

## 'Cat swimmers end regular season 11-1

Central's swim team closed out its dual meet season with its second consecutive easy victory, 126-46 over Jay County.

Tuesday night, the Bearcats beat Yorktown 125-45.

Central, 11-1, won nine of 11 events. Adam Fero won the 100 breaststroke and the 200 individual medley to lead the Bearcats.

Central is in the Richmond sectional Feb. 16.

Southside, also in the Richmond sectional, was nipped 90-82 by New Castle Wednesday to close out its regular season at 10-7.

Eric Ross won both the 50 and 100 freestyles and was on the winning 200 medley relay team.

In middle school swimming, Northside topped Connersville 181-160 Wednesday.

Brooke Orrick led four Northside double winners by setting school records in the 50 and 100 freestyles.

Northside hosts Anderson Southside Monday.

**CENTRAL 126-JAY COUNTY 44**  
200 medley relay — Central (Marsh, Mc Marshall, Laffler), 1:47.05; 200 freestyle — Tucker (C), 1:58.45; 200 individual medley — Fero (C), 2:08.91; 50 freestyle — Arnold (C), 22.41; 100 freestyle — Ross (C), 21.80; 100 fly — Brown (C), 1:00.87; 100 breaststroke — Arnold (C), 49.18; 500 freestyle — Keyser (C), 5:31.46; 100 backstroke — Brown (C), 1:42.51; 100 breaststroke — Fero (C), 1:08.83; 400 freestyle relay — Central (Marsh, Laffler, Tucker, Mc), 3:32.22.

### Prep sports roundup

Jeff Gaddis scored 18 points and Collin Weaver 10 for Monroe Central, 6-7.

#### Girls basketball

In the Delaware County middle school tournament, Delta and Selma will meet in both the seventh and eighth-grade championships by virtue of wins Wednesday.

At Cowan, Selma beat the host school 60-21 in the eighth-grade game, as Georgia Buckles, Anna Boggs and Stacey Herrow each contributed 10 points.

In the seventh-grade game, Kelly Cooper's 16 points led Selma to a 37-24 win.

Over at Daleville, Delta's eighth-grade team advanced with a 20-18 win.

Heidi Coulter scored 11 in the seventh-grade game to lead Delta to a 31-13 win.

## Central is among favorites in Richmond swim sectional

By MATT SCHROEDER  
Evening Press sports writer

Central joins perennial state powers Anderson and Richmond as the favorites in the Richmond boys swimming sectional this weekend.

The Richmond Sectional is an 11-team meet that also includes Yorktown, Anderson Highland, Anderson Madison Heights, Centerville, Connersville, Hagerstown and New Castle.

The preliminaries in the swimming events begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Saturday, preliminaries in the diving begin at 9 a.m., with consolation and finals in all events set for 2:30 p.m.

Central is 11-1 in duals, with its only loss coming by three points to Richmond earlier in the year. Despite that, Central Coach Bob Chico compared the swimming sectional to the boys basketball sectional, in that it's a new season. "Yo go into the preliminaries on Thursday, and you've got to really swim tough to qualify for Saturday. Saturday is the only chance to qualify for the state meet, so nothing else really matters up to that point in the season," Chico said.

The Bearcats' best chances stand with senior Walker Marsh, who has been under the state qualifying time in the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke often this year.

Also challenging the state qualifying times are junior Greg Sissel in the butterfly, Adam Fero in the freestyles and senior John Marshall in the breaststroke.

The 200 medley relay team of

Marsh, Marshall, Sissel and Pat Samuels has also been under the state cut, and Sissel, Samuels, Mike Tucker and Fero challenge that time in the 400 freestyle relay.

"We're concentrating on getting good swims in the preliminaries," Chico said. "We've had some sickness. If we're healthy, and swim well, we'll be in good shape for the finals."

Southside Coach John Phillips said the Rebels have been swimming well.

"We've had some real, real close losses this year," he said. "The times are to the point now that the kids see maybe they could have reversed some of those losses. At the beginning of the year, I told them realistically I wanted to win 12."

Southside is 10-7, and Phillips holds no delusions of grandeur about a tough sectional.

"We can't compete with Central, now that the Northside kids are there, or Anderson or Richmond. We're hoping to get a sixth-place finish," Phillips said.

