

## Delta swimmer qualifies for state meet in two events

**GIRLS' SWIMMING:** The Eagles finished second behind No. 5 Hamilton Southeastern.

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

FISHERS, Ind. — Five local girls' swimming teams traveled to a newly formed sectional Saturday at Hamilton Southeastern, but none could challenge the fifth-ranked hosts.

Hamilton Southeastern finished first with 398 points. Delta was second with 241. Muncie Central's 151 points were good for fourth. Delta, Central and the other East Central Indiana schools that competed Saturday at Hamilton Southeastern had participated in the Jay County sectional in past years.

"I was thrilled with a second-place finish (after) moving to a harder sectional," Delta coach Toby Weir said. "I was pleased with the jobs we showed."

Delta was the only ECI team to have swimmers advance to next week's state finals.

The Eagles' Cris Brannock will advance in two events. Brannock won the 100-yard freestyle

and was a part of the winning 200 freestyle relay team. Others on the relay team: Christine Clark, Abbie Smiley and Jordan Thompson.



**CRIS BRANNOCK:** The Delta senior qualified for state in the 100 and 200 freestyles.

Brannock set a Delta record in the 100 freestyle with a time of 55 seconds, and the 200 freestyle relay team set school and pool records with its time of 1:41.83.

"Cris (Brannock) has been one of the main staples of the program," Weir said. "She has helped bring Delta swimming to a higher level in her 4 years here."

Yorktown (#7) was seventh. Muncie South and Cowan finished with 16 and three points, respectively.

"I'm extremely happy about our performance today," Yorktown coach Jay Full said. "We were down after Thursday (preliminaries), but today everyone swam well."

## Jay County advances four to state swim meet

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

PORTLAND — Jay County finished third in its swim sectional Saturday, breaking nine school records in the process.

Abby Arnold is state bound in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races and as a part of the 200 free relay team. Other members of the relay team: The Jay County sophomore advanced to state in three events.



**ABBY ARNOLD:** The Jay County sophomore advanced to state in three events.

"We advanced more to the next level than ever before," Jay County coach Bev Arnold said. "And nine new records — awesome!"

Dawn Ogden qualified for the diving regional at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Kokomo High School.

"Dawn will do well in regional and will more than likely be competing in the state finals, as she did last year," Bev Arnold said.

Jay County's school record time started with the 200 medley relay of Lisa Weaver, Fullenkamp, Abby Arnold and Libby Weaver. They finished in 1:57.19.

The Patriots also set records in the 200 free relay, the individual medley, the breaststroke, the 50 free and diving.

Abby Arnold's time of 24.72 in the 50 free was also a sectional record.

South Adams (276 points) won the sectional. Oak Hill (249) was second, just three points ahead of Jay County. Blackford, the only other East Central Indiana team in the field, scored 65 points to finish seventh.

# Delta, Jay County girls look for best times at state finals

**SWIMMING:** Each school will have five athletes competing in tonight's preliminaries in Indy.

BY TOM ST. MYER  
The Star Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Let's play a game. Guess which East Central Indiana girls' swimmer is being described.

Clue No. 1: This swimmer swam a sprinting event in last year's state finals.

Clue No. 2: She will return tonight to swim a sprinting event at the state finals. Still don't know, huh?

Clue No. 3: She also will swim a relay event for her school at the state finals.

Give up? Come on, you have three chances.

Delta's Cris Brannock and Jordan Thompson and Jay County sophomore Abby Arnold all are applicable to these three clues.

All three of us work tremendously hard," Thompson said. "I think all three of us have that competitive mind frame."

Brannock will swim in three



ARNOLD



OGDEN



FULLENKAMP



JOHNSTON



WEAVER



BRANNOCK



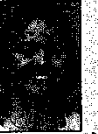
CLARK



KRIMME



SMILEY



THOMPSON

events tonight at the Indiana University Natatorium. The senior will swim the 100 freestyle and will be part of Delta's 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams. Brannock is hoping for a top-16 placing in the 100 free.

"I would like to drop time off my 100 freestyle and definitely go 54 (seconds)," she said. "I'm shooting for top 16."

Brannock is also optimistic about how she and her teammates will perform in the 200 freestyle relay. Brannock is teamed with Thompson, Christine Clark and Abbie Smiley in the event. The Delta relay team set school and pool records with a time of 1:41.83 at the Hamilton Southeastern sectional last weekend. The relay team placed eighth

at the state finals last year.

Brannock thinks they can improve their time this weekend because fatigue won't be a problem. Thompson and Brannock will be the only Delta swimmers competing as individuals.

