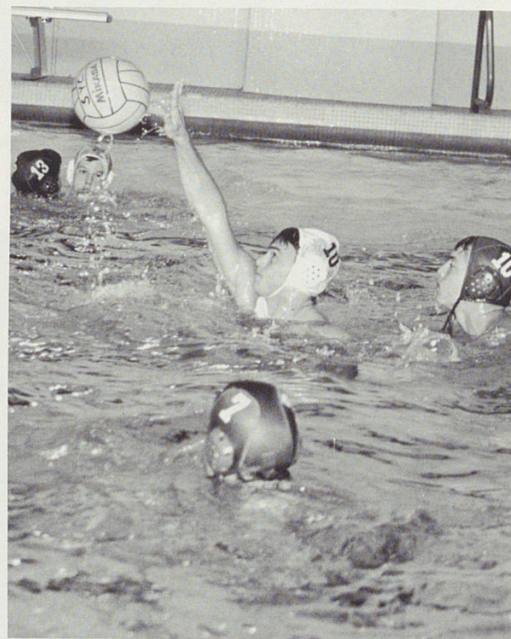
Besides team accomplishments, many individuals were commended. Ciccarelli and Mandy Hester made the First Team of Ohio, while Michelle Lichtenberger and Kerry Bennett made Second Team and Honorable Mention for All-Ohio, respectively.

Ciccarelli summed things up by stating, “Sycamore is better than other state teams in Ohio because we play like a team. Each player is willing to sacrifice to let another teammate score.” The girls’ waterpolo team’s success could be attributed to their hard work, effort, and theories like, “Defense makes the offense happen.” In 1991, they once again proved that true.

The boys’ waterpolo teams jumped right into another season of intense play and finished with a record of six wins and 14 losses. “We started out this season as a young team, but as the season progressed, we started showing great improvement which continued throughout the season up to the last game,” said junior John Hilb who was named MVP and received an Honorable Mention for the All-State team. “We improved in ball handling, shooting, passing, and in all around teamwork.”

Junior Woody Kirkwood led the team with 69% accuracy for shooting, Hilb led scoring with 31 goals and sophomore Mike Preissler had the most steals and turnovers. With such impressive statistics, the future of the boys’ waterpolo team looks good. Hilb commented, “Next year I see a lot of good talent. With the amount of underclassmen moving up and our current talent, I see no reason why we could not succeed even farther than we did this year.”

by Carly Bella



Senior Terry Hiltner attempts to keep the ball away from his approaching opponents by keeping the ball in the air.

Junior Michelle Lichtenberger concentrates on the pass she needs to make and what she must do to get by her blocking opponent.