Southside's best shot in advancing to the state meet is in senior Eric Ross, who swims the 50 and 100 freestyles. Phillips said his chances are best in the 100.

Other top swimmers for the Rebels include seniors Roman Pickering in the backstrokes, Jeff Collins in the individual medley and Scott Fritz in the freestyles.

Fritz and Ross in the freestyle sprints should be Southside's top point scorers, Phillips said.

Delta is one of the three top

teams in the South Adams Sectional. Coach Tom Devine said Fort Wayne Snider and Norwell are the other top teams.

The South Adams Sectional will be competed on the same schedule as the Richmond Sectional.

The 9-3 Eagles are led by senior Doug Souffrant, who is seeded first in the 100 breaststroke and second in the 200 medley relay.

The Eagles' medley relay team of Todd Case, Souffrant, John Rinker and Ed Dowd is also seeded first, but Devine said they are separated from the other top teams by just hundredths of a second.

Junior Mike Brady is the third seed in diving, and Devine said he has a good chance of going to the state meet.

Devine said depth is a strength of the Eagles.

"We're strong in the middle places, five through nine," Devine said.

Other potential points come from backstroke Case, butterflyers Rinker and Scott McCarthy, Toby Weir and John Perkins in the 500 freestyle and Tony Murcia in the 100 and 200 freestyles.

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# Central, Delta enjoy strong swim showings

By DOUG ZALESKI  
Evening Press sports writer

Central advanced swimmers in 19 spots to the championship round of the Richmond Sectional during preliminary qualifying action Thursday, but Bearcat Coach Bob Chico says his team needs to turn in an outstanding performance Saturday to overtake perennial power Anderson.



Marsh

The Bearcats had four winners as Walker Marsh took the 100-yard butterfly; Adam Fero won the 100 freestyle; Marsh teamed with Pat Samuels, John Marshall and Greg Sissel to win the 200 medley relay; and Fero, Sissel, Samuels and Mike Tucker combined to win the 400 freestyle relay.

Southside and Yorktown had no individual winners, but both had four qualifiers for Saturday's finals. At Richmond, diving begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and consolation and finals start at 2:30 p.m.

In the South Adams Sectional, Delta led all qualifiers for Saturday's championship round by advancing 19 during Thursday's preliminaries.

Chico said that based on qualifying times Thursday, Anderson is in the driver's seat with Richmond second.

"Based on the times, we'll be in a dogfight for third place with Ander-

son Highland," Chico said. "Anderson is the team to beat. It will be very difficult for us to overtake Anderson, but it is possible."

Besides the winning efforts in the 100 butterfly and with the 200 medley relay team, Marsh was second in the 100 backstroke.

"Marsh looks pretty good right now; he had a good qualifying swim," Chico said. "We're looking for a solid swim Saturday to qualify for state."

Fero had a good meet, too. In addition to his first in the 100 freestyle and first in the 400 relay, he finished fourth in the 100 freestyle.

For Southside, Eric Ross was second in the 50 freestyle, sixth in the 100 freestyle and swam a leg on the seventh-place 200 medley relay.

Yorktown's top finish was a fifth by Bruce Mahoney, Eric Sullivan, Jake Patrick and Trent Thompson in the 400 freestyle relay.

Delta Coach Tom Devine was pleased with his team's showing in the South Adams meet.

"We surprised ourselves a little, but the guys believed they could do it," Devine said. "We've got some momentum going and hopefully we can keep it up through the meet."

"We're happy but not content," he added. "We had a rough winter with a lot of people being sick, but we're all healthy now and swimming well."

The biggest surprise, said Devine, was the No. 1-seeded 200 medley relay team of Todd Case, Ed Dowd, Anderson Highland and Chico.

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**MOHAWK FOR A BEARCAT . . .** Central's John Marshall cheers on his teammates during Saturday's IHSA swimming sectional at Richmond. Marshall, who set a meet record in winning the 100-yard breaststroke, got a mohawk haircut for the sectional and will shave his head completely prior to this weekend's state meet. — Evening Press photo by Brian Drumm.

