

'Cat swimmers are poised for encore effort

By **TIM CLELAND**

Evening Press sports editor

Central finished 10th in the boys swimming state meet last year, and despite some significant losses to graduation, the Bearcats seem poised for an encore performance this season.

Central, ranked 14th in the state, will carry an 11-1-1 dual-meet record into the Richmond Sectional, which starts Thursday night.

The sectional, which also includes Southside, Yorktown and eight other teams, starts with preliminaries at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Diving begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, and consolations and finals in all events are at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Bearcats' only loss this season has been to Anderson, the defending state champion.

"This season has been a little of a surprise," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "We're real happy with the way the fellows have come through. Our depth has helped us."

Central has 19 swimmers and six divers on the team, and 11 of those athletes are seniors. Most of those are versatile enough to compete in different strokes.

Seniors Greg Sissel and Pat Samuels and junior Adam Fero all were finalists at state last year.

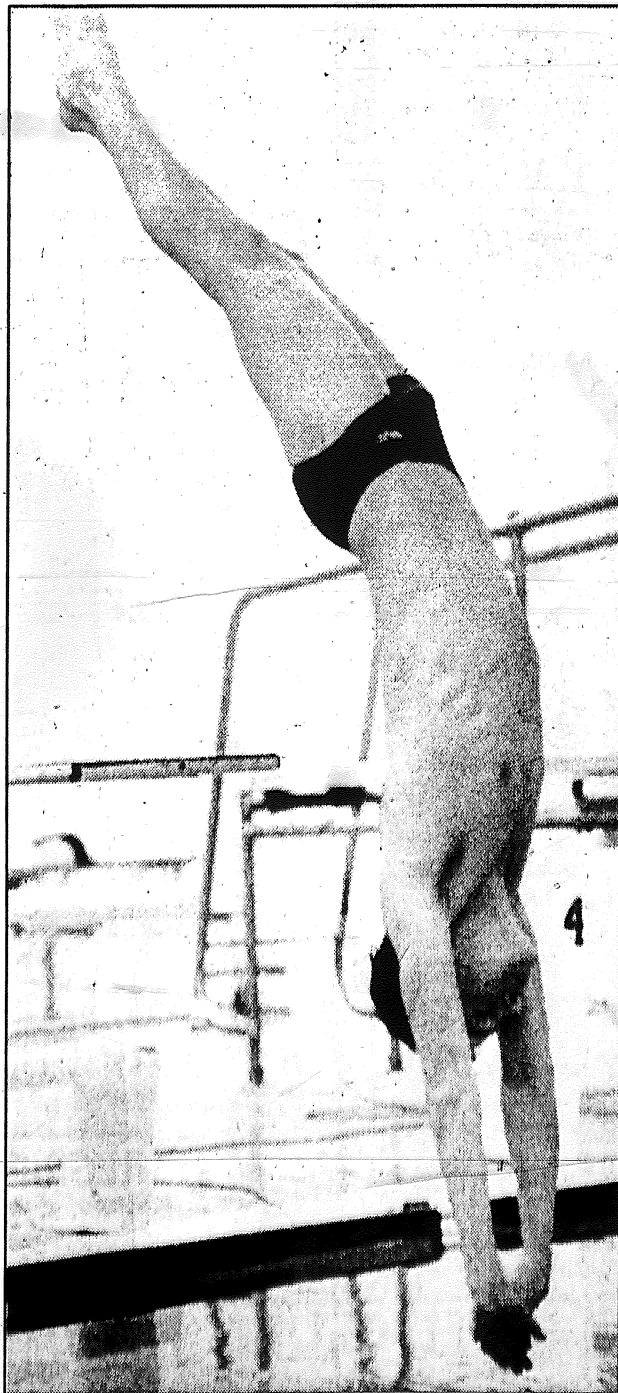
Sissel specializes in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly. Samuels is a sprint freestyler, and Fero's top events are the 100 and 200 freestyles.

Fero set a school record in the 500 freestyle this season.

