

GOLD SILVER BRONZE

Bowman brothers give Bearcats a triple threat

By TIM CLELAND

Evening Press sports editor

They're enjoying it while it lasts because it's not likely to happen again.

Three Bowman brothers - senior Nathan, junior B.J. and freshman Matt - are about to complete a season on the same swim team. And all three Central High School students are optimistic they can earn berths in the IHSAA state meet later this month.

"It's a neat experience to be swimming together and to hear people talk about us," Nathan said.

B.J. added: "It'll be the only time we get to experience it. I wish we would get to do it again."

That won't happen unless all three end up at the same college four years from now - an unlikely scenario.

"It's too bad the season isn't longer," Matt said.

The Bowmans, competitive in the pool but supportive of each other, will have to settle for the fun they've had together in the 16-week Central season that is rapidly closing. Sectional meets are next Thursday and Saturday, and the state meet

"The nice thing about it is because of their family background and their swimming background, they come prepared to swim every day regardless of whether it's practice or a dual meet or a championship meet."

- Central coach Bob Chico

the other because they each concentrate on different events," he said.

Nathan has competed on relay teams in the 1990, 1991 and 1992 IHSAA state meets. He also placed 14th in the 100 breaststroke in last year's state meet.

His lifetime best time in the breaststroke is 1:01.27. He'll also be entered at sectional in the 200 individual medley, where his lifetime best is 2:08.47.

B.J. competed at the state meet last year on the 200 freestyle relay with Nathan and two swimmers who have graduated, Ryan Greene and David Hughes. The team placed seventh at state in a school-record time of 1:29.03.

In the sectional, B.J.'s specialties will be the 100 butterfly, with a lifetime best of :55.08, and the 50 free, with a lifetime best of :22.45 set earlier this week.

Matt will have to battle his brothers in the sectional. He will swim against B.J. in the 100 fly, where his best is :57.41, and against Nathan in the 100 breast, where his best is 1:06.25.

Matt hopes to get to the state meet on a relay team. Although the final combinations haven't been determined by Chico yet, the three Bowmans are likely to swim together on the 200 free relay (with Drew Toivonen and Brad Tucker also in the mix) and on the 200 medley relay (with Toivonen and Josh Jones).

Chico thinks both relay teams can earn state berths along with Nathan in the 100 breast and B.J. in the 100 fly and 50 free.

The Bowmans' success helped Central compile a 9-2 dual-meet record.

"The Bowmans are all-stroke swimmers," Chico said. "Their training has been IM-type training - all strokes. And that really pays off for me when I'm putting together a gameplan. I can move them around and they will all swim well. It's a big advantage."

The brothers' versatility is evident by their ranking in Chico's special "Million Dollar Club." The honorary club is for swimmers who have competed in every event - 10 individual swims and four relay splits - during meets this year.

Chico adds up all of the times and ranks his "Million Dollar Club" members. At the top of the list are

will be Feb. 26-27.

"All three of them are very much on a par with some of the super swimmers we've had in the past," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "The real big thing the brothers have in common with each other is their desire."

"The nice thing about it is because of their family background and their swimming background, they come prepared to swim every day regardless of whether it's practice or a dual meet or a championship meet," Chico added.

Everyone in the Bowman family is involved in swimming. Father Jeff serves as public-address announcer at the Bearcat meets, and mother Rita volunteers as a timer. Two younger children, 12-year-old Kendra and 10-year-old Ryan, are successful age-group club swimmers.

