

Moline Maroons splash themselves to success

By: Spencer Warren
Sports Reporter

With their female counterparts reaping the benefits of greatness with a WB6 championship this winter, you can bet the Moline boys swimming team wouldn't settle for anything less than a WB6 crown of their own. The male swimmers did just that this season by bringing back Moline's first WB6 championship banner since 2002.

It certainly helped that the Maroons had a strong record in conference, going undefeated against tough opponents such as UT and five time defending champion Galesburg. The Maroons came upon a rarity during their regular season road to the title, with a tie engraved on their 5-2-1 record in meets this season. Having a tie in a swim meet might be more frequent than the number of cuts Michelle Wie makes on the golf course; the point being, it's an oddity.

"We tied UT, and a tie in a swimming meet is rare. I've only had 3 or 4 ties in 28 years," stated Coach Frank Boothe.

The Maroons regular season efforts had Boothe very surprised, as the group had seemingly low expectations entering the '06-'07 campaign.

"I would have been happy if we would have been 4-4. I didn't think we'd ever have a chance at winning the conference, but we did. We far out-did any expectations that we had," Boothe said.

Victory at the conference meet was not so easily attained as Galesburg and UT both had strong showings that could have knocked the Maroons off of their aquatic throne. Coach Boothe realized how tough the path to glory was.

"It was really tough because Galesburg had won it the last five years and UT had a lot of veteran guys coming back, and we're kind of young."

Paced by individual performances by Bryce Bohman,

An even greater journey was ahead for Bohman and Roche, as the two were the only Maroon representatives at state. Roche was 21st in Illinois in the breaststroke, while Bohman captured attention with a 15th place mark in the butterfly and a 10th place finish in the backstroke. Not to mention that Bohman set the school record in the butterfly and backstroke with his phenomenal season. Those are very impressive results for the two Maroon swimmers, and the results weren't lost on their coach, with Boothe being "hugely" impressed.

"Illinois is the 4th fastest swimming state in the nation, so just to make the state meet, you've got to be really, really fast," Boothe remarked.

The sophomore Bohman enjoyed his trip to Winnetka, and was pleased with his state results.

"It was a good feeling, it was a lot better than last year," Bohman said, "I had to do my best to represent my school."

Possessing one of the state's finest swimmers didn't put any additional pressure on the rest of the team to perform at an overwhelming level, they just went out and showed how great of

swimmers they were.

"I think we just had to keep it in perspective to try and prevent that. You don't want to put any pressure on the kids, these are just high school kids and we do what we can to prevent pressure," Coach Boothe stated.

"It was just a great year, who would have thought we would have won the conference meet? Not me," Boothe joked.

A year that Maroon swimmers are sure to remember.



A swimmer works on his backstroke during the swim team's successful competition this season. (Photo by Spitzfaden)

Cory Randolph, and Michael Roche, the Maroons held on in the 400 freestyle relay to win the WB6 title. The aforementioned swimmers brought home the gold in the WB6 200 freestyle and medley relay, while Bohman won the conference titles in the butterfly and backstroke. For Bohman, more known for his solo accomplishments, it was a big win.

"It was a good feeling to bring the title back to Moline High School," said Bohman.

QCRA Crew Team Anyone?

By: Kathleen Bracke and Kayla Kauzlarich
Feature and Sports Editors

Have you ever been sitting by the river on a bright sunny afternoon wondering who those crazy people in small boats are floating across the Mississippi? Well, they are rowers or also known as the crew team. The Quad City Rowing Association is a group of people ages fourteen and older that meet almost every day on the water and in the gym.

In the off-season, which is from December to April the QCRA meets Monday through Friday from about 3:45 to 5:15 in the gym. They work out on machines called ergs which simulate the motions of rowing.

Once the end of April comes around, the regular season begins and practices are twice a day, before and after school for about two hours each.

Competitions, or regattas, take place at the end of the school year through the summer. Ranging from cities such as Camden, New Jersey where the Nationals take place to Cincinnati where the U.S. Club National Championships are

held, the QCRA travels around the country competing in various events.

"At the beginning of the race you feel fine, you've taken a couple strokes, wind is blowing through your hair. You reach the 500 meter mark, you're a quarter of the way done, you are starting to feel good about yourself. Then you get to the 1,000 meter mark and death occurs. Symptoms include: blackouts, lungs leaving the body, and an almost calm sense of mind. By the end of the race you feel like all of your senses are completely gone and you just want to keel over," states sophomore Kathleen Bracke.

But don't let this stop you! Rowing is a great way to get in shape and stay healthy all year round. It not only works the upper body, but crewing works everything from the legs, core, arms, and mind.

If you are interested in joining the Quad City Rowing Association, National Learn To Row Day is on June 19, 2007. There will be posters around school and students can visit the website, www.usrowing.com for more information.

Lovely Nails

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