

SWIMMING SECTIONALS START THURSDAY

Titans, Tigers are tourney favorites

By MONTE COX
Evening Press sports writer

Northside and Yorktown will go in as favorites, but both coaches say it's going to be a struggle trying to finish first in their respective IHSAA boys swimming sectionals beginning Thursday.

Five teams representing Muncie and Delaware County will compete at two sites.

Northside and Delta will be at South Adams, while Yorktown, Central and Southside will swim at Richmond.

Both sectionals start Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with preliminary competition in all events except diving. Saturday's action starts with diving at 9 a.m., followed by consolations and finals in other events beginning at 2 p.m.

Northside is defending champion at South Adams and Coach Bob Chico thinks his team is capable of repeating.

"I think we could win it again, but the competition has tightened up considerably this year," Chico said. "We should be right in the chase with Marion and Huntington."

Other teams competing include Delta, Jay County, Bellmont, Blackford, Bluffton, Norwell and host South Adams.

The Titans, who posted a 6-4-1 dual-meet record, have several swimmers capable of advancing to



Werling

Coers

the state meet.

"I think we could take quite a few swimmers to state if things go right for us," Chico said.

The top finisher in each sectional event advances to the state meet as do all swimmers who break a state standard time set before the season by the IHSAA.

The only other way to advance to state is to swim one of the top 32 times in the state. Should an event not have enough qualifiers to make a 32-member field, swimmers with the next fastest times (who didn't advance) will be picked up.

There is an exception in diving, where the top three individuals advance to state.

The Titans have four No. 1 seeds for the sectional: Steve Hoffman in the 100-yard breaststroke; Doug Coers, 100 butterfly; Mark Fortier, 100 backstroke, and the 200 medley relay team of Hoffman, Coers, Fortier and Rick Brown.

Seeded second are diver Chris

Dague and the 400-freestyle relay team of Bowen, Doug Piazza, Tom Lane and Leland Wilhoite.

Delta recently completed the most successful dual-meet season in its nine-year swimming history, posting a 10-4 record.

"We've had a very good season, but we don't have many state-caliber swimmers yet," Eagle coach Tom Devine said. "We do have a couple of swimmers with a chance to go to state."

Jeff Koester is the top-seeded diver, while Ryan Wantz is seeded third in 200 freestyle and fourth in 100 butterfly.

Tim Kress is seeded fourth in 100 breaststroke, as is the medley relay team of Kress, Wantz, Kim Gill and Mike Shideler.

Yorktown is expected to be in a three-way race for the Richmond sectional crown.

"We'll definitely finish in the top three," Tiger Coach Jay Ettl said. "Where in the top three is just a matter of how well we swim."

The Tigers, who finished the year with a 7-2-2 record, will get stiff competition from Anderson Highland and Anderson.

Other teams competing in the sectional include Central, Southside, host Richmond, Madison Heights, Centerville, Connersville, Hagerstown and New Castle.

Yorktown, which finished third a year ago, has several swimmers

capable of placing high, including Doug Green, diving; Robert Werling, 50 freestyle, and Brett Yarbough, 50 freestyle.

Werling has advanced to state each of the last two years in the 50 freestyle.

The Tigers' freestyle relay team sports the fastest time in the sectional field. The team will consist of Brad Hicks, Doug Fullenwider, Yarbough and either Werling or David Brown.

Yorktown's medley relay team, which is seeded third, includes Werling, Fullenwider, Eric McNeely and Rick Winegardner.

Southside coach John Phillips hopes the Rebels can repeat the sixth-place finish they managed last season.

The Rebels finished with a 7-10 dual-meet record.

"Realistically, we're shooting for sixth place," Phillips said. "There are five teams ahead of us that we can't catch, so we hope to beat the rest of the field."

Top performers for South include Brian Hahn, diving and backstroke; Ty Gill, 50- and 100- freestyle, and Bill Nelson, 50 freestyle and butterfly.

Phillips also hopes for a high finish by his freestyle relay team of Gill, Brad Armstrong, Brian Scott and Rick Abbott.

Central Coach Brian Hay was not available for comment.

SWIMMING SECTIONAL RESULTS

Titans, Tigers are in good positions after first day

Northside and Yorktown are in good position for strong finishes Saturday in their respective IHSAA boys swimming sectionals.

The Titans and Tigers fared well in Thursday's qualifying round and will be contenders in Saturday's finals.

Northside advanced both relay teams and six individuals into Saturday's championship round at the South Adams sectional.

Yorktown qualified two relay teams and seven individuals for the finals at the Richmond sectional.