THE MUNCIE EVENING PRESS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

## Six 'Cats earn state swim berths

By MATT SCHROEDER  
Evening Press sports writer

RICHMOND, Ind. — Adam Fero, Walker Marsh and Greg Sissel are in for a busy weekend.

The three swimmers from Muncie Central will each compete in three events at the IHSA state meet on Friday and Saturday at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Central swimmers earned state berths in five individual events and both relay races Saturday at the Richmond Sectional.

"I think we did about what we expected to do," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "We swam well. We needed to because it's a very tough sectional."

To qualify for the state meet,

swimmers must win their sectional event, better a state standard time or capture an at-large bid by having one of the state's fastest 32 times.

Although the Bearcats won four individual events and one relay, Richmond claimed the team title in the 11-team event with 304 points. Anderson was second with 258 points followed by Central 213 and Anderson Highland 163.

Muncie Southside finished sixth in the 11-team sectional with 51 points, and Yorktown was seventh with 41.

Fero, a sophomore, was the only double individual winner in the meet, finishing first in the 200-yard freestyle (1:47.09) and 100 freestyle (49.00). He also anchored the 400

freestyle relay team which placed third in 3:20.74.

The freestyle relay team, which also included Sissel, Mike Tucker and Pat Samuels, broke the state standard time of 3:21.17 to qualify for state. The team will have the 18th fastest time at state.

"He's a sophomore and swimming very well at this point in the season," Chico said of Fero. "He'll have to swim his best to qualify for the finals as an individual, but he's been improving steadily throughout the season."

Fero will have the 9th fastest time at state in the 200 event and the 14th fastest in the 100 race.

Marsh, a senior, won the 100 butterfly (53.28) and placed second in the 100 backstroke (55.86). He

also teamed with John Marshall, Samuels and Sissel to win the 200 medley relay in 1:39.72 — a school record, and the fourth fastest qualifying time for the state meet.

Sissel, a junior, advanced on both relay teams and received an at-large bid in the 100 butterfly after placing second in 54.63. Sissel will have the 13th best time at the state meet.

Besides swimming on the medley relay, Marshall, a senior, won the 100 breaststroke in a school and sectional record time of 1:01.68 and will have the 7th fastest time at state.

"They feel good about their swims," Chico said. "This team is different than others I've had. They're not real loud. They're quiet, confident. They just get in the water and do the things they have to do."

Eric Ross got Southside's highest finish, getting poked out by Anderson's Steve Alexander in the 50 freestyle. His time of 22.80 was not fast enough for an at-large bid to the state meet.

Swimming in two individual events and on one relay team, Ross had a hand-in-36 of Southside's points.

**Team Scores**

Richmond 304, Anderson 258, Muncie Central 213, Anderson Highland 163, New Castle 57, Muncie South 51, Yorktown 41, Anderson-Mechan-Hughes 36, Hopecrest 31, Castletown 27, Connersville 22.

**100 medley relay** — Marsh, Marshall, Samuels, Sissel, 1:39.72; 200 freestyle — Fero, 1:47.09; 50 breast — Ross, 22.80; 100 butterfly — Sissel, 54.63; 100 backstroke — Sissel, 55.86; 200 medley relay — Sissel, Marshall, Samuels, Fero, 1:39.72; 100 breaststroke — Marshall, 1:01.68; 100 butterfly — Sissel, 54.63; 100 backstroke — Sissel, 55.86; 200 medley relay — Sissel, Marshall, Samuels, Fero, 1:39.72.

**100 medley relay**

1. Park, Samuels, Sissel, Fero, 1:39.72; 2. Yorktown, 1:42.00; 3. Anderson, 1:42.00; 4. Anderson-Mechan-Hughes, 1:42.00; 5. Anderson Highland, 1:42.00; 6. Anderson, 1:42.00; 7. Anderson, 1:42.00; 8. Anderson, 1:42.00; 9. Anderson, 1:42.00; 10. Anderson, 1:42.00; 11. Anderson, 1:42.00; 12. Anderson, 1:42.00; 13. Anderson, 1:42.00; 14. Anderson, 1:42.00; 15. Anderson, 1:42.00; 16. Anderson, 1:42.00; 17. Anderson, 1:42.00; 18. Anderson, 1:42.00; 19. Anderson, 1:42.00; 20. Anderson, 1:42.00.

