

Swim sectionals

Delta favored at South Adams; Central faces tough competition

By DOUG ZALESKI

Evening Press assistant sports editor

Delta is out to accomplish a first this week in the South Adams Sectional swim meet. The Eagles can win back-to-back titles for the first time.

Delta has won the South Adams title three times since 1986, including last year when it romped past Oak Hill.

Central, meanwhile, has a tough road ahead of it in the Richmond Sectional. The Bearcats probably aren't strong enough this season to keep pace with favored Anderson and Richmond.

Southside and Yorktown also will compete in the Richmond Sectional.

Both sectionals begin with preliminaries at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. The meets continue Saturday with diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. and consolation and final events beginning at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$4 for an all-session ticket, \$2 for Thursday's action, \$1 for diving preliminaries and \$2 for the finals.

First-place sectional swim winners and top three divers advance to the state meet. The 32-man fields in swim events will be completed by the fastest non-winning times. Any contestant who equals or betters the score of the 18th diver, as ranked from all sectionals, will also advance to the state finals.

Delta is ranked 17th in this week's state high school swim poll and has high hopes of winning the sectional title for the second straight year.

"We have a good chance to go up there and win," Delta Coach Tom Devine said. "Looking at the heat sheet, we have a lot of good seeds and good positions."

"If we swim well Thursday, we should get three guys home in just about every event, which is going to help," he added.

The teams most likely to challenge Delta are Jay County and Marion. The Eagles beat Jay County in a dual this year but have not faced Marion.

Delta's top competitor is Doug Townsend, who competes in the 200- and 500-yard freestyles. He qualified for last year's state

meet by winning both races in the sectional.

"In both of those events there's a good swimmer from Norwell [James Steury] who is very close to him in time," Devine said.

The Eagles' other No. 1 seeds are Jason Kirby in the 200 individual medley and Craig Cutforth in the 100 breaststroke.

No. 2 seeds for Delta are Jason Quate in the 100 butterfly, the 200 medley relay team (Dan Swift, Quate, Brian Slavin and Jason Hammond) and the 400 freestyle relay team (Townsend, Paul Buckley, Brett Conaway and Kirby).

Delta's seed time in the 400 relay is one-hundredth of a second behind top-seeded Marion.

Other high seeds for the Eagles are Shawn Brooks in the 500 freestyle, Buckley in the 200 and 500 freestyles and Kirby and Conaway in the 100 freestyle.

Central Coach Bob Chico sees Anderson as a prohibitive favorite at the Richmond Sectional and the host Red Devils as second best.

"Then Connersville, ourselves and [Anderson] Highland look pretty close," he said. "The tournament is very strong again this year, and there are a lot of underclassmen in this sectional who swim very fast."

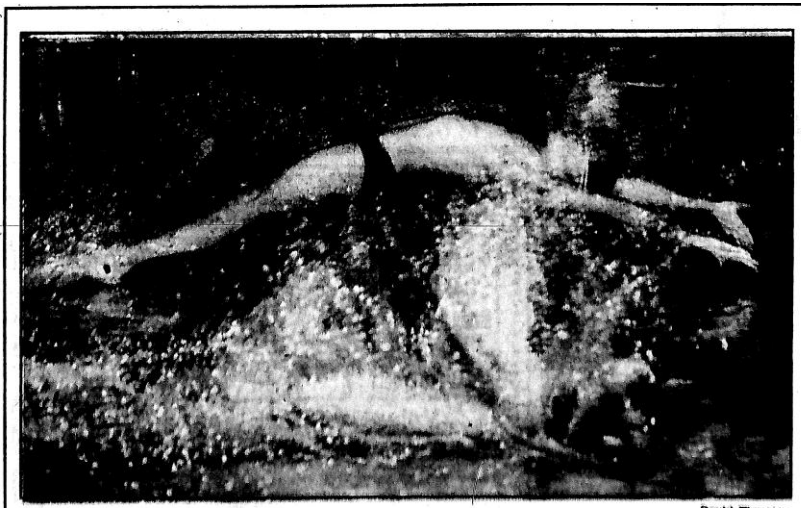
Central has two No. 2 seeds: B.J. Bowman in the 100 butterfly and Nathan Bowman in the 100 breaststroke.

