

1997 Bearcats...

Boys' swimming

Bearcats win NCC title

NEW CASTLE — Muncie Central set two North Central Conference records Saturday and won the final event to take the NCC title for the second time in 3 years.

The 12th-ranked Bearcats scored 281 points to Richmond's 276, No. 18 Anderson was fifth with 120 points, and New Castle was sixth at 103.

Muncie Central finished second by one-half point last year and won by the same margin 2 years ago.

Richmond led by one point, 250-249, heading into the last event, the 400 freestyle relay. Muncie Central trailed Richmond as the last person on the relay headed into the water. Muncie Central's Gordon Heck trailed by 1½ lengths as he hit the water and came back to help the Bearcats win the race by .35 seconds, 3:20.66-3:21.01, over Richmond.

"The guys did a super job," Muncie Central coach Bob Chico said. "It was truly a team effort."

Chico was named NCC coach of the year.

Ryan Fillmann set a conference record with 508.00 in diving, breaking his own record of 455.00 set last year. Heck set a school and NCC record in the 100 backstroke in :53.20.

Muncie Central will compete at home Tuesday against Marion.

TEAM SCORES

Muncie Central 281, Richmond 276, Lafayette Jeff 211, Kokomo 174, Anderson 120, New Castle 103, Marion 89, Logansport 81.

Top 12

Medley relay — 1. Muncie Central (Adam Cairns, Luke Crawley, Mark Custer, Gordon Heck), 1:40.56; 8. New Castle (John Liette, Tom Nelson, Jared Crabtree, Carter Strong), 2:04.84; 200 freestyle — 3. John Hubbard (NC), 1:49.09; 4. Nick Rundell (MC), 1:52.92; 8. Michael Hagans (MC), 1:57.81; 200 IM — 1. Heck (MC), 2:01.58; 4. Cairns (MC), 2:08.48; 7. Custer (MC), 2:12.31; 50 freestyle — 1. Crawley (MC), :22.80; 2. David Rains (NC), :23.09; 6. Geoff Kallen (MC), :23.84; 12. Chris Taylor (MC), :24.87; diving — 1. Ryan Fillmann (MC), 508.00; 3. Casey Staton (MC), 378.00; 100 butterfly — 2. Rundell (MC), :56.26; 3. Custer (MC), :56.76; 11. Patrick Aitchison (NC), 1:04.68; 100 freestyle — 2. Hubbard (NC), :50.14; 3. Crawley (MC), :50.37; 4. Rains (NC), :50.50; 8. Kallen (MC), :54.27; 500 freestyle — 10. Hagans (MC), 5:33.20; 12. Matt Brunoehler (NC), 5:35.26; 200 freestyle relay — 2. Muncie Central (Cairns, Kallen, Custer, Rundell), 1:34.70; 4. New Castle (Aaron Ray, Rains, Hubbard, Crabtree), 1:36.12; 100 backstroke — 1. Heck (MC), :53.20; 6. Jeremy Johns (MC), 1:00.39; 12. Ray (NC), 1:04.13; 100 breaststroke — 3. Cairns (MC), 1:03.54; 9. Ryan Robertson (MC), 1:08.26; 12. Kevin Tucker (MC), 1:10.58; 400 freestyle relay — 1.

Boys' swimming

Bearcats finish perfect

MUNCIE — No. 14 Muncie Central ended its regular season with a 130-56 victory Tuesday over Marion by winning all 12 events.

The Bearcats finished 11-0 in dual meets.

Muncie Central will compete in the Jay County sectional Feb. 20.

MUNCIE CENTRAL 130, MARION 56

Medley relay — Muncie Central (Gordon Heck, Adam Cairns, Nick Rundell, Luke Crawley), 1:41.83; 200 freestyle — Mark Custer (MC), 1:57.39; 200 IM — Rundell (MC), 2:10.03; 50 freestyle — Michael Hagans (MC), :24.09; diving — Ryan Fillman (MC), 319.30; 100 butterfly — Crawley (MC), :59.90; 100 freestyle — Hagans (MC), :53.78; 500 freestyle — Heck (MC), 5:08.89; 200 freestyle relay — Muncie Central (Geoff Callen, Chris Taylor, Hagans, Crawley), 1:38.22; 100 backstroke — Rundell (MC), :59.63; 100 breaststroke — Cairns (MC), 1:03.91; 400 freestyle relay — Muncie Central (Heck, Custer, Crawley, Cairns), 3:35.93.