Saturday's final round at both sites will begin with diving at 9 a.m., followed by swim consolations and finals at 2 p.m.

The top six swimmers in each event advanced to the championship round, while the second six swimmers will compete in a consolation round.

The winner in each championship event qualifies for next weekend's state meet at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis.

"I think we did pretty well," Titan Coach Bob Chico said. "If we were to stop the meet right now, we'd be in first, Marion second and Jay County and Huntington close for third."

The Titans had four first-place finishes in qualifying. Winners were Steve Hofmann in 100-yard breaststroke, Doug Coers in 100 butterfly, Mark Fortier in 100 backstroke and the 200 medley relay team of Coers, Fortier, Hofmann and Rick Bowen.

"I think if we swim up to our capabilities Saturday, we can win the meet," Chico added. "Things went pretty much like we figured they would."

Delta had no individual winners, but qualified two relays and three individuals for the championship round.

Yorktown finished the qualifying round at the Richmond sectional in third place. But Tiger Coach Jay Ettl hopes to move up.

"We swam well, but not as well

as we're capable of swimming," Ettl said. "I'm looking for better results Saturday and I think we might be able to move up to second place."

Anderson has a big advantage after the qualifying round, advancing two relays and 14 individuals into the championship round.

Anderson Highland advanced two relays and 11 individuals, while Yorktown qualified two relays and seven individuals.

"We're a solid third right now and we haven't had any diving yet," Ettl said. "I hope we can pick up some points there."

Yorktown's only winner was Robert Werling, who was first in the 50 freestyle. He is the defending sectional champion in the event.

Central and Southside also competed in the Richmond sectional, but neither advanced a swimmer to the championship finals.

Local qualifiers include:

SOUTH ADAMS SECTIONAL

200-medley relay — 1. North (Bowen, Coers, Fortier, Hofmann), 1:44.59; 4. Delta (Gil, Tim Kress, Mike Schideler, Wantz), 6. Jay County (Steve Durham, Mark Hedges, Steve Hedges, Bruce Smitley), 10. Blackford.

200-freestyle — 4. Wantz (D), 1:53.65; 5. Murrell (JC), 1:55.02; 6. Lane (N), 1:55.36; 8. May (JC), 1:56.34; 9. Todd Borchers (D), 2:00.29; 11. Tracy Alexander (B).

200-individual medley — 2. Coers (N), 2:10.89; 3. Klein (D), 2:11.44; 8. Schoenlein (JC), 2:13.99; 9. Kress (D), 2:16.51; 10. Hofmann (N), 2:16.81.

50-freestyle — 8. Morrison (JC), 22.31; 5. Bowen (N), 23.02; 6. Doug Piazza (N), 23.21.

100-butterfly — 1. Coers (N), 57.15; 2. Wantz (D), 58.61; 5. Schoenlein (JC), 59.28; 6. Klein (D), 59.71; 11. Leland Wilhoite (N), 1:02.55.

100-freestyle — 2. B. Morrison (JC), 49.69; 5. Lane (N), 51.22; 8. Piazza (N), 52.57; 11. May (JC), 53.13.

500-freestyle — 4. Murrell (JC), 5:15.16; 7. Borchers (D), 5:29.03; 8. Alexander (B), 5:30.12; 12. Ted Morrison (JC), 5:41.96.

100-backstroke — 1. Fortier (N), 59.39; 4. Gil (D), 1:02.99; 9. M. Hedges (JC), 1:05.39.

100-breaststroke — 1. Hofmann (N), 1:03.48; 3. Bowen (N), 1:07.19; 4. Rhea (N), 1:07.46; 7. Kress (D), 1:09.55.

400-freestyle relay — 1. Jay County (May, B. Morrison, Murrell, Schoenlein), 3:25.22; 2. North (Bowen, Lane, Piazza, Wilhoite), 3:26.12; 6. Delta (Borchers, Gil, Klein, Lewis), 3:37.90; 11. Blackford (Clark, Flater, Ladd, Rossi), 4:16.77.

RICHMOND SECTIONAL

200-medley relay — 3. Yorktown, 1:45.8; 7. Central, 1:55.5; 8. South, 1:59.3.

200-freestyle — 3. Brad Hicks (Y), 1:54.4; 12. David Brown (Y), 2:00.7.

200-individual medley — 8. Brian Luke (Y), 2:16.6; 9. Tom Davis (Y), 2:17.8.

50-freestyle — 1. Robert Werling (Y), 22.5; 3. Bret Yarborough (Y), 22.9; 11. Don Hollenbe (C), 24.0; 12. John Cox (Y), 24.7.