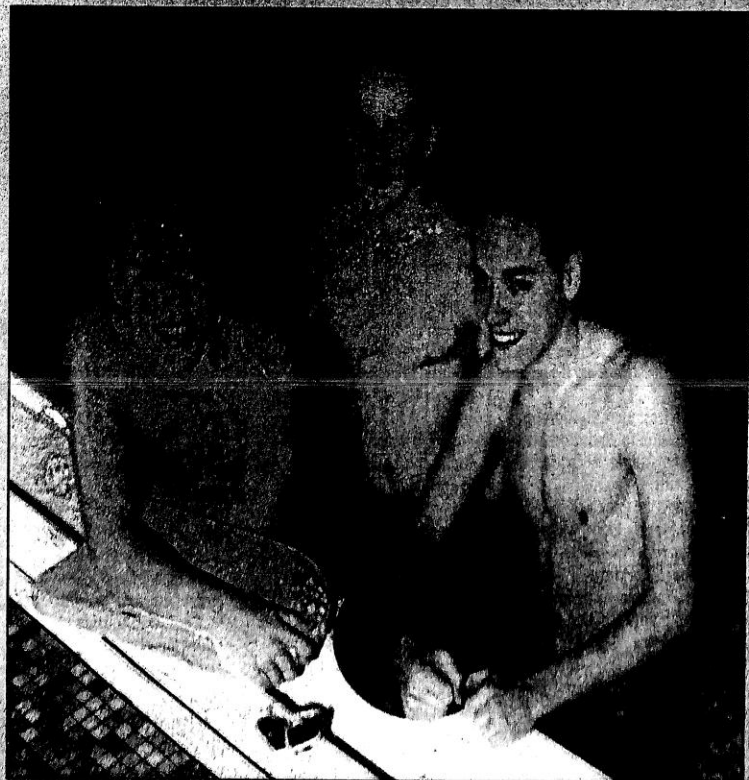
Nathan, 18; B.J., 17; and Matt, 15, have been swimming since they were four years old.

Although they've been members of the same swim clubs, this is the first time they've all three been together on one team competing with each other on relays and against each other in several individual events.

"It's pretty competitive," B.J. said. "We're always striving to beat each other. The people like watching us race, and they're always cheering for the younger one [Matt]. They like to cheer for the underdog."

Chico hesitates to rank the brothers' ability.

"I couldn't call one better than



Perry Raiohanadjar

The Bowman brothers: Nathan (left), Matt (center) and B.J.

Area swimmers face tough task in sectionals

By **DOUG NARRAMORE**
Star sports reporter

East Central Indiana boys' swimming teams will spring into IHSAA sectional action at Richmond and South Adams tonight.

Muncie Central, Muncie South, Yorktown and New Castle will swim at Richmond. Blackford, Jay County and Delta will swim at South Adams.

Preliminaries for both sectionals will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the top 12 swimmers moving on to Saturday's finals that start at 2 p.m.

Diving preliminaries will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday with the finals beginning at 2 p.m.

The top finishers in each event will advance from the sectionals to the state finals Feb. 26-27 at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis.

The state meet field is filled in swimming events by sectional champions, those who meet the state time standard in the sectional finals or consolation finals, and those with the next fastest times until the field reaches 32 swimmers.

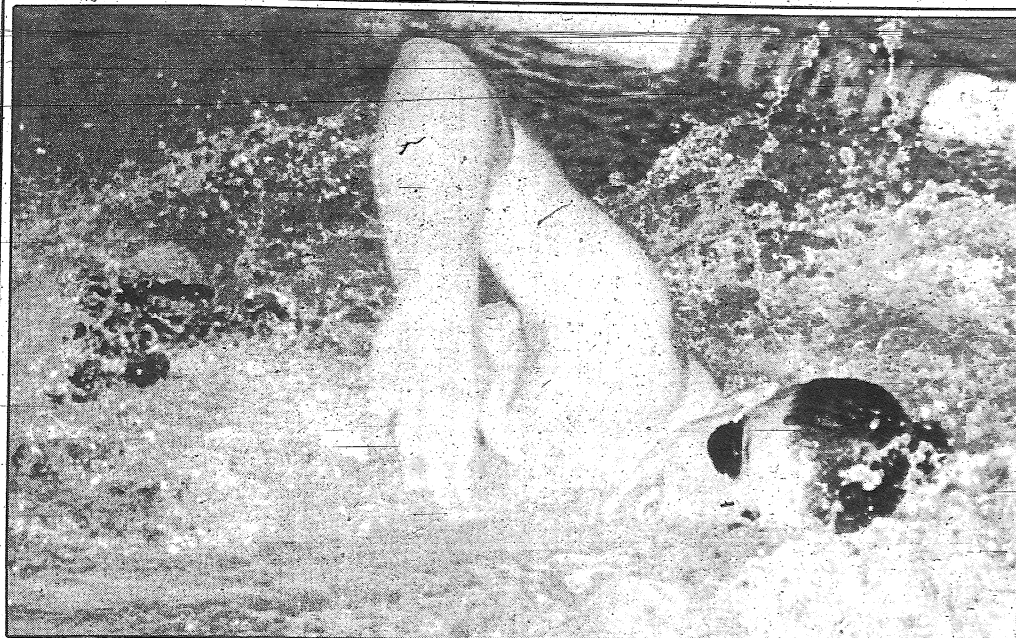
Top three divers from each sectional advance to the state meet, along with any diver who matches the 18th-best sectional score.