Other top swimmers for the Bearcats include senior Josh Dobbs (sprint freestyle and butterfly), sophomore David Hughes (middle distance freestyle), and senior Darren Hollensbe (200 individual medley and 100 backstroke).

"Darren was in a very serious auto accident last August," Chico

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FIRST-PLACE FORM . . . Central senior Mike Shelton executes a dive during a recent dual meet against Yorktown. Shelton, who won the event, is among several members of the 14th-ranked Bearcats who hope to advance to state. Central, Southside, Yorktown and Delta will compete in sectionals, which start Thursday night. — Evening Press photo by Don Shinkaruk.

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said. "He's coming along and doing tremendously for us."

Chico added that freshmen Nathan Bowman, Mark Kishel and Brad Tucker have been instrumental in plugging up the team's pre-season weaknesses, most notably in the breaststroke and backstroke events.

Senior divers Mike Shelton and Jason Brotherton each "have the capability of going to state," Chico said.

"The diving has given us a big boost this season," he said.

Included in the sectional field are sixth-ranked Anderson and 20th-ranked Richmond.

"Anderson and Richmond are real tough. Our goal is a top three finish, and to qualify as many people as we can for state," Chico said. "Hopefully, the guys are ready. They've worked awfully hard, and this should be the payoff."

Central tied Richmond during a regular-season meet, then beat the Red Devils in the North Central Conference meet. Anderson won the NCC meet, Kokomo was second, and Central placed third.

To qualify for state, a swimmer must either win his event, meet a state time standard, or earn an at-large berth based on his time.

The top three divers at each sectional site qualify for state, and any additional diver who scores more points than the No. 18 qualifier in the state also advances.

Southside finished 7-10 in dual meets and placed seventh in the Olympic Conference.

Among the top swimmers for Coach John Phillips's Rebels are senior Eric Cole in the 100 backstroke and 200 freestyle; senior

Christian Dalton in the 50 and 100 freestyles; junior Matt Harper in the 50 freestyle; and senior Les Anderson in the 100 butterfly and 200 individual medley.

Yorktown, which has a young team, finished 3-9 in dual meets and fourth in the White River Athletic Conference.

"We're very young. We have seven freshmen [out of 14 team members]," Yorktown Coach Pam Swander said. "It's a tough sectional, and we're rebuilding. We really would like to finish fifth, but maybe sixth is a little more realistic."

Junior Scott Wise set a conference record in the 500 freestyle this year, and he will swim that event at sectional along with the 200 freestyle. Junior Sean Benson will swim the same two events.

Other top Yorktown swimmers include senior Eric Sullivan in the 50 and 500 freestyle events; freshman Craig Youngblood in the 100 breaststroke; and sophomore Mike Kellogg in the 100 breaststroke.

Delta will be among 18 teams competing in the South Adams Sectional. Ninth-ranked Fort Wayne Snider and 17th-ranked Jay County are top contenders for the team title.

Preliminaries start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, and diving gets under way at 9 a.m. Saturday. Consolations and finals are at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Delta Coach Tom Devine, whose team was 9-3 during the regular season, said several Eagles are hopeful of high placings.

They include Mike Brady in diving, Ed Dowd in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke, Toby Weir in the 100 and 200 freestyles, Brett Conaway in the 500 freestyle, Tony Murcia and Jeff Lucas in the 50 freestyle, and Doug Townsend and Paul Buckley in the 500 freestyle.

Delta's best relay — which Devine thinks could get to the state tournament — is the 400 freestyle, comprised of Murcia, Weir, Dowd and Lucas.

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and 17 seconds in the last three

'Cats, Eagles chasing swim sectional honors

Central and Delta appear in position for high sectional swim finishes after Thursday evening's qualifying rounds.

Central advanced 15 swimmers to Saturday's final and consolation rounds at the Richmond Sectional meet. Central placed first in three qualifying races and earned the No. 1 seed for the finals.

