

# Staab tops competition in 1,500 meters

## Recreation notes

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Marion Staab, who moved to this area less than two years ago, is becoming a force to be reckoned with on the masters swimming circuit.

At Saturday's 1,500-meter freestyle at the Little Rock YMCA, Staab, 26, was the fastest of the two women who did the distance. She whipped through the "metric mile" in 21 minutes, 13.53 seconds, more than seven minutes faster than Joanna Sharon, the other finisher. The time was also more than a minute faster than Staab's state record of 22:02.94, set June 21, 1986.

But that's not all. Not only was Staab the women's winner, she put down the best the men could offer as well.

Don Fletcher, 30, and Chuck Letzig, 33, both of Little Rock, had quite a heated battle for first with Fletcher finishing in 21:23.30 to 21:50.78 for Letzig. Still, both were behind Staab.

This was not the first time any of that group had competed against the other. In a masters meet at the Little Rock Racquet Club January 17, Fletcher and Staab were in the 500-yard freestyle, with Fletcher finishing in 6:12.67 to Staab's 6:13.94.

Staab burst upon the Little Rock

scene in August 1985 when, shortly after moving to town, she easily won the women's division of the Arkansas Masters one-mile lake swim at Lake Norrell.

Other top placings for men at Saturday's meet included Mike Hunt, 23:03.04 (19-24); Dick Cornelison, 22:40.90 (35-39); Bill Melchior, 27:10.47 (45-49) and Barry Lawrence, 27:40.08 (50-54).

Sixteen competitors did the 1,500 meters at the Saturday meet.

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