

A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The varsity girls swim team win state, while the varsity boys have a successful season

The girl's varsity swim team was undefeated with a record of 7-0, they won the Greater Miami

Conference, and placed third in the city. They won districts along with the state championship.

"My expectations were to qualify our top swimmers to the state competition. The girls were set out to get to state too. Their performance at districts gave them a shot at winning. We knew that anything was possible. The girls had the potential, they had trained hard, and were goal orientated in winning," Coach Mark Sullivan said.

Coach Fred Cooper stated, "Although we had a relatively young team, (three of our seven state qualifiers were sophomores), it was also an unbelievably strong team. The girls worked hard and lived up to their potential throughout the year, really coming through at the state meet."

The following swimmers swam in the state meet: 200 Medley relay team—Leigh Bassler, Kerry Bennett, Julie Gazdik, Michele Lichtenberger; 200 Freestyle—Bassler, Liz Neal; 50 Freestyle—Bennett, Laurie Kerns; 100 Freestyle—Bennett, Neal, Kerns; 200 Freestyle relay—Kerns, Neal, Lichtenberger, Julie Beerman; 100 Backstroke—Bassler; 400 Freestyle relay—Neal, Bassler, Kerns, Bennett; Diving—Anne Sherman and Lauren Loberg.

When the last event, the 400 freestyle relay began, Sycamore was down four points, behind Ursuline. The girls won that event and won the championship by two points.

"They handled themselves well. It was a real accomplishment for them to win. Even though they didn't swim as fast as they had at districts, they swam fast enough to win," Sullivan commented.

Bassler won the most valuable player award, Neal won the most improved award, and Bennett won the 110% award.

Cooper commented, "Sycamore girls dominated the league in swimming once again, and I think it was a fitting finale to beat our arch-rivals Ursuline."

Coach Sullivan was pleased with the boys varsity swim team's 4-3 record. Sullivan commented, "We went into the season hoping for a winning year and had a great one. This is a young team that's doing a lot better than expected. We have a really good group of freshman, and a strong sophomore class, that made the team look really good."

Sullivan pointed out sophomore Mike Preissler, who finished second in both the 200 meter individual medley and the 100 meter backstroke at the G.M.C. meet, and freshman Frank Lichtenberger, who finished second in the 100 meter breaststroke, as best all-around swimmers. Dusty Doris and Chris Preissler were most improved, and the team would not have been complete without upperclassmen John Hilb and captain Terry Hiltner.

The team placed 23 out of 76 at the Southwest Official's Classic, got third in the sectional meet, defeated the defending GMC champs (Princeton) in a dual meet, and got their 200 relay consisting of M. Preissler, Lichtenberger, John Sexton, and Hilb to the state competition. "They improved in every aspect that I asked them to improve in. Their dual meet record improved, and their sectional, district, and state placing increased," coach Sullivan said.

The team will only be losing one key member. Sullivan commented, "Next year should really be our best in some time. All of our top swimmers are returning, and with another season they should be even faster."

by Lauren Casper, Coutney Shackleford, Beth Wilson, and Carly Bella

The 200 medley relay of sophomore Julie Gazdik, juniors Kerry Bennett, Michele Lichtenberger, Leigh Bassler(not pictured), stand on the award stand at the state meet where they placed third.



With coach Sullivan, junior Kerry Bennett, sophomores Liz Neal and Laurie Kerns, and junior Leigh Bassler swam on the 400 freestyle relay that placed first in the state.

Junior Leigh Bassler swims the 100 backstroke at the state meet, where she placed first. Bassler also swam the 200 freestyle and was part of two other relays.