Adam Fero, a state finalist last year, qualified first in the 100- and 200-yard freestyles. Central's 400 freestyle relay team also qualified first.

Delta has 14 qualifiers in the finals and consolation finals at the South Adams Sectional. Delta is the defending meet champion.

Delta's 400 freestyle relay qualified second after shaving almost 13 seconds off its season-best time. Toby Weir qualified third in the 100 freestyle and Ed Dowd qualified third in the 100 backstroke.

The top six finishers qualify for the championship final, and the 7-12 finishers compete in the consolations.

"The guys did real well," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "As a team we had 70 percent [season] best swims and 18 lifetime bests."

Chico said Central, 14th in the final coaches statewide poll, will likely battle Richmond for the sectional runner-up finish. Fifth-ranked Anderson is favored to win the title.

"It looks like Anderson is in the best scoring position, with Richmond and us close together," Chico said. "We may have an edge in the swimming positions, and [Richmond] may have the edge in diving."

Central's Greg Sissel put himself in position for a return trip to the state finals. Sissel had seconds in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly in the prelims.

Other Central finalists are Darrin Hollensbee (200 individual medley, 100 backstroke), Dave Dekeyser (500 freestyle), David Hughes (200 freestyle) and the medley relay

team. Chico is optimistic that Fero, Sissel and the freestyle relay will advance to next week's state meet. He also has high hopes for the medley relay.

Delta Coach Tom Devine says Fort Wayne Snider put itself in the best position for the South Adams meet title after Thursday's session. Snider was runner-up to Delta in last year's meet.

"But we swam so well and had so many time drops," Devine said. "That's what we're here for, regardless of the outcome."

Devine believes Weir has a chance to reach state in the 100 freestyle and the 200 freestyle, where he qualified fourth. Diver Mike Brady begins his bid for another state finals berth in Saturday morning's preliminaries.

Tony Murcia also reached the finals in the 50 freestyle, while Brett Conaway and Doug Townsend made the finals in the 500 freestyle. Ed Dowd also made the finals in the

50 freestyle. Both meets resume Saturday with the diving at 9 a.m. and the swim finals at noon.

RICHMOND SECTIONAL

MUNICIPAL CENTRAL: 200 medley relay, 1:46.68; Adam Fero — 200 freestyle, 1:50.83 (first place), 100 freestyle, :49.15 (first place); David Hughes — 200 freestyle, 1:54.22; 500 freestyle, 5:19.41; Dave Delany — 200 freestyle, 1:58.48; 500 freestyle, 5:16.53; Darrin Hollensbee — 200 individual medley, 2:11.22; 100 backstroke, 1:00.79; Eric Schamp — 200 individual medley, 2:16.49; Benjamin Lewton — 200 individual medley, 2:19.07; 500 freestyle, 5:41.78; Greg Sissel — 50 freestyle, :22.65; 100 butterfly, :55.48; Michael Smithson — 50 freestyle, :24.30; 100 breaststroke, 1:08.72; Nathan Bowman — 50 freestyle, :24.30; 100 backstroke, 1:06.47; Josh Dobb — 100 butterfly, :56.83; Scott Keyton — 100 butterfly, :57.86; Patrick Somers — 100 freestyle, :52.20; Dave Barrett — 100 backstroke, :59.69; Brad Tucker — 100 backstroke, 1:04.44; Ryan Green — 100 breaststroke, 1:09.16; 400 freestyle relay, 3:27.40 (first place).

YORKTOWN: 200 medley relay, 1:54.37; Scott Wise — 200 freestyle, 1:57.47; 500 freestyle, 5:15.71; Sean Benson — 200 freestyle, 1:58.56; 500 freestyle, 5:37.90; Eric Sullivan — 50 freestyle, :24.55; 500 freestyle, 5:29.43; 400 freestyle relay, 3:40.70.

MUNICIPAL SOUTH: 200 medley relay, 1:54.28; Christian Dalton — 50 freestyle, :24.40; 100 freestyle, :54.06; Eric Cole — 100 backstroke, 1:06.47; 400 freestyle relay, 3:49.09.

