

Delta faces tough foes in swimming sectional

By TOM ST. MYER
The Star Press

FISHERS — What might have been.
No. 15 Delta would enter as the obvious favorite in the Jay County boys' swimming sectional. Instead, the Eagles will be underdogs competing in the Hamilton Southeastern sectional for the first time this year.



TIM BRANNOCK: "It will be a mighty task going up against the sixth-ranked team [Hamilton Southeastern]. It is a challenge that we relish, though," the Delta coach said.

The Royals play the role as the favorite, ranked No. 6 in the state and having the home pool advantage. Anderson and Pendleton Heights should also give the host and Delta some competition. Both the Indians and Arabians received votes for the state rankings.
"It will be a mighty task going up against the sixth-ranked team [Hamilton Southeastern]," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "It is a challenge that we relish, though."

Delta comes into the sectional with No. 1 seeds in four events. Patrick Bird is the top seed in both the 50 and 100 freestyle; Ryan Bowman is the top seed in the 200 freestyle; and the 200 freestyle relay of Bowman, Bird, Ben Penrod and Eric Conatser is also a No. 1 seed.
But Brannock believes that his team has to rely on more than just the No. 1 seeds winning to capture a sectional crown.
"We have to swim great across the board," he said. "We have to improve our seedings. We have worked hard, and we have a good chance to do that."
Last year, the Eagles competed at the Jay County sectional. But Delta, Burris, Muncie Central, Muncie South and Yorktown were all moved to the Hamilton Southeastern sectional. Delta is the only ranked team this season out of those who competed in the Jay County sectional.
Defending Jay County sectional champion Norwell will again be the favorite this year with Delta, Yorktown and Muncie Central not in the sectional. Norwell is the only team to receive votes for the state rankings. Host Jay County and Blackford are the only two ECJ schools competing in the sectional.
New Castle will compete in the Richmond sectional. The host Red Devils are the only ranked team in the sectional, coming in at No. 18.

Delta, Yorktown qualify swimmers for state finals

SWIMMING: Delta's Bird won two events, and Delta and Yorktown relay teams set records.

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

FISHERS, Ind. — Host Hamilton Southeastern was the class of the field Saturday in the boys' swim sectionals, but Delta and Yorktown weren't far behind.
Sixth-ranked Hamilton Southeastern won with 358 points. Fifteenth-ranked Delta was second with 262, and Yorktown was third with 182.
Muncie Central was sixth with 119, Muncie South eighth with 51 and Burris, with only two swimmers, 10th with 27.
Delta qualified at least one individual and two relay teams for the state finals. Yorktown qualified one relay team.
"In some places, honestly, we hoped to do better," Delta coach Tim Brannock said.
Delta's Patrick Bird won the 50 and 100 freestyle events to qualify for state. His time in the 50 was 22.32, and his time in the 100 was 48.06.
Bird also was on two relay teams that qualified for state.
"I'm very happy for him," Brannock said. "He's a very deserving winner."
Delta's 200 freestyle relay team of Ben Penrod, Erik Conatser, Bird and Ryan Bowman finished second in a school record 1:29.17. The Eagles' 400 freestyle relay team of Todd Wallace, Robert Sebura, Bird and Bowman finished second with a school record 3:18.91.
In the 200 freestyle, Bowman set a school record with a time of 1:45.82, good for a second-place finish.
Jagen Arnold finished ninth, setting a school freshman record with a time of 51:44 in the 100

freestyle.
Yorktown's 200 freestyle relay team finished third but qualified for the state based on its 1:30.06 time, a school record. Relay members were Mark Finch, Kyle Ruth, Andy Clevenger and Charlie Sursa.
Clevenger finished fourth in the 100 butterfly with a school record 54.87.
"We set a lot of personal records on Thursday in the preliminaries, and we turned around [Saturday] and did better," Yorktown coach Jay Ettl said.
Ettl was particularly pleased with the state-qualifying relay team. Thursday was the first time each member had bettered the 23-second mark, and the team improved Saturday.
Burris's Ritchie Caudill was second in the 100 breaststroke and third in the 200 IM.
Central's top finisher was Evan White, who had two thirds.
Brannock is hopeful that Bowman will be added to the list of state qualifiers in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly, where he finished third in 53.96.
Yorktown's Brady Edwards finished third in diving with 327.6 points and qualified for Tuesday's Oak Hill regional.
Jay County
Host Jay County finished second in its sectional. Norwell won with 296 points, and the Patriots were second with 195. Blackford was eighth with 45 points.
Freshman Derek Arnold had the highest individual placing for the Patriots. He finished second in the 100 breaststroke. Freshman Kyle Weaver was third in the 200 IM, and freshman Caleb Dye was third in diving with 3:55.20 points. Dye qualified for Tuesday's diving regional at Oak Hill.
Two of Jay County's relay teams finished second.