David Hughes is seeded fourth in the 50 and 100 freestyles and Ryan Green is fifth in the 100 breaststroke.

B.J. and Nathan Bowman, Greene and Hughes comprise the 200 medley relay team that is seeded second.

The Bearcats' 200 freestyle relay team, which broke the sectional record last year, is seeded second. Hughes and Nathan Bowman are back for that team. They will be joined by B.J. Bowman and either Green, Dan Macedo or Drew Toivonen.

The Bearcats' fourth-seeded 400 freestyle relay team will include Macedo, Toivonen, Andy Stokes and either Kelly or Kerry Hiatt.



David Thurston

MAKING AN ENTRANCE: Central sophomore B.J. Bowman begins the first leg of the 200 medley relay in Thursday night's Richmond Sectional trials. The Bearcats' relay team qualified in first place with a time of 1:45.59. Results of Thursday's preliminaries are on page 19.

Eagle, 'Cat swimmers qualify for state meet

Delta and Central advanced six individuals and three relay teams to this week's state swim meet and finished where their coaches thought they would in Saturday's sectional meets at South Adams and Richmond.

Delta romped to the South Adams Sectional title, its second consecutive victory there, by scoring 319 points to runner-up Oak Hill's 183½.

The Eagles advanced three individuals and two relay teams to the state meet.

Central placed third in the Richmond Sectional with 159 points. Anderson and Richmond placed 1-2 as expected with 350½ and 287½ points, respectively.

The Bearcats qualified three individuals and one relay team for the state meet.

Delta's individual qualifiers are Jason Kirby, who won the 200 individual medley in 2:07.71; Brian Slavin, who won the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.65; and Doug Townsend, who was second in the 500 freestyle in school-record time 4:55.95. Townsend gained a berth in the state meet by posting one of the 32 fastest times in all of the state sectional meets.

Eagle relays to advance were the 200 medley and 400 freestyle.

The 200 medley of Jason Hammond, Jason Quate, Slavin and Dan Swift won in a school-record time of 1:45.43. The 400 freestyle of Paul Buckley, Brett Conaway, Kirby and Townsend won with a time of 3:43.43.

Jay County Coach Barry Weaver

On to state

Local qualifiers for this weekend's IHSAA state swim meet at the Natatorium in Indianapolis:

David Hughes (Central)	50 and 100 free
Nathan Bowman (Central)	100 breast
Ryan Greene (Central)	100 breast
Jason Kirby (Delta)	200 IM
Brian Slavin (Delta)	100 breast
Doug Townsend (Delta)	500 free

Central 200 medley relay team (B.J. Bowman, Ryan Greene, David Hughes and Nathan Bowman)

Delta 200 medley relay team (Jason Hammond, Jason Quate, Brian Slavin and Dan Swift)