## Delta swimmers claim sectional championship

BERNE, Ind. — Delta used team depth and two individual victories Saturday to capture the team title in the South Adams Sectional swim meet.

The Eagles won the 17-team event with 200 points followed by Fort Wayne Snider with 168, Norwell 146, South Adams 103, Bellmont 86 and Marion and Jay County 85.

Delta Coach Tom Devine was selected South Adams sectional Coach of the Year.

The Eagles had two state qualifiers as Mike Brady won the diving competition with 351.95 points and Doug Souffrant won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:03.39.

The state meet is scheduled Friday and Saturday at the Indiana University Natatorium at the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis.

Souffrant, who was also second in the 100 backstroke and swam on the second-place 200 medley relay team, will have the 19th fastest time at the state meet in the 100 breaststroke.

Other members of the medley relay team were Todd Case, Ed Dowd and John Rinker.

Jay County got a sparkling performance from Jason Arnold, who won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. Arnold set a sectional record of 21.99 in winning the 50 freestyle and was

clocked in 48.05 in the 100 freestyle.

Arnold will have the 4th fastest time at the state meet in the 100 freestyle and 6th fastest time in the 50 freestyle.

**Team Scores**  
Delta 200, Ft. Wayne Snider 168, Norwell 146, South Adams 103, Bellmont 86, Marion 85, Jay County 85, Hopecrest 79, Huntington 66, Connersville 53, Ballwin 51, Ft. Wayne 49, Anderson 36, Hopecrest 31, Castletown 27, Connersville 22.

**100 medley relay** — 2. Case, Dowd, Rinker, Souffrant, 2:00 freestyle — 4. Ward, 5. McCarty, 6. Henry, 200 individual medley — 2. Souffrant, 6. McCarty, 9. Henry, 200 freestyle — 1. Brady, 51.95; 100 butterfly — 6. Brady, 6. McCarty, 101.68; 100 breaststroke — 6. Marion, 200 freestyle — 4. Ward, 5. Perkins, 7. Connersville, 100 backstroke — 4. Case, 7. Dowd, 100 backstroke — 4. McCarty, 101.68; 100 breaststroke — 1. Arnold, 21.99; 50 freestyle — 1. Arnold, 21.99; 100 freestyle — 1. Arnold, 48.05; 100 backstroke — 2. Rinker.

**100 medley relay** — 1. Arnold, 21.99; 50 freestyle — 1. Arnold, 21.99; 100 freestyle — 1. Arnold, 48.05; 100 backstroke — 2. Rinker.



**HEADED TO STATE . . .** These six Central swimmers will compete in the state meet Friday and Saturday at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis. Front row (from left): Adam Fero, Walker Marsh and Greg Sissel. Back row (from left): Mike Tucker, Pat Samuels and John Marshall. — Evening Press photo by John Crozier.

## Eight local boys gear for state swim meet

By **TIM CLELAND**  
Evening Press sports writer

Six Central High Schools swimmers and one swimmer and one diver from Delta High School will compete in this weekend's IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving Championships in Indianapolis.

The state meet begins with swimming preliminaries at 6 p.m. Friday at the Indiana University Natatorium on the IUPUI campus. Diving preliminaries start at 9 a.m. Saturday, followed by diving semifinals at 1 p.m. and consolations and finals in all events at 2:30 p.m.

Central's competitors include senior Walker Marsh, who is making his fourth trip to the state finals. He is seeded second in the 100-yard butterfly and 11th in the 100 backstroke.

Central Coach Bob Chico said Marsh in the 100 butterfly may



Souffrant



Brady

be the Bearcats' best bet, although he added: "The 100 fly looks to be a very tough event this year. The returning champion is back, and he's only seeded fifth this year."

Central senior John Marshall will be at state for the third time. He is seeded seventh in the 100 breaststroke.

Central sophomore Adam Fero is competing at state for the second straight year. He will

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## More about Swimming

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swim in the 200 freestyle, where he's seeded ninth, and the 100 freestyle, where he's 14th.

Greg Sissel, a Central junior, is making his second trip to the state meet. He has the 13th-fastest time in the 100 butterfly.