Local teams will run up against perennial state powers Anderson, Anderson Highland and Richmond as they try to push swimmers through to the state meet from the Richmond sectional.

Anderson ranks as the favorite, with Richmond close behind.

Muncie Central ended its regular season with a 9-2 record, suffering its only losses to Anderson and Richmond. The Bearcats nipped Anderson Highland 96-90 and beat both Muncie South and Yorktown.

"We are ready as long as everybody stays healthy," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "We are just going
See SWIMMING on Page 3C



Star photo/KYLE EVENS

MUNCIE CENTRAL'S KELLY HIATT SWIMS IN 200 FREESTYLE IN RICHMOND SECTIONAL
See Page 3C for results from Thursday's Richmond and South Adams sectionals

Shorter state meet could await swimmers

Despite the weather outside, action in the IU Natatorium tonight should be as hot as ever. East Central Indiana sends eight individual swimmers and divers as well as four relay teams to the IHSAA boys' swimming meet, which begins with preliminaries at 6 p.m.

Ron Lemasters Jr.



IHSAA officials will make a decision early this morning about what effect the storm that socked the state Thursday will have on the meet.

In years past, bad weather has reduced the meet to timed finals on Saturday, which means instead of swimming preliminaries on Friday and finals on Saturday, there would be four races of eight swimmers each in every event. Best time among the swimmers in each event would be declared the winner.

Muncie Central and Jay County send two individuals and two relay teams each, Delta sends a swimmer and a diver, and New Castle and Yorktown send a swimmer each.

Central's Bowman brothers, B.J. and Nathan, will make the trip as Bearcat representatives, and the 'Cats' 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams will also go.

Jay County sends Chuck Aker in the 50 and 100 freestyles, Mitch Klopfenstein in the 100 backstroke, and the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay teams.

Delta has Jason Kirby in the 200 IM, and diver Paul Lewman will take the plunge.

Yorktown's Tyler Thompson qualified in the 100 butterfly, and New Castle's Robert Beattley is in the 100 backstroke.

Best seeds among the locals is B.J. Bowman, who ranks 12th in the 50 freestyle and 13th in the 100 butterfly. Bowman won neither event in the sectional, but bettered the state standard in the 100 butterfly and was picked up out of a super-fast 50 freestyle heat at the Richmond sectional.

"B.J. is swimming pretty well right now," Central Coach Bob Chico said.

"We'll go down and do the best we can and see what happens," Chico said. "The relays this year are extremely tough. We're seeded 19th in the 200 medley relay and 22nd in the 200 freestyle, but we're just 1.4 seconds off the eighth-seeded time and .86 seconds off the 16th-seeded time in the 200 medley. So it's extremely tough, but we love to compete in the relays."

Both Central relay teams are made up of the same four swimmers. B.J. and Nathan Bowman join brother Matt Bowman and Drew Toivonen in the foursomes.

Nathan Bowman is the 23rd seed in the 100 breaststroke.

Jay County, which swam in the somewhat slower South Adams sectional, was not as fortunate in the seeding department. Aker is 28th in the 100 freestyle and 29th in the 50 freestyle, while Klopfenstein is 32nd in the 100 backstroke. Both relay teams are 32nd seeds.

"We could definitely stand some improvement in that regard," Jay County Coach Barry

Weaver said. "Our relay teams were in a slower sectional, but the times we had there weren't our best of the season. We swim our [Olympic Conference] meet at the Natatorium, and our times there were much better."

"The first time we went down to state, back a few years ago when the South Adams sectional was one of the weakest ones in the state, all the kids we took out of that sectional were 32nd seeds," Weaver said. "So I guess we're doing better."