12 ECI swimmers set for state meet

BOYS' SWIMMING: The preliminaries are set for 6 p.m. today at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

By TOM ST. MYER
The Star Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Three East Central Indiana swimmers will be doing as expected today, competing in the state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium. Two New Castle swimmers made sure they had company.

Yorktown's Andy Clevenger and Delta's Patrick Bird and Ryan Bowman are making return trips to the state finals, which begin with preliminaries tonight at 6. New Castle's Aaron Ray and Jared Crabtree will make their individual state final debuts. They swam on a relay team 2 years ago at the state finals.

Bird and Bowman are both returning to the state finals after a year's absence. Bird and Bowman each made the state finals as freshmen then had to sit out their sophomore seasons, because they transferred to Delta.

Bird is the highest seeded individual in an event from East Central Indiana. He is seeded 10th in the 100 freestyle. Bird also is seeded 28th in the 50 freestyle. Bird swam in the 100 at the state finals his freshman season. Bowman is seeded 15th in the 200 freestyle and 17th in the 100 butterfly. Bowman placed eighth in the 200 freestyle and fourth in the 500 freestyle at the state finals as a freshman.

Bird and Bowman also will



CLEVENGER



FINCH



RUTH



SURSA



BIRD



BOWMAN



PENROD



CONATSER



WALLACE



SEBURA



RAY



CRABTREE

swim in two relay events for Delta. They will team up with Ben Penrod and Eric Conatser in the 200 freestyle relay. The Eagles' relay team is seeded ninth. Delta's 400 freestyle relay team with Bird, Bowman, Todd Wallace and Robert Sebura is seeded 16th.

Bird and Bowman's sectional times might be deceiving. Delta coach Tim Brannock expects their individual times to improve and for their faster times to improve the relay teams.

"We had intentionally not rested and shaved them for the sectional figuring they would swim faster at state," Brannock said. "We certainly hope to improve our times."

Ray, like Bird and Bowman, will swim in two events. He qualified in the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Ray is a longshot in both events. He is seeded 28th in the

200 and 31st in the 100.

Ray's teammate Crabtree will swim the 100 backstroke. Crabtree has a better chance than Ray of placing in the top eight based on seeding. He is seeded 15th in the backstroke. Crabtree won the event at the Richmond sectional with a time of 54.70.

New Castle coach Jennifer Kelsik is optimistic both of her swimmers can place.

"We think Aaron can go high 47 [seconds]," she said. "With another week of rest, I think he could go that, and that could get him in the top 16. If [Jared] drops another second, he could stay in top 16, and if he drops 2 seconds he could place top eight. They have a chance just like everyone else does."

Andy Clevenger, The Star Press boys' swimmer of the year last

season, returns to the state finals in the 100 butterfly. He is seeded 27th. He placed fifth in his heat in the fly at last year's state final.

"I think Andy's ready for it," Yorktown coach Jay Ettl said. "He went a .54 at sectional and that was his fastest. I personally think he's got a 52 or 53 in him. We're pretty focused right now. I think he has a chance to move up."

Clevenger also will swim with Mark Finch, Kyle Ruth and Charlie Sursa in the 200 freestyle relay. The Yorktown relay team is seeded 15th. Ettl thinks the positioning of the relay team will help improve their time.

"We broke the state cup times by a second," Ettl said. "We have Delta on one side of us and Richmond on the other, and if they can't make us swim faster I don't know who can."