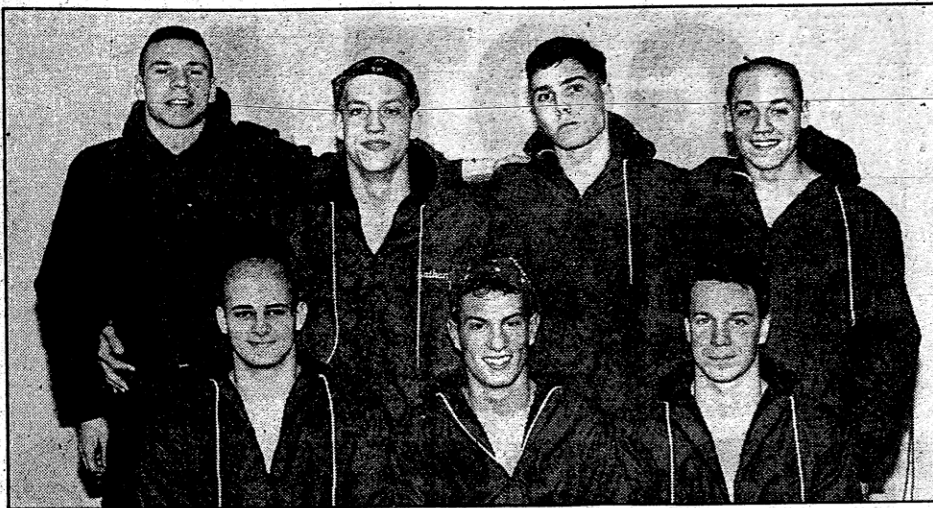
Delta 400 freestyle relay team (Paul Buckley, Brett Conaway, Jason Kirby and Doug Townsend)

was voted South Adams Sectional coach of the year.

For Central, David Hughes qualified for the state meet in two events. His second-place time in the 50 free (2:23.52) and third-place effort in the 100 free (49.29) allowed him to gain an at-large berth in each event.

Also gaining state berths for the Bearcats by posting times that were among the state's 32 fastest were Nathan Bowman in the 100 breaststroke (second in 1:02.12) and Ryan Greene in the 100 breaststroke (third in 1:02.5).

Central's 200 medley relay team of B.J. Bowman, Greene, Hughes and Nathan Bowman finished second in 1:41.25 and advanced by bettering the pre-established state qualifying time.



Kyle Evans

Central swimmers competing at this weekend's IHSAA state meet in Indianapolis will be (front row, from left) alternate Dan Macedo, Drew Toivonen

and alternate Brad Tucker; (back row, from left) David Hughes, Nathan Bowman, Ryan Greene and B.J. Bowman.

Peak performances

Central, Delta swimmers seek best times as their season concludes at state meet

By TIM CLELAND
Evening Press sports editor

Season-best times are on the minds of Central and Delta swimmers as they prepare for this weekend's IHSAA state swim meet in Indianapolis.

The meet begins at 6 p.m. Friday with swimming preliminaries in all events at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Consolations and finals will start at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

There are 32 entrants in each event Friday night. The top 16 finishers qualify for Saturday's competition and earn team points.

Central will be represented by three individuals and two relay teams.

The Bearcats finished 16th in last year's state meet after winding up 10th in 1989 and ninth in 1990.

Central finished third last weekend at the rugged Richmond Sectional.

"This is a blue-collar team with a bunch of hard workers," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "All of them earned their right to compete in the state meet purely by hard work."

Central's best bets might be in the two relays:

■ The 200 freestyle relay team of brothers Nathan and B.J. Bowman, Drew Toivonen and David Hughes is seeded 10th at state.

■ The 200 medley relay team of B.J. Bowman, Ryan Greene, Hughes and Nathan Bowman is seeded 15th.

Hughes, a senior, and Nathan Bowman, a junior, were members of Central's 200 freestyle relay team that finished eighth at the state meet last year in a school-record time of 1:29.21. (Adam Fero and Chad Miller also swam legs of that relay.)

Hughes also competed in the 50 and 100 freestyle events a year ago. He will return to state in both events. He is seeded 15th in the 50 free and 21st in the 100 free.

"David's best shot will be in the 50," Chico said. "In the 100, there is a possibility he could place [in the top 16]."

Nathan Bowman and Greene, a senior, both will compete in the 100 breaststroke. Bowman is seeded 19th; Greene is seeded 24th.

"It will be difficult but not impossible for them to place," Chico said. "The state is very, very competitive in that event this year."

B.J. Bowman and Toivonen are sophomores who will be making their first trip to the state meet.

All of the Central swimmers advancing to state posted their best times of the season last weekend at the sectional.