Delta, the winner of the South Adams sectional, has 32nd seed Kirby in the 200 IM, and sophomore Lewman in as a diver. Lewman's score was the 22nd best of the 32 finalists.

"We're just tickled that Jason got down there again," Delta Coach Tom Devine said. "We're hoping he can do well, and we really want this to be some incentive for him to hit the training hard over the summer so he can get in scoring position next year."

"You never know what's going to happen in diving, and if Paul can make it past the first cut, I think he can make it past the second cut," Devine said. "He's certainly capable of getting into scoring position."

New Castle's Beattley got a surprise Thursday night after practice: His head was shaved.

"He said if he made it to state, he'd shave his head," New Castle Coach Jennifer Kelsik said. "I think he was really a little bit surprised. Most everybody does it. I think it's mostly psychological."

The weather could play a bigger role than just inconvenience, according to Kelsik.

"If we don't have the preliminaries, a lot of people are going to be in trouble," Kelsik said. "A lot of people are trying to hit their tapers, and they'll be in trouble."

Yorktown Coach Pam Swander said Thompson was "ready."

"He's been working really hard, and he should be ready for whatever comes his way," Swander said. "I don't think it will hurt us if they end up going to timed finals, because Tyler is going to be where he is no matter what we do. I think he's got one good race left in him."

Delta adds softball

At its recent meeting, the Delaware Community School Board approved a plan to begin girls' softball as a varsity sport at Delta High School for the 1993-94 school year.

"We've already got two games scheduled," Delta Athletic Director Steve Reed said. "But other than that, we haven't done much. We don't really know what we're going to do, whether we're going to start out with a varsity schedule, or try to get a JV schedule together, or what."

No coach has been named. The addition of a team at Delta will give Delaware County six teams. Muncie Central and Muncie South currently field teams, as do Daleville, Wapahani and Yorktown.

In other news at Delta, Scott Smith was named the boys' varsity golf coach, replacing Doug Koons. Smith has been a volunteer coach in the Delta program.

■ Ron Lemasters Jr. is a sports reporter for The Star.

Anderson wins title

RICHMOND, Ind. — Anderson rolled to the Richmond boys' swimming sectional title on Saturday, outdistancing the Red Devils 328-268.

Muncie Central was fourth with 155 points, Yorktown finished fifth with 124 and New Castle was sixth with 86. Muncie South finished with 21 points and Muncie Burris had nine.

"This was the most amazing thing I've seen in all my years of coaching," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "This sectional was so fast it was unbelievable. We swam very well tonight, and I was pretty encouraged by our performance."

Central qualified one swimmer for the state for sure, as B.J. Bowman eclipsed the state standard in the 100 butterfly. B.J. Bowman might also qualify in the 50 freestyle, and Central's 200 medley relay team stands a chance of being picked up today when IHSAA officials fill the field for each event.

New Castle's Robert Beattley also qualified for state, finishing third in the 100 backstroke at :55.94. His time bested the state standard.

Yorktown finished well, according to Coach Pam Swander. "We finished sixth; we wanted fourth, but we swam far beyond our potential tonight," Swander said. "We're hoping Tyler Thompson gets picked up in the 100 butterfly, and our 200 freestyle relay has an outside shot."

Thompson set school records in the 200 individual medley and in the 100 butterfly, and the 200 freestyle relay team also broke the school record.

RICHMOND SECTIONAL

Team scores — Anderson 328, Richmond 268, Anderson Highland 165, Muncie Central 155, Connersville 132, Yorktown 124, New Castle 86, Madison Heights 51, Hagerstown 22, Muncie South 21, Centerville 22, Muncie Burris 9.