SOUTH ADAMS SECTIONAL

DELTA: 200 medley relay, 1:52.47; Toby Weir — 200 freestyle, 1:55.83; 100 freestyle, :50.77; Brett Conaway — 200 freestyle, 1:58.38; Doug Townsend — 200 freestyle, 2:00.15; 500 freestyle, 5:22.70; Jason Quisenberry — 200 individual medley, 2:20.40; 100 butterfly, 1:00.61; Tony Murcia — 50 freestyle, :23.29; Ed Dowd — 50 freestyle, :23.31; 100 backstroke, 1:00.5; Jeff Lucas — 50 freestyle, :23.90; Tony Murcia — 100 butterfly, 1:00.40; Todd Hammer — 100 butterfly, 1:03.15; Jeff Lucas — 100 freestyle, :53.65; Brett Conaway — 500 freestyle, 5:24.69; Paul Buckley — 500 freestyle, 5:41.68; Craig Cuthbert — 100 breaststroke, 1:09.78; Trent Conaway — 100 breaststroke, 1:09.95; 400 freestyle relay, 3:26.54.

4 'Cat swimmers, 2 relay teams in state meet

RICHMOND, Ind. — Four Muncie Central individuals qualified for six events and the Bearcats advanced two relay teams to this Saturday's boys state swimming meet during action last Saturday in the Richmond Sectional.

The Bearcats received a winning effort from Adam Fero in the 200 freestyle and a third from Mike Shelton in diving during Saturday's finals. Their 400 freestyle relay team of Greg Sissel, Josh Dobbs, Pat Samuels and Fero also won to advance to the state meet.

Central learned on Sunday that it had five additional state-meet qualifiers, based on times from all sectionals.

Under those guidelines, Fero qualified in the 100 freestyle, Dave Barrett in the 100 backstroke, Sissel in the 50 and 100 freestyles and the 300 medley relay team of Barrett, Nathan Bowman, Dobbs and Samuels.

In the team race, Anderson won the sectional title with 293 points, Richmond was second with 256, Central was third with 238, Anderson Highland was fourth with 103 and Connersville

was fifth with 77½. Yorktown tied for seventh with 49 points and Muncie Southside was 10th with 26½.

Yorktown and Southside failed to qualify anybody for the state meet.

Shelton in diving (409.50 points), Sissel in the 50 freestyle (12.27) and the 400 freestyle relay team (3:17.91) all broke Central school records in the meet.

In the South Adams Sectional, 1989 champion Delta finished second with 173 points, while winning Fort Wayne Saider had

231. Belmont was third with 127, Norwell was fourth with 119 and Jay County was fifth with 106.

Delta's lone entry in the state meet is its 400 freestyle relay team of Tony Murcia, Jeff Lucas, Ed Dowd and Toby Weir, which gained an at-large berth.

Delta's Tom Devine was voted by his peers as the sectional coach of the year. He is eligible for the state coach of the year award, which will be announced during the state meet.

The state meet will be Saturday at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis.

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Central, Delta swimmers set goals

By CHUCK LANDIS

Evening Press sports writer

Neither Central nor Delta expect to win this weekend's state swim meet, but both have some individual goals to meet.

For Central, which has seven members in nine events, it hopes to achieve a top 15 finish. And Coach Bob Chico hopes the team can perhaps match last year's 10th-place finish.



Fero

Delta's 400-yard freestyle relay team also will compete, and Coach Tom Devine hopes the swimmers can continue to lower their best time. But first, he says three of the four team members must overcome flu symptoms.

The meet begins with qualifying preliminaries at 6 p.m. Friday in the Indiana University Natatorium on the IUPUI campus in Indianapolis. It resumes with diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. Saturday and concludes with semifinals at 1 p.m. and the finals at 2:30.



Sissel



Samuels



Dobbs



Barrett



Bowman



Shelton

"We want the highest place we can possibly finish in each event," Chico said. "Our goal is a top 15 finish, and that's a real good goal."