ECI teams set to swim at Jay

'Cats among favorites to take Jay County boys' sectional title

By KEN PARIS
The Star-Press

PORTLAND — East Central Indiana schools have traditionally had to travel to Richmond for sectional competition in the past.

So much so, that Muncie Central coach Bob Chico joked that the Bearcat swimmers "practically lived there."

But that won't be the case today when the boys' swimming sectional gets under way at Jay County High School.

Joining the eighth-ranked Bearcats will be Delta, Muncie Southside, Blackford, Yorktown, Anderson, Elwood, Madison Heights, Highland and Pendleton Heights, along with the host Patriots.

If a favorite is determined by rankings and records, Central should be considered the team to beat. Chico has been in the business long enough, however, to know that it doesn't quite work that way.

"It should be tough in all of the events," Chico said, "and it could turn into a very tough sectional. I do expect our toughest competition to come from Yorktown and Anderson."

The Bearcats went undefeated in 11 dual meets this season, including victories over Yorktown and Anderson.

Chico admitted that the Bearcats'

Jay County sectional

What: Boys' swimming sectional
When: 5:30 p.m. today.

Where: Jay County High School
Who: Anderson, And. Highland, And. Madison Heights, Blackford, Delta, Elwood, Jay County, Muncie Central, Muncie Southside, Pendleton Heights and Yorktown.

Who moves on: Swimmers can advance to the state meet one of three ways: 1. winning an event, 2. matching or beating the state time standard in an event, or 3. being one of the 32 fastest swimmers in an event. Divers advance to the regional by placing in the top four places in the sectional. First through eighth places in the regional qualify for the state finals.

state-ranking could be somewhat deceiving.

"Not all of the teams in the state submit their times into the ranking system," Chico said. "I'm not saying, though, that we don't deserve to be ranked."

Preliminaries are set to begin at 5:30 p.m. today, and diving preliminaries and semifinals are scheduled for a 9 a.m. start on Saturday. Finals in all events will begin at 2 p.m., also on Saturday.

The winner in each event, along with those meeting the state standard qualifying times, will earn the right to advance to the state swimming meet.

The top four divers at Jay County will advance to regional competition at Oak Hill.

'Cats swimmers win sectional

Central wins title at Jay County, while Yorktown takes second

By SCOTT UNDERWOOD
The Star-Press

PORTLAND — Muncie Central's mad-cap Saturday afternoon that began with frustration ended in exhilaration at the Jay County swimming sectional.

Central's top-seeded 200-yard medley relay team was disqualified on a technicality in the first event of the day, enraging the Bearcats, who responded by burying the competition to capture their second sectional championship in 3 years.

Central, ranked No. 8 in the state coaches poll, won the boys' swimming sectional for the second time in school history, outscoring second-place Yorktown, 265-216.5. Perennial power Anderson, with 192 points, was a distant third.

"We were concerned after what happened to the medley relay team," Central coach Bob Chico acknowledged. "That put us down 32 points."

The Bearcat 200 medley relay was disqualified by an IHSAA official because one member of the team, Luke Crawley, wore a cap that didn't match those worn by his teammates.

The Central relay team had set a

meet record of 1:41.88 in Thursday's preliminary round, finishing more than 5 seconds faster than the second-fastest qualifier.

Though the disqualification ultimately didn't affect the outcome of the sectional, it will certainly have a bearing on Central's finish in the state finals, Friday and Saturday at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

"It will hurt us some, but we still have a shot at reaching our goal — a top-15 finish," said Chico.

Saturday, Central rapidly made up points on the rest of the field and finally moved into first place when points were tallied from the day's sixth event — diving.

The Bearcats' Ryan Fillmann survived strong early dives by Highland's Heath Knowing and Pendleton Heights's Aaron Kirkpatrick to finish first.

"I'm going real well but I've still got room to improve," Fillmann said. "This was good preparation for state. My last dive was a 3.0 [difficulty] and really sewed it up for me."

Fillmann, whose score of 530.85 set a meet record and was 51.95 better than the second-place Knowing, won the state diving title as a sophomore, and finished second as a freshman and junior.