100-butterfly — 5. Doug Fullenwider (Y), 58.3; 7. Eric McNeely (Y), 1:00.6; 8. Scott Grasso (Y), 1:00.9.

100-freestyle — 5. Brad Hicks (Y), 51.4; 9. Bret Yarborough (Y), 53.8; 10. Rick Winegardner (Y), 54.7.

500-freestyle — 5. Tom Davis (Y), 5:19.9; 8. David Brown (Y), 5:27.6; 11. Brad Armstrong (S), 5:30.3.

100-backstroke — 3. Rick Winegardner (Y), 1:00.9; 7. Brian Hahn (B), 1:04.1; 11. Tim Stalon (Y), 1:05.4.

100-breaststroke — 5. Eric McNeely (Y), 1:07.2.

400-freestyle relay — 2. Yorktown, 3:29.4; 9. South, 3:32.9; 10. Central, 4:09.7.

Titans, Tigers add swimmers for state finals

Northside and Yorktown each received good news today when the IHSAA added swimmers from their teams to the field for this weekend's IHSAA state swim meet.

Northside's Doug Piazza and Yorktown's Rick Winegardner and Brent Yarborough were added to the state field because their sectional times were among the top 32 in the state.

The only ways a player can gain a spot in the state meet is by winning his event at sectional or by bettering a state cut time set by the IHSAA.

The only exception is in diving, where the top three individuals advance.

However, when fewer than 32 swimmers advance in any event, the IHSAA completes the field by picking up the swimmers with the fastest times.

Piazza was timed in 22.78 seconds in finishing seventh in the 50-yard freestyle Saturday at the South Adams sectional.

Winegardner was clocked in 58.81 seconds in the 100 backstroke and Yarborough in 22.87 in the 50 freestyle. They competed at the Richmond sectional.

Northside won the South Adams sectional, scoring 238 points to outdistance Marion and Huntington, which scored 134 and Delta scored 134, Norwell 132 and Delta 131.

Yorktown placed third in the Richmond meet. Anderson won with 296 points followed by Anderson Highland 224 and Yorktown 213. Southside was eighth with 35 and Central 10th with 22.

Also qualifying for the Titans were two relay teams and four other individuals — all were sectional winners.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Steve Hofmann, Doug Coers, Rick Bowen and Mark Fortier won in 1:42.65. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Piazza, Bowen, Tom Lane and Leland Wilhoite won in 3:22.16.

Coers won the 100 backstroke in 56.58; Fortier the 100 backstroke in 58.08; Hofmann the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.02 and Chris Hague the 1-meter diving with 361.35 points.

Also in the South Adams sectional, Delta's Jeff Koester qualified for state by finishing third in diving. He scored 333.30 points.

One Yorktown relay team and

Swimmers

Continued from page 15

one individual won sectional events to advance to state.

The Tigers' medley relay team of Winegardner, Robert Werling, Eric McNeely and Doug Fullenwider won in 1:42.9.

Werling won his second straight 50-yard freestyle sectional title in 22.38.

Northside Coach Bob Chico and Yorktown Coach Jay Ettl were selected as sectional coaches of the year in their respective meets.

AT SOUTH ADAMS

200-medley relay — 1. North (Bowen, Coers, Fortier, Hofmann), 1:42.65; 4. Delta (Kim Gil, Tim Kress, Mike Schideler, Ryan Wantz), 6. Jay County (Steve Durham, Mark Hedges, Steve Hedges, Bruce Smitley), 10. Blackford (Alexander, Giland, Henderson, Rossi).

200-freestyle — 4. Wantz (D), 5. Lane (N), 6. Murrell (JC), 7. May (JC), 9. Alexander (B), 11. Borchers (D).

200-individual medley — 2. Coers (N), 5. Klein (D), 7. Schoenlein (JC), 10. Hofmann (N), 12. Kress (D).

50-freestyle — 1. B. Morrison (JC), 22.07; 4. Bowen (N), 23.02; 6. Piazza (N).

1-meter diving — 1. Dague (N), 361.35; 3. Koester (D), 4. Mike Chauvin (N), 5. D. E. Eichen (N), 6. Dave Dunlock (D), 8. Jeff Wade (D), 10. Ross (B).

100-butterfly — 1. Coers (N), 56.58; 2. Wantz (D), 3. Schoenlein (JC), 6. Klein (D), 8. Wilhoite (N).

100-freestyle — 1. B. Morrison (JC), 48.35; 4. Lane (N), 7. Piazza (N), 9. May (JC).