"My time was a little off," Brannock said. "I was a little tired and everyone had swim events. We'll be really psyched up to drop time and advance to finals."

Thompson placed 16th in the 50 freestyle last year but didn't know whether she would swim the event at state this year until she was notified last Sunday, her birthday. Thompson placed second at sectional, but her time was fast enough to qualify her for the 2nd seed.

"I'm very excited," she said. "I

was the only one to be picked up for the 50 state free. I haven't gone as fast this year as I have last year, but I'm assuming I can go faster than I did last year."

Thompson and Brannock also team up with Clark and Elizabeth Krimme on the Delta 400 relay team. They are seeded 26th. The goal is a lower time rather than place, according to Thompson.

Jay County's Arnold will swim two events as an individual and will swim on a Patriot relay team. Arnold will swim the 50 freestyle, where she will compete against Thompson. The two swam in the Jay County sectional last year. Thompson defeated her in sectional and at the state finals. Arnold placed 18th. Jay County and Delta were scheduled for a

dual meet this season, but it was canceled because of inclement weather.

"I'm a little worried, because I don't want her to come in and go around me," Arnold said. "I wish I could have swim her (during the season, because I think she was a little slower than she is going to be now. But I'm ready. I'm capable of top eight."

Arnold will also compete against Brannock in the 100 freestyle. Her only goal for that event is for a personal-best time.

Arnold, Brannock and Thompson also will compete against each other in the 200 freestyle relay. Arnold will team with Janell Johnston, Libby Weaver and Taylor Fullenkamp. The Patriots' relay team is undefeated this

season.

Jay County also has one more competitor at the state finals. Junior Dawn Ogden will make her third state diving championships appearance. Ogden placed fourth Tuesday at the Kokomo diving regional with a score of 380.30.

Jay County coach Bev Arnold expects Ogden to improve on her regional performance.

"I could tell Dawn was tired (at regional)," Arnold said. "She just wasn't as crisp and clean with her diving as she had been at the sectional. But the important thing is she was one of the top eight divers and will be competing at state. She has a few days to perfect those dives and get some extra rest. I know she will be back on track for state."

## Swimmers eliminated in preliminaries

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — East Central Indiana swimmers were shut out of today's final and consolation rounds of the IHSAA state finals.

Both Delta and Jay County sent individuals and relay teams into Friday's preliminaries. All finished out of the top 16, with the closest call Delta's 200-yard freestyle relay. The team of Christine Clark, Abbie Smiley, Jordan Thompson and Cris Brannock swam in 1:42.14, one one-hundredth of a second out of 16th and a trip to the consolation swim.

"This state meet as a whole is a lot faster than it was last year," Eagle coach Toby Weir said. "The 200 free relay was two-tenths faster [than it was last year] and did not make it."

The 400 free relay of Clark, Elizabeth Krimme, Thompson and Brannock was 24th in 3:48.79.

Thompson and Brannock each held their seeds in individual events. Thompson was 23rd in the 50 free, finishing in 25.16, and Brannock finished 26th in the 100 free, swimming in 55.44.

"We swam OK across the board," Weir said. "We had some minor glitches in our swims. Overall, we swam well."

For Jay County, Abby Arnold was 26th in the 50 free in 25.37, and she was 30th in the 100 free, finishing in 56.59.

The Jay County 200 free relay team was 29th in 1:45.24.

Jay County diver Dawn Ogden will compete today. It is her third appearance in the diving state finals.

# Jay County diver takes 11th in IHSAA finals

STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — Jay County's Dawn Ogden finished 11th Saturday in the IHSAA state diving finals at the Indiana University Natatorium.



**DAWN OGDEN:** Diver improved nine places over last year's effort.

Ogden, a junior, finished with 359.05 points. Western's Kylee Wells, last year's runner-up, won with 447.85.

Last year, Ogden finished 20th in the state representing Muncie South. Her family moved to the Jay County school district.

Carmel won its 14th consecutive team title. The Greyhounds finished with 345 points, 113 points ahead of second-place North Central.

Ogden's finish gave Jay County six points, tying the Patriots for 42nd place.

Ogden is the third Jay County diver to score at the state meet. Foreign-exchange student Kathy McBride was fourth in 1976, and Mandy Skiver was 16th in 1989.

Friday, February 2, 2001

# Eagles send five to finals

By ROSS PRIEST  
The Star Press

FISHERS — Save it for Saturday and shave it on Saturday.