The 200 freestyle relay team finished in 1 minute, 31.38 seconds. The 200 medley relay time

was 1:41.25.

Hughes completed the 50 free in :22.32 and the 100 free in :49.29. In the 100 breast, Nathan Bowman finished at 1:02.12 and Greene touched in 1:02.5.

Chico seeks a repeat performance.

• "We would like for the boys to swim their best times at this meet," he said. "If they can do that, they have a chance to place."

■ Delta won the South Adams Sectional championship in convincing fashion, but the Eagles are likely to have a much tougher time at state.

Delta placed 45th in the state meet last year. The Eagles scored points at state for the first time in school history by placing 13th in the 200 freestyle relay.

One member of that relay team, senior Brian Slavin, is back at state this year.

He will compete in the 100 breaststroke and also is a member of Delta's 200 medley relay team along with junior Jason Hammond, senior Jason Quate and senior Dan Swift.

"We're hoping to score again," Delta Coach Tom Devine said. "Our best chances are Doug [Townsend] in the 500 free and our 400 free relay team, if they can get some good drops."

■ Townsend, a senior, will compete in the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle.

Townsend set a school record in the 500 free at last weekend's sectional with a time of 4:55.93. He will be seeded 18th in the state meet.

"I think if he can get down in the low 50s, he should score," Devine said. "And we're kind of hoping he'll get under 50."

■ Jason Kirby, sophomore, will swim in the 200 individual medley.

■ The 400 freestyle relay team of junior Paul Buckley, senior Brett Conaway, Kirby and Townsend will be seeded 23rd.

That team won at sectional with a time of 3:23.43. Delta's school record is 3:20.3, and beating that will be the team's goal.

"The [400 free relay] team that set the school record placed 17th at state [one spot away from earning team points]," Devine said. "Every year since then that time has been good enough to place."

All of the Delta individual swimmers and relay teams advancing to state recorded season-best times in the sectional.

Delta finished the year 11-1 in dual meets and won White River Athletic Conference and sectional titles. The eight swimmers who will compete at state make up the school's largest contingent.

"We've had a nice year," Devine said.

Central swimmers shine at state meet

INDIANAPOLIS — Central's boys swim team, which has finished ninth and 10th in the last two state meets, might be headed for another Top 10 finish.

The Bearcats went a perfect 6 for 6 in Friday night's preliminaries at the Indiana University Natatorium.

All of the Central individuals and relay teams had season-best times, too.

The performances came as a pleasant surprise to Coach Bob Chico, who had no one seeded higher than 10th in any event. It was the first time in Chico's coaching career that all of his swimmers had advanced through preliminaries.

The meet was to resume today at 2:30 p.m. with consolations and finals in all events.

Delta, which scored points at last



Hughes

year's state meet for the first time in school history, will duplicate the feat this year. Delta senior Doug Townsend advanced through the preliminaries in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

All swimmers who qualified for today's action score team points.

■ Central senior David Hughes made it through in four events to lead the Bearcats.

He qualified in 10th place in the 50 freestyle in :21.92. He also qualified in 11th place in the 100 freestyle in :48.33.

Hughes also swam legs of the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay.

■ Central's 200 medley relay team of sophomore B.J. Bowman, senior Ryan Greene, Hughes and junior Nathan Bowman placed 11th in 1:40.18.

■ Central's 200 freestyle relay team of both Bowmans, Greene and Hughes qualified seventh in 1:29.03.

■ Greene and Nathan Bowman each advanced in the 100 breast-

stroke. Greene placed 12th in a school-record 1:01.08 and Bowman qualified 16th in 1:01.27.

Greene had been seeded 24th and Bowman 19th in the 100 breaststroke, an event that Chico said "was very, very competitive" this year.

■ Delta's Townsend placed 11th in the 500 freestyle in 4:47.94. He broke his own school record by eight seconds.

Delta Coach Tom Devine said earlier this week that Townsend's goal would be to get under 4:50.00, and he eclipsed that easily.