Central also will field two relay teams. Marshall, junior Pat Samuels, Sissel and Marsh are seeded fourth in the 200 medley relay, while Fero, Sissel, senior Mike Tucker and Samuels are seeded 18th in the 400 freestyle relay.

Chico said practices this week "have been very upbeat, very positive. They're ready to go."

Swimmers need to finish among the top 16 in Friday's preliminaries to score team points and advance to Saturday's round. On Saturday, the first- through eighth-place swimmers are in the medal round, while the ninth- through 16th-place swimmers are in the consolation round.

Delta's two competitors are

senior Doug Souffrant and junior Mike Brady.

Souffrant, making his second trip to state, is seeded 19th in the 100 breaststroke. Brady is seeded 39th in diving.

"Their goals obviously are to score at state — to finish in the top 16," Delta Coach Tom Devine said.

Devine said Souffrant has "been consistent most of the year. He had his lifetime best [1:03.39] at the sectional."

Brady outscored two Jay County divers at the sectional who had beaten him during the regular season.

"Mike has improved quite a bit," Devine said. "He came on at the end of last year and has been a steady diver this year."

Cramel leads all teams with 14 individuals and two relays qualifying for the state meet. Kokomo and defending state champion Anderson each have 13 individuals and two relay teams.

## **SPORTS SHORTS**

# **'Cat swimmers fare well at state meet**

From local and Associated Press reports

Central's boys swim team enjoyed a record-breaking night in the qualifying round of the IHSAA state swim meet Friday at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

The top eight qualifiers advanced to today's finals, while the second eight will compete in consolations. Approximately 32 swimmers competed in each event.

Central Coach Bob Chico was pleased with his swimmers' performance and said a school record was set in every race.

Walker Marsh qualified for the finals in two individual events and one relay. Marsh was fourth in the 100-yard butterfly in :52.36 and sixth in the 100 backstroke in :54.19. He was also a member of the medley relay team which qualified fourth in 1:38.92. Other members of the relay are John Marshall, Greg Sissel and Pat Sanders.

Three Bearcat swimmers qualified for the consolations. Adam Fero was 12th in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:45.97 and 12th in the 100 freestyle in :48.64. Marshall was 12th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:01.21 and Sissel 13th in the 100 butterfly in :53.79.

Sissel, Samuels, Fero and Mike Tucker combined to finish 16th in the freestyle relay. Central's time was 3:19.06.

The only other local qualifiers were from Delta. Doug Souffrant placed 19th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:02.74, and Mike Brady was to compete today in the preliminaries of the diving competition.

Jason Arnold of Jay County qualified fourth in the 50 freestyle in :21.79 and sixth in the 100 freestyle in :47.66. Teammate Chad McClung was also scheduled to participate in today's diving.

## **SPORTS SHORTS**

# **Central swimmers 10th at state meet**

From local and Associated Press reports

All six Central High School swimmers who qualified for the IHSAA state meet scored points as the Bearcats finished 10th in the overall standings.

Anderson won the team title with 181 points in the two-day competition that concluded Saturday in the Indiana University Natatorium on the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis.

Bloomington South was runnerup with 160 points, followed by Kokomo 155, Munster 154, Carmel 147, Columbus North 118, Indianapolis North Central 98, Richmond 84, Lake Central 83½ and Central 81.

Central senior Walker Marsh was third in the 100-yard butterfly in a school-record time of 52.02 seconds. That time qualified Marsh for the United States Swimming Junior Championships in Pensacola, Fla., in late March.

Marsh placed seventh in the 100 backstroke in :54.20, also a school record.

Central's 200 medley relay team placed sixth in a school-record 1:38.83. Marsh was on that team along with John Marshall, Greg Sissel and Pat Samuels.

Central sophomore Adam Fero earned points by placing 12th in the 100 freestyle in a school-record :47.96 and finishing 13th in the 200 freestyle in 1:46.60.

Sissel was 14th in the 100 butterfly in :54.55, and Marshall placed 14th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:01.85.

Central's 400 freestyle relay team of Fero, Mike Tucker, Sissel and Samuels placed 11th in the school-record time of 3:18.15.

The 10th-place team finish was the best in the coaching career of Bob Chico, who was in his first year as Central coach after many years as Northside coach. His best finish at Northside was 12th.