500-freestyle — 5. Murrell (JC), 6. Bret Gilland (B), 7. Tracy Alexander (B), 9. Todd Borchers (D), 11. Ted Morrison (JC).

100-backstroke — 1. Fortier (N), 58.08; 3. Gil (D), 7. M. Hedges (JC).

100-breaststroke — 1. Hofmann (N), 1:04.02; 3. Bowen (N), 5. Mike Rhea (N), 10. Kress (D).

400-freestyle relay — 1. North (Bowen, Lane, Piazza, Wilhoite), 3:22.16; 2. Jay County (May, Murrell, B. Morrison, Schoenlein), 6. Delta (Borchers, Gil, Klein, Lewis), 11. Blackford (Clark, Flater, Ladd, Rossi).

AT RICHMOND

200-medley relay — 1. Yorktown (Fullenwider, McNeely, Werling, Winegardner), 1:42.9; 7. Central, 8. South.

200-freestyle — 4. Brad Hicks (Y), 9. David Brown (Y), 12. John Cox (Y).

200-individual medley — 7. Tommy Davis (Y), 9. Brian Luke (Y).

50-freestyle — 1. Werling (Y), 22.38; 4. Brett Yarborough (Y), 10. Cox (Y), 11. Hollenbe (C).

1-meter diving — 4. Brian Hahn (MS), 5. Doug Green (Y), 10. Mike Haller (H).

100-butterfly — 4. Fullenwider (Y), 7. McNeely (Y), 10. Scott Grasso (Y).

100-freestyle — 5. Hicks (H), 7. Yarborough (Y), 10. Winegardner.

500-freestyle — 6. Davis (Y), 7. Brown (Y), 12. Brad Armstrong (MS).

100-backstroke — 1. Winegardner (Y), 58.81; 8. Hahn (MS), 12. Tim Stalon (Y).

100-breaststroke — 4. McNeely (Y).

400-freestyle relay — 2. Yorktown, 9. South, 10. Central.

Continued on page 18

14 area swimmers are ready for state meet in Indy

By MONTE COX
Evening Press sports writer

Northside, Yorktown and Delta high schools will be represented Friday in the preliminary round of the IHSAA boys state swim meet at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Fourteen swimmers from Muncie and Delaware County will attempt to place in the top 16 in their respective events to qualify for Saturday's finals.

Preliminary competition starts Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock with diving trials. Swimming events begin at 4:30.

Finals and consolations begin Saturday at 2 p.m.

The top eight finishers in each

Reno not interested in Holmes-Tate fight

RENO, Nev. (UPI) — Reno is not interested in the announced heavyweight title fight between Larry Holmes and John Tate, the Convention and Tourism Authority said today.

The promoters, JPD Sports and Murad Muhammad, announced in New York a week ago the fight would be at Lawlor Events Center April 6.

Larry Thomas, the authority's special events coordinator, said he told promoters' representative Frank Evans of Reno the authority will not put up any money.

event qualify for the finals, while the second eight advance to the consolations.

Northside, which won the South Adams sectional, qualified two relay teams and five individuals. Yorktown advanced one relay team and three individuals and Delta one individual.

North, coached by Bob Chico, has both relay teams and one individual seeded in the top 16.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Steve Hofmann, Mark Fortier, Doug Coers and Rick Bowen has been seeded 10th after a 1:42.65 sectional time.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Bowen, Leland Wilhoite, Tom Lane and Doug Piazza has been seeded 12th after a 3:22.16 time.

Hofmann, who also competes in the 100-yard breaststroke, is seeded 13th after a 1:04 sectional time.

Also competing for the Titans are Fortier, seeded 18th in the 100 backstroke; Piazza, seeded 27th in 50 freestyle; Coers, seeded 31st in 100 butterfly; and Chris Dague, seeded 44th in diving.

"I think both our relay teams have a good chance of finishing in the top 16 and maybe even the top eight," Chico said. "I'd say both teams are capable of dropping one or two seconds."

"Hofmann has a chance to get in the top eight. He didn't swim very well in the sectional, but he has a



Bowen Coers Dague Fortier Fullenwider Hofmann Koester Lane

season's best of 1:02.9 — that time would seed him third."

Yorktown has its medley relay team and one individual seeded in the top 16.

The Tigers' relay team of Eric McNeely, Rick Winegardner, Doug Fullenwider and Robert Werling are seeded 13th with a sectional time of 1:42.9.

Werling is seeded 10th in the 50 freestyle with a :22.8 sectional time. The junior placed 25th at the state meet in the same event last year.