Townsend also qualified in the 200 freestyle by placing 14th in 1:46.63.

■ Delta's 200 medley relay team of Brian Slavin, Jason Hammond, Jason Quate and Dan Swift set a school record at 1:41.93 but failed to advance. The Eagles placed 22nd.

■ Delta's Jason Kirby placed 31st in the 200 individual medley, and Slavin also placed 31st in the 100 breaststroke.

State finals

Central swimmers finish 14th; Delta also scores points

INDIANAPOLIS — Muncie Central earned points in six events and Delta had two placings Saturday in the IHSAA state boys swim meet at the IU Natatorium.

Best finish by the Bearcats was seventh by their 200 freestyle relay team of B.J. Bowman, Ryan Greene, Nathan Bowman and David Hughes.

Hughes turned in the best individual finish of the local entrants

Yorktown to begin recreation program

Yorktown's adult recreation program begins Tuesday in the high school gym and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday through April 30. Session hours are 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Activities include volleyball, basketball, weight lifting, aerobics and indoor walking and running. Cost is \$1 and aerobics is 50 cents extra. Child care also is available for an additional 50 cents.

with a ninth in the 50 freestyle. He was 10th in the 100 freestyle.

Other Central finishes:

■ B.J. Bowman, Greene, Hughes and Nathan Bowman placed 11th in the 200 medley relay.

■ Greene placed 13th in the 100 breaststroke.

■ Nathan Bowman was 14th in the 100 breaststroke.

Central tied for 14th place in the team race with 59 points.

Delta's 12 points were scored by Doug Townsend, who placed 11th in both the 200 and 500 freestyle races. His time of 1:46.35 in the 200 broke his own school record.

Carmel won the team championship for the third straight year, compiling 285 points to runner-up Anderson's 184. The 101-point winning margin was a state-meet record.

Carmel had only one individual winner, Jason Lancaster in the 200 freestyle, but the Greyhounds' depth was unbeatable. Lancaster also was runner-up to Anderson's Ryan Robling in the 100-butterfly;

the Greyhounds won the 400-freestyle relay; and they added a second in the 200-relay along with a pair of individual thirds in the 50- and 100-freestyle races.

Lancaster won the 200 for the second year in a row, with a time of 1 minute, 40.26 seconds. Robling was second at 1:41.12 and won the 100 butterfly in :49.91 to Lancaster's :50.06.

Following Carmel and Anderson in the team race were Fort Wayne Snider with 164. Penn was fourth, followed by Lafayette Jeff, Valparaiso, Munster, Kokomo, Homestead and a tie for 10th between Indianapolis Ben Davis and Maconaquah.

Anderson broke a meet record in winning the 200 freestyle relay in 1:24.74, better than the old mark of 1:26.59 by Carmel.

Jeff McDaniel of Chesterton captured the 100 breaststroke in a meet record time of :55.33.

Matthew Hinshaw of Indianapolis Ben Davis, who won the 100 backstroke in :51.59, received the IHSAA's mental attitude award.

Delta's Stout, Kern earn top-8 placings

INDIANAPOLIS — Delta wrestlers Shannon Stout and Jay Kern finished fifth and seventh, respectively, in Saturday's IHSAA state finals meet.

The top eight wrestlers in each weight class earn state placings.

Stout, a 145-pound junior, improved one place from last year's sixth-place state finish after pinning Ben Davis' Shawn Cubel in 2:12. Cubel had eliminated Yorktown's Pat Pickell on Friday.

Kern, 103-pound senior, earned seventh position after pulling out a 9-8 decision over Decatur Central's Sean Edwards. Kern built a 9-2 lead but was reversed and narrowly avoided a pin in the third period.

Stout finished the season 40-10 and Kern 43-6.

Delta placed 31st in the team standings with 15 points. Lawrence North had four individual champions and claimed the state championship with 90 points.