

# SWIMMING SUCCESS

The Raiders' swimming team, a combination of boys and girls, had a tremendously successful season highlighted by winning a Union County title.

Leading the girls' county championship team were senior tri-captain Christine Knudsen and freshman Caroline Faraldo, each of whom won four gold medals. Knudsen won individual golds in the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly and relay golds in the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay. Knudsen broke two Union County records, shattering the backstroke record with a time of 1:00.7 and by accumulating seven gold medals in her four-year varsity career. "I've coached Christine for four years and I've never seen her swim as well," said Michele Zarro in her first season as head coach. Faraldo also swam on both gold medal relay teams and was the individual champion in the 50 and 100 freestyle events.

Another freshman, Meilyn Ruiz, won the other gold in diving. Sophomore Michele Smith was a member of both winning relays, freshman Rachel Peris completed the 200 medley relay team and junior Christi Wagner swam the other leg on the 400 relay.

"Winning counties was a great way to end our senior year," said tri-captains Susan Fredericks and Stephanie Sherwin.

Zarro and assistant Jeff Spring helped the Raiders finish with an impressive 11-2 overall record. The Raiders also were the top seed in the North Jersey Section B State Championship Tournament.

While the girls won the county championship, the boys placed third. "A big story was Caroline Faraldo," said Zarro. "She was just a freshman and blew away her competition. I also was very pleased with the boys' effort."

For the boys, Todd Kendall was the silver medalist in the 100 backstroke and swam on the silver medal-winning 200-yard medley relay team. Joining him on the relay were junior Keith Swenson, sophomore Ed Kowalik and sophomore Vinny Santa Lucia. The Raiders also got a bronze in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a team of Swenson, junior Jason Washbourne, senior Dave Wagner and Santa Lucia.