Also competing for Yorktown are Winegardner, seeded 24th in 100 backstroke, and Brett Yarbrough, seeded 29th in 50 freestyle.

"Looking at the times from last year's state meet, I think our relay team has a good chance at making the top 16," Yorktown Coach Jay Ettl said. "They could even finish in the top 12."

"Werling has an excellent chance of making the top 16. He's swim-



McNeely Piazza Werling Wilhoite Winegardner Yarbrough

ming well right now, and he's been to state before — that experience should be an advantage."

Delta's only state qualifier is diver Jeff Koester, who is seeded 49th.

Neither Koester nor Dague of North is seeded high, but that's not unusual for divers from Central Indiana.

"The scores from the northern part of the state always seem to be a lot higher than the scores from the rest of the state," Chico ex-

plained. "Because diving is scored by judges, there really isn't anyway to accurately compare scores."

Divers will perform three dives at 1 p.m. Friday and the field will be cut to 32 participants. They will do two more dives later in the day and the field will be cut to 20.

Saturday, the remaining divers will do six more dives.

"Dague has improved steadily all year," Chico said. "If he has a good day, I think he could finish in the top 20."

Delta Coach Tom Devine is also hopeful for his diver.

"We hope Koester gets off to a good start," Devine said. "If he can start well, I think he's capable of doing well."

Four schools — Kokomo, Hammond Noll, Columbus North and Valparaiso — are expected to vie for the team title.

No individual defending champions are back this year. In all, 547 athletes from 91 schools will take part in the finals.

Titans' Hofmann swims to 6th place

INDIANAPOLIS — Steve Hofmann of Muncie Northside finished sixth in 100-yard breaststroke here Saturday to help the Titans place 20th in the team standings of the IHSAA state swim meet.

It marked the third straight year the Titans have finished in the top 20 at the state meet.

Hofmann was clocked at 1:02.61 in the finals. He also combined with teammates Mark Fortier, Doug Coers and Rick Bowen for a 10th-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay.



Hofmann

The Titan relay team was timed in 1:41.26.

"We're real happy for Steve," Titan Coach Bob Chico said. "He's done a fine job for us all year. He earned everything he got."

Yorktown sophomore Robert Werling finished 12th in 50-yard freestyle.

Hammond Noll won three events, but had to survive a disqualification in the final event and a late charge by Columbus North to win the state championship.

Noll's Rob Gass won two events and Eric Toweson took first in another Saturday for Noll, which scored 164 points to 161 for Columbus North and 153 for third-place Kokomo.

Toweson won 100-yard breaststroke in 1:00.77 to clinch the meet for Noll, which had a 400-yard freestyle relay team disqualified.

Gass took titles for Noll in the 100- and 200-freestyle events. He won the 100 in 54.76 and the 200 in 1:41.67.

Munster was fourth at 115, followed by Valparaiso at 109, West Lafayette at 98, Michigan City Elston at 90, South Bend Riley at 81, Carmel at 78 and Highland and Warren Central, which tied for 10th at 76 points.

Michigan City Elston won two events, the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard individual medley. Tom McCann, who took the individual medley title in 1:56.27, was named the mental attitude award winner for the meet.

Titan swimmer is still a threat

INDIANAPOLIS — After Friday's preliminary round of the IHSAA boys swim meet, only Northside's Steve Hofmann has a chance at winning a blue ribbon.

Nine swimmers and three relay teams from Muncie and Delaware County competed in preliminary competition at the IUPUI Natatorium here, but only two individuals and one relay team survived. They were to swim in today's finals.

The top eight finishers in each event qualified for today's finals, while the second eight made the consolations.

Northside sent two relay teams and five individuals to the first round, but only Hofmann and the Titan 200-yard medley relay team advanced.

Hofmann made the finals in the 100-yard breaststroke by finishing fifth in a time of 1:02.28 — his best effort of the season.

Hofmann also joined teammates Rick Bowen, Mark Fortier and Doug Coers to qualify ninth in the medley relay. Their time was 1:41.26.

Yorktown sent a relay team and three individuals, but only sophomore Robert Werling advanced. Werling qualified ninth in the 50-yard freestyle in :22.1.

Several other local individuals placed well. Northside diver Chris Dague placed 33rd. The top 32 advanced to the second round.

Delta's Jeff Koester made it through the first two rounds of diving and wound up finishing 24th. The top 20 divers advance to the final round of competition.

Fortier was 17th in the 100 backstroke — the top 16 advance, and the Titan 400-yard freestyle relay team of Bowen, Leland Wilhoite, Tom Lane and Doug Piazza placed 18th — the top 16 advance.