Central's freestyle relay team of Greg Sissel, Josh Dobbs, Pat Samuels and Adam Fero is seeded sixth for the meet.

Fero also is the eighth seed in the 200 freestyle and 22nd in the 100 freestyle. Fero placed first in the 200 freestyle at last Saturday's Anderson Sectional meet.

Sissel has the No. 14 seeding in the 50 freestyle and No. 24 in the 100 freestyle. David Barrett is seeded 22nd in the 100 backstroke.

Central's other entries are diver Mike Shelton and the medley relay of Barrett, Nathan Bowman, Dobbs



Dowd



Lucas



Murcia



Weir

and Samuels.

The top 16 places score points at state.

Delta's relay of Tony Murcia, Jeff Lucas, Ed Dowd and Toby Weir lowered their best time from 3:29 to 3:26 in the sectional prelimi-

naries at South Adams.

However, Murcia, Lucas and Weir all were ailing this week.

"I felt that if we were under 3:20 we could score," Devine said. "With everyone sick I don't know how we'll do."

'Cat swimmers break 4 records

INDIANAPOLIS — Muncie Central got off to a great start in the state swimming meet Friday by breaking four school records.

The Bearcats' Adam Fero smashed records in the 100 and 200 freestyles, and Central's 400 freestyle relay team also broke a school mark. Central qualified for today's finals in all three events at the IU Natatorium.

A junior, Fero tied for first place in his qualifying heat of the 100 freestyle with a time of 46.4 seconds. He also advanced to the finals of the 200 freestyle by finishing fourth in his heat at 1:43.99.

Fero teamed with Greg Sissel, Josh Dobbs and Pat Samuels to finish third in their heat of the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:13.71.

Sissel qualified for the consol-



Fero



Sissel



Dobbs



Samuels

tion finals in the 50 freestyle by finishing 11th in a school-record time :21.98.

Central's Mike Shelton was to compete in the diving portion of the meet today.

Failing to qualify for today's finals were Central's David Barrett in the 100 backstroke; Barrett, Nathan Bowman, Dobbs and Samuels in the medley relay; and Delta's Tony Murcia, Jeff Lucas, Ed Dowd

and Toby Weir in the 400 freestyle relay.

Carmel qualified the most swimmers — 12 — and both relay teams for today's finals.

Columbus North and Lafayette Harrison qualified seven swimmers and one relay team each. Anderson and Indianapolis North Central were tied for fourth with six swimmers and two relay teams apiece.

Bearcats place 9th in state swim meet

INDIANAPOLIS — Muncie Central's Adam Fero placed high in two individual events and swam on a sixth-place 400 freestyle relay squad Saturday in the boys state swimming meet at the IU Natatorium.



Fero

Fero's efforts helped the Bearcats place ninth in the team race with 76 points.

Carmel won its first team title with 237 points, well ahead of runner-up Lake Central's 158.

Fero placed fourth in the 100 freestyle in 46.83 seconds. Dan Leibbrand of Lake Central won the event in :45.69.

Fero was sixth in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:44.24. Winner Tom Hickson of Carmel recorded a state-record time 1:39.06.

Fero teamed with Greg Sissel, Josh Dobbs and Pat Samuels to finish sixth in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:14.35.

Although he didn't place in the top eight, Central's Mike Shelton recorded a Central school record of 385.95 points in the diving competition. That allowed him to finish 12th.

Placing behind Carmel and Lake Central in the team race were Columbus North third with 148 points, Indianapolis North Central fourth with 145, Anderson fifth with 143, Lafayette Harrison sixth with 142, Kokomo seventh with 99, Munster eighth with 94, Central ninth with 76 and South Bend Riley was 10th with 73.

The only other winner for Carmel besides Hickson was Brad Hafner in the 100 butterfly.

Columbus North's Bill Weaver was the meet's only double-winner. He won the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke.

Columbus North broke the state record in winning the 400 freestyle relay in 3:07.63.