East Central Indiana place winners: 200 medley relay — 3. Muncie Central (B.J. Bowman, Nathan Bowman, Matt Bowman, Drew Toivonen), 1:42.46; 5. Yorktown (Scott Condon, Jason Stephens, Chris Taylor, Rhett Wisner), 1:48.18; 6. New Castle (Mark Brack, Robert Beattley, Adam Clark, Mike Dudley), 1:48.79; 10. Muncie South (Jeremy Coulter, Tim Knopp, Donnie McCoy, Steve Hony), 2:00.00; 200 freestyle — 11. Kerry Hiatt (MC), 1:59.85; 12. Cliff Rector (NC), 2:02.11; 200 individual medley — 5. Tyler Thompson (Y), 2:04.20; 6. N. Bowman (MC), 2:09.21; 8. Mike Mickelson (MB), 2:08.06; 9. Mike Lindsey (Y), 2:12.31; 10. Andy Pinger (MC), 2:13.15; 50 freestyle — 3. B.J. Bowman (MC), :22.31; 8. Brent Schneider (Y), :23.12; 10. Mike Pellissier (Y), :23.72; 11. Chris Taylor (Y), :23.91; diving — 6. Brandon Lee (MC), 335.37; 8. Handrickson (Y), 316.80; 9. Adam

Local swimmers took their first step toward possible state meet berths by advancing from sectional preliminaries Thursday.

The top 12 finishers in each event from the preliminaries moved on to Saturday's sectional finals at Richmond and South Adams. Diving finals will also be held Saturday.

Qualifiers from Muncie Central, Muncie South, Burris, New Castle and Yorktown from the Richmond sectional:

200 medley relay — 3. Central (Brad Tucker, Matt Bowman, B.J. Bowman, Drew Toivonen), 1:46.58; 5. New Castle, 1:48.80; 6. Yorktown (Jason Stephens, Rhett Wisner, Scott Condon, Chris Taylor), 1:50.09; 10. Muncie South, 1:58.95.

200 freestyle — 11. Kerry Hiatt (MC), 1:59.40; 12. Cliff Rector (NC), 1:59.64.

200 IM — 5. Tyler Thompson (Y), 2:06.50, school record; 6. Nathan Bowman (MC), 2:07.68; 7. Matt Mickelson (Burris), 2:09.75; 9. Mike Lindsey (Y), 2:14.37; 10. Andrew Pinger (MC), 2:15.78.

50 freestyle — 4. B.J. Bowman (MC), :22.64; 8. Brent Schneider (Y), :23.22; 10. Mike Pellissier (Y), :23.45; 11. C. Taylor (Y), :23.78.

100 butterfly — 2. B.J. Bowman (MC), :56.06; 6. Tyler Thompson (Y), :57.11; 9. S. Condon (Y), :57.95; 10. Matt Bowman (MC), :58.16.

100 freestyle — 4. Brent Schneider (Y), :50.74; 8. Mike Pellissier (Y), :52.96; 10. Drew Toivonen (MC), :53.32; 11. Josh Jones (MC), :53.69; 12. C. Taylor (Y), :53.70.

500 freestyle — 5. Cliff Rector (NC), 5:15.77; 10. Matt Snider (Y), 5:26.19; 11. Kerry Hiatt (MC), 5:27.78; 12. Corey Armstrong (NC), 5:28.07.

200 freestyle relay — 4. Yorktown (T. Thompson, M. Pellissier, C. Taylor, B. Schneider), 1:33.32, school record; 5. Muncie Central (B.J. Bowman, Drew Toivonen, Nathan Bowman, Josh Jones), 1:33.93; 10. New Castle, 1:45.02; 11. Muncie South, 1:46.04.

100 backstroke — 4. Robert Beattley (NC), :57.59; 7. Brad Tucker (MC), 1:01.13; 10. Jason Stephens (Y), 1:03.06.

100 breaststroke — 3. Nathan Bowman (MC), 1:03.31; 7. Matt Bowman (MC), 1:05.38; 8. Matt Mickelson (Burris), 1:05.84; 9. Mike Dudley (NC), 1:05.96; 11. Andrew Pinger (MC), 1:06.06.

400 freestyle relay — 3. Yorktown (B. Schneider, John Gibson, M. Pellissier, T. Thompson), 3:30.58; 6. Muncie Central (Kerry Hiatt, Kelly Hiatt, Alan Hamm, Ben Moorehead), 3:45.18; 7. New Castle, 3:46.52; 9. Muncie South, 3:57.72.