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Delta swimmer qualifies for finals in 100 butterfly

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — Delta's Ryan Bowman, who was seeded 17th in the 100-yard butterfly entering the preliminaries of the IHSAA state finals, had the eighth-fastest time in the event Friday to qualify for today's finals at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Bowman, who swam the 100 butterfly in 52.62 seconds, was the only East Central Indiana swimmer to advance to the finals. Bowman also advanced to the consolation round in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:43.35, good for 10th-best time. Teammate Patrick Bird advanced to the consolations in the 50 freestyle (21.81) and 100 freestyle (47.56). He was 11th-fastest in both events.

Bird and Bowman were part of two Delta relay teams that reached the consolations. The 200 freestyle relay team, with Ben Penrod and Eric Conatser joining Bird and Bowman, had a time of 1:28.94 and qualified 11th. The 400 freestyle team of Bird, Bowman, Todd Wallace and Robert Sebura had a time of 3:17.14 and also qualified 11th.

"All of the times were school records," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "That's what we were hoping for. We still feel there's a little bit left for [today]."

Yorktown's 200 freestyle relay team of Andy Clevenger, Mark Finch, Kyle Ruth and Charlie Sursa had the 18th-fastest time and will be an alternate for the consolations. The Tigers' relay team finished with a time of 1:30.55.

New Castle's Aaron Ray and Jared Crabtree, didn't make the consolations or finals in their individual events nor did Yorktown's Clevenger in the 100 butterfly.



RYAN BOWMAN: Delta swimmer improved from the 17th seed to the eighth.

Bowman takes eighth in swim state finals

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — Delta's Ryan Bowman finished eighth in the 100-yard butterfly at the IHSAA state finals Saturday at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Bowman swam the 100 butterfly in 52.88 seconds. He was the only East Central Indiana swimmer to compete in the championship round. Bowman also competed in the consolation round, swimming the 200 freestyle in 1:42.87, good for ninth.

He was also part of Delta's



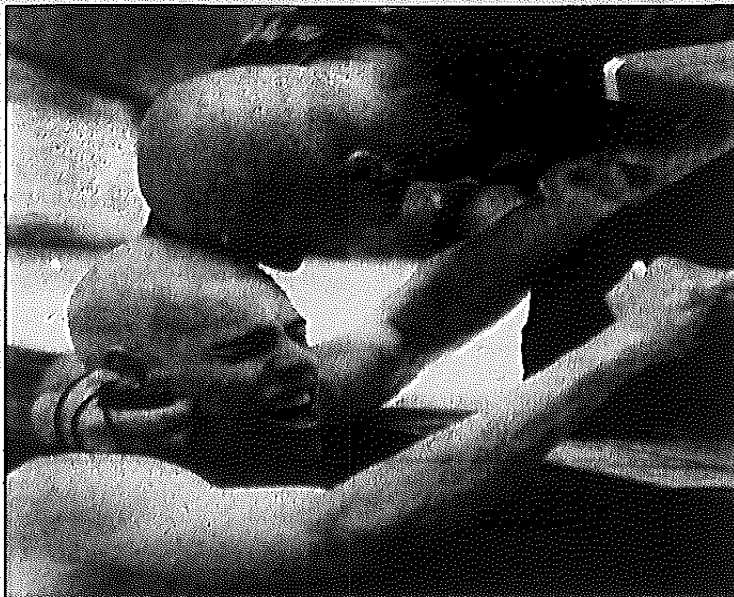
RYAN BOWMAN: Delta swimmer was eighth and ninth in his two events at the state finals.

14th-place 200 free relay and 12th-place 400 freestyle relay which finished in 1:29.69 and 3:17.8, respectively. Joining Bowman on the 200 free relay team were Patrick Bird, Ben Penrod and Eric Conatser. The 400 free relay team was made up of Bowman, Bird, Todd Wallace, and Robert Sebura.

Bird also competed in the consolation round of the 50 free (21.91 seconds) and 100 free (48.27 seconds). He finished 12th in both events.

In the team competition, Delta finished 16th with a score of 45.5. Columbus North won its third straight state championship with 229 points.

"It's tough to swim as many events that [Bowman and Bird] swam in the last 2 days," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "It was an extremely good experience to swim with this level of competition and hold our own."



CHAMPS: Columbus North's Ryan Wochomurka is congratulated by coach Jim Sheridan after winning the 200-yard freestyle at the IHSAA state finals Saturday. Columbus North won its third straight team state title. Delta finished 16th.