Fillmann and teammate Casey Staton (fourth, 381.35) will compete Wednesday in the Oak Hill diving regional.

Bearcats advanced to the state finals in six individual swims and one relay. Swimmers advance to state by finishing first, by meeting the state qualifying standard or by being added to the field at the state seedings meeting today.

Crawley and Gordon Heck won two events apiece and both swam on Central's winning 400 freestyle relay team. Michael Hagans and Nicholas Rundell also swam for the first-place relay team, which finished in a meet-record 3:19.56 and beat second-place Anderson by almost 6 seconds.

Heck was first in the 200 individual medley in a meet record 2:00.25 and won the 100 backstroke in 53.45, another meet record. In the latter event, he edged Highland's Jim Lindzy by .07 seconds.

Crawley won both freestyle sprints, capturing the 50 free by 47 seconds in 22.07 and easily beating the rest of the field to the wall in the 100 free with a time of 49.16.

Rundell accounted for Central's other first place, winning the 100 butterfly in a meet-record 53.82.

Chico, whose teams at Muncie-North won four titles, has now coached teams to six sectional titles.

Though Yorktown didn't have any swimmers advance to the state finals, coach Pam Swander was pleased by her team's second-place finish.



GORDON HECK (left) and LUKE CRAWLEY: Central swimmers each won two individual events and were part of a winning relay team.

"That's the highest we've finished in at least a decade," she pointed out. "Central was over 90 points ahead of us after the prelims, so we made up some ground on them. We performed as well as we could have."

Yorktown's success Saturday owed to its depth. Tiger swimmers competed in 12 finals and 10 consolations.

Todd Rowlett led the Yorktown charge, finishing second in the 200 freestyle with a school-record clocking of 1:48.81 and third in the 500 freestyle with another Tiger record of 4:59.06.

Delta, fifth in the team standings, got third place finishes in the 200 medley relay and in the 100 freestyle, in which James Clark finished in 50.57.

Jay County, powered by Brian Weaver, finished sixth. Weaver was second in both freestyle sprints and swam on the Patriots' second-place 200 medley relay team.

See teams scores and placings of local athletes in Scorecard on Page 2B.

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

Boys' sectional Jay County

TEAM SCORES

1. Muncie Central 285, 2. Yorktown 218.5, 3. Anderson 192, 4. Highland 164, 5. Delta 152.5, 6. Jay County 130, 7. Pendleton Heights 111, 8. Madison Heights 68, 9. Muncie South 33, 10. Elwood 24, 11. Blackford 11.

WINNERS, OTHER ECI FINISHERS

200 medley relay — Final: 1. Highland, 1:41.82*; 2. Jay County, 3. Delta, 5. Yorktown, DQ. Muncie Central. Consolation: 8. Muncie South.

200 freestyle — Final: 1. John Retrum (A) 1:46.03; 2. Todd Rowlett (Y), 5. Nicholas Rundell (MC). Consolation: 7. James Clark (D), 11. Joe Eloy (JC), 12. David Hostetler (Y).

200 IM — Final: 1. Gordon Heck (MC) 2:00.25*; 3. Adam Cairns (MC), 6. Mark Custer (MC). Consolation: 7. Andy Clevenger (Y), 8. Tanner Thompson (Y), 9. Paul Milliken (D), 10. Mike Koger (Y), 11. Justin Gaylor (D).

50 freestyle — Final: 1. Luke Crawley (MC) 22.07; 2. Brian Weaver (JC), 3. Ryan Liddy (Y), 4. Ryan Jaromin (Y), 5. Jeff Melander (Y), 6. Cary Banfield (JC). Consolation: 7. Christopher Taylor (MC), 8. Scott Jacobs (D), 9. Geoffroy Kallon (MC), 12. Eric Johnston (JC).

Diving — 1. Ryan Fillman (MC) 530.85*; 4. Casey Staton (MC), 6. Mark Toney (D), 7. Nick Lozar (Y), 11. Jason Phillips (MS), 12. Justin Smitley (JC).

100 butterfly — Final: 1. Rundell (MC) 53.82*; 3. Custer (MC), 4. Thompson (Y), 5. Clevenger (Y), 6. Milliken (D). Consolation: 7. Brad Nixon (Y), 9. Aaron Gallagher (JC), 10. Jared Nicholson (B), 11. Craig Miller (MC).