Swimmers go for state placements

By **CHUCK LANDIS**
Evening Press sports writer

Seven Delaware County boys swimmers hope lowering their personal best performances will lead to placements at this weekend's state finals.

Central will have four swimmers.



B.J. Bowman

Delta two and Yorktown takes one into the meet at the IUPUI-Indianapolis Natatorium. Swim preliminaries begin at 6 p.m. Friday, with the diving starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Finals begin at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$4 each day or \$6 for a season pass.

Central will compete in five of the 14 swim events. The brother trio of B.J., Nathan and Matt Bowman and Drew Toivonen team up in the 200-yard medley and 200 freestyle relays.

B.J. Bowman also competes as an



Nathan Bowman



Matt Bowman



Toivonen



Thompson



Kirby



Lewman

individual in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly. Nathan Bowman qualified in the 100 breaststroke.

"We would like to be able to improve our times and, if everyone does that, we're hopeful of [placements]." Central Coach Bob Chico said.

Last year, Nathan Bowman advanced from a 22nd seeding in the butterfly to finish 14th. This year, he's seeded 23rd in the event.

B.J. Bowman has the 12th fastest time in the 50 freestyle and 13th best in the butterfly. Chico also thought both relays were in position to finish among the top 16 point-getters.

Only Matt Bowman, a freshman, is inexperienced at state competition. Toivonen has been sick with the flu this week and his status is doubtful for the meet. Chico is considering several alternates if Toivonen can't swim.

Yorktown senior Tyler Thompson became the school's first state qualifier since Dave Brown in 1985. Thompson also competes in the 100 butterfly.

"We're looking for Tyler to make the top 16, which would take a 55.1 [seconds]," Yorktown Coach Pam Swander said. "He will have to cut another second off his best, but he did that at sectional when he cut

two seconds off."

Delta junior Jason Kirby qualified in the 200 individual medley for the second straight year, while sophomore Paul Lewman makes his first appearance in diving after placing second in the Richmond Sectional.

"This is the first time [Lewman] has been down there, so you never know what he'll do," Delta Coach Tom Devine said. "Jason has the experience of swimming there."

Both times Kirby has been the low qualifier in his event. Devine said Kirby will need to shave seven seconds off his best time of 2:07 to place.

Nathan Bowman breaks Central mark in state swim

From staff reports

Muncie Central's Nathan Bowman broke a school record in the 100 breaststroke Friday night, and qualified for today's finals of the IHSAA boys' state swimming meet.

The meet is being held at the IUPUI-Indianapolis Natatorium. Bowman was seeded 23rd in the 100 breaststroke, but turned in the seventh-fastest time. He was the only area swimmer to qualify for the finals. His brother, B.J., missed qualifying for the 50 freestyle finals by one-tenth of a second.

B.J. Bowman and Lafayette Jeff's Tony Eubank tied for the last qualifying position and swam off for the spot in the finals. Eubank posted a :21.87 time and Bowman had :21.88 in the swimoff.

B.J. Bowman was 17th in the 100 butterfly with a career best :53.86.

Central's relay teams finish far back. The 200 freestyle of Nathan, B.J. and Matt Bowman and Drew Toivonen was 18th and the same group was 20th in the 200 medley.

Other local swimmers:

■ Tyler Thompson of Yorktown was 29th in the 100 butterfly; Delta's Jason Kirby was 32nd in the 200 individual medley; and New Castle's Robert Beattley was 23rd in the 100 backstroke.

■ Delta's Paul Lewman was to participate in the diving which began at 9 this morning.

INDIANAPOLIS — Muncie Central finished the IHSAA boys' swimming and diving meet in 29th place among schools, but the Bearcats came home from Saturday's meet at the IU Natatorium with eighth- and ninth-place individual finishes.

Nathan Bowman of Central was eighth in the 100 breaststroke, finishing last in the medal round with a time of 1:00.99. His brother, B.J. Bowman, was ninth in the 50 freestyle in a school-record time of :21.85, breaking his own time of :21.88 set Friday in the preliminaries.

Delta diver Paul Lewman failed to make the first cut after three dives and wound up 50th in his first state meet.

"We had a real good meet," Central Coach Bob Chico said. "We had two school records. Overall, of the six individual swims we had, we had five lifetime bests."