100 freestyle — Final: 1. Crawley (MC) 49.16; 2. Weaver (JC), 3 (tie). Clark (D), Melander (Y), 5. Liddy (Y), 6. Aaron Krimme (D). Consolation: 7. Jaromin (Y), 8. Michael Hagans (MC), 9. Kallon (MC).

500 freestyle — Final: 1. Retrum (A) 4:47.09; 3. Rowlett (Y), 5. Joseph Dugan (MC). Consolation: 7. Eloy (JC), 8. Justin Gaylor (D), 9. Hostetler (Y), 11. Gaylor (D).

200 freestyle relay — Final: 1. Anderson, 1:31.71*; 2. Muncie Central, 3. Yorktown, 4. Jay County, 6. Delta. Consolation: 9. Muncie South, 11. Blackford.

100 backstroke — Final: 1. Heck (MC) 53.45; 6. Scott Jacobs (D). Consolation: 7. Andy Broyles (D), 8. Jeremy Johns (MC), 9. Matt Lindsey (Y), 10. Koger (Y), 12. Phil Barger (JC).

100 breaststroke — Final: 1. Andy Bamick (H) 1:00.73*; 2. Cairns (MC), 4. Krimme (D), 5. Banfield (JC). Consolation: 7. Gallagher (JC), 8. Matt Arbogast (MC), 9. Ryan Robertson (MC), 10. Kevin Tucker (MC), 11. Drew Terrell (Y).

400 freestyle relay — Final: 1. Muncie Central (Crawley, Hagans, Rundell, Heck) 3:19.56*; 4. Yorktown, 5. Delta. Consolation: 7. Jay County, 9. Muncie South, 11. Blackford.

* — denotes meet record.

Fillmann leads 'Cat contingent to swim finals

By DOUG ZALESKI
The Star Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Muncie Central's Ryan Fillman will try to overcome some sickness and a powerful field to win his second state title in the diving competition at the 60th annual IHSAA Boys' Swimming and Diving Championships that begin today.

Fillman, who finished second in diving at last year's state meet after winning in 1995, will begin his quest for a second state championship Saturday morning.

Today's action will consist of preliminary competition in all swimming events. Action starts at 6 p.m. at the IUPUI Natatorium.

Diving prelims start at 9 a.m. Saturday, and consolations and finals

in all swimming and diving events are at 1 p.m.

Admission is \$5 a session or \$7 for all sessions.

Central is sending six individuals and one relay team to the state meet. New Castle will have two swimmers in the field.

Fillman qualified for the state field in diving by finishing third in Wednesday's regional round.

"He wasn't feeling well and wasn't quite up to par, but he still did a creditable job," Central coach Bob Chico said. "He wasn't feeling too well yet (Thursday), and that is a concern."

Regional diving champ Aaron Kirkpatrick of Pendleton Heights and runner-up Heath Knowling of Anderson will join Fillman and 1996 state champion Dylan Nichols of

State-bound



CAIRNS



CRAWLEY



CUSTER



FILLMANN



HECK



RUNDELL



STATON

Pike as favorites.

"All of them are tough competitors, and it depends on who is having the 'on' night," Chico said.

The Bearcats' Casey Staton advanced to the state meet after finishing sixth in the regional.

Gordon Heck has the best seed among Central's contingent of

swimmers. He turned in a :53.45 time in the 100-yard backstroke at the sectional after breaking the Central school record 2 weeks ago with a :53.14.

"He's been very consistent over the season," Chico said.

Heck also will compete in the 200 individual medley, where he is

seeded 18th.

Luke Crawley is the 17th seed in the 50 freestyle and will swim in the 100 freestyle.

Nick Rundell is seeded 17th in the 100 butterfly, and Adam Cairns is 21st in the 100 breaststroke. The time difference between the first and 21st seeds in the 100

breaststroke is just 1.9 seconds.

Crawley, Mark Custer, Rundell and Heck will comprise Central's 400 freestyle relay team, which is seeded 16th.

For New Castle, David Rains is seeded second in the 100 freestyle and John Hubbard is seeded 29th in the 200 freestyle.