It wasn't exactly Jordan Thompson's battle cry, but the Delta senior decided to skip the Bic.

Thompson swam a preliminary best 24.96 in the 50-yard freestyle without the swimmer's usual pre-game routine and was one of five different individual Delta swimmers to advance to Saturday's Hamilton Southeastern sectional finals.

Eight East-Central Indiana swimmers will be represented in the final heats and an additional 13 individuals qualified for the consolation heat.

"We had a couple 13s that we wish could have slipped in the top 12," Delta coach Toby Weir said.

Thompson, along with Abbie Smiley, will swim against

Hamilton Southeastern's Katie Miles in the 50 finals.

"Katie Miles is awesome in the 50," Thompson said. "I love to swim next to her; she brings out the best in me."

All three Delta relays advanced to the finals, including the Eagles' 400 relay which finished with the second-best time (4:00.09) in the prelims.

The Eagles stayed in contention for the second-place prize by placing seven swimmers in the finals. Host Southeastern, the favorite to win the sectional, qualified 21 in the nine individual events.

In the first heat of the 100 free, Christine Clark of Delta needed a boost in the final 3 meters and edged Anderson Highland's Bryni Novak at the wall by five-hundredths of a second. Her season-best finish of 58.15 in the heat qualified the senior for the sixth and final spot in the finals.

"I knew it was neck and neck,"

said Clark, who finished fourth in the 100 finals last year. "I wasn't going to let [Novak] beat me." I was disappointed with my 50 time, so I had to make up for it.

Anna Spencer in the 100 backstroke and Arrah Fisher in the 500 freestyle will also represent Delta in the finals.

Central senior Lauren Staggs advanced to the final heat in both the 500 freestyle and 300 butterfly for the Bearcats' only individual advancement. Central qualified in all three relays.

A pair of sophomores reached the finals for Yorktown, as Suzy Boyce and Allison Mitchell swam personal bests in their events.

Mitchell trimmed almost 2 seconds off her previous best in the 100 backstroke and took fifth. Boyce's time of 2:26.05 in the 200 IM was fifth.

"We've had a mixed bag," Agnew said. "Everybody who we thought would reach the finals did."



Kurt Hosteller/The Star Press

**DISAPPOINTMENT:** Delta's Jordan Thomas finished second in the 50 freestyle, but did advance to the state with her time.

## Delta advances swimmer, relay team

THE STAR-PRESS STAFF REPORT

FISHERS, Ind. — Delta couldn't muster a repeat performance from last season's girls' swimming sectional, but Jordan Thompson helped the Eagles return to the state finals.

Thompson finished second in the 50-yard freestyle and automatically advanced to the finals with her school-record finish of 24.99.

The senior finished .006 of a second under the state qualifying time.

Jordan's split of 24.99 erased Southeastern's lead for good, and

the anchor, Anne Spencer, touched the wall for the first-place finish in 1:44.14.

Tisha Clevenger advanced to Tuesday's diving regional at Hamilton Southeastern after she posted a 351.45 for fourth-place.

### Jay County sectional

PORTLAND — Jay County Junior Abby Arnold will return to the state finals in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle events.

Dawn Ogden advanced to Tuesday's diving regional and will be joined by teammate Sarah Miller, who finished third with 348.75.

## Girls' swimming Hamilton Southeastern sectional

Hamilton Southeastern 408, Delta 205, Highland 184, Pendleton Heights 179, Anderson 158, Central 88, Yorktown 65, Elwood 32, Southside 31

All Hamilton Southeastern  
Local finishers

(\* - school record)

200 medley relay — 5 Delta (Caroline Risher, Arrah Fisher, Elizabeth Raggio, Nicole Chickmore) 2:06.60, 6 Central (Lisa Almarout, Tori Hyman, Mary Eckridge, Britany Young), 2:10.62, 7 South (Malissa Green, Amanda Crow, Leah Lopez, Jennifer McKibbin) 2:15.21, 9 Yorktown (Katherine Cole, Stephanie Hebert, Candice Runtan, Scarlet Wisener) 2:19.83, 200 freestyle — 8 Anne Spencer, 2:09.15, 200 IM — 6 Susy Boyce (Yor) 2:26.65, 7 Raggio (Del) 2:25.87, 8 Nicole Chickmore (Del) 2:28.09, 9 Allison Mitchell (Yor) 2:29.74, 50 freestyle — 2 Jordan Thompson (Del) 24.89, 5 Abbie Smiley (Del) 26.17, 8 Christine Clark (Del) 26.85, 11 Hyman (Cen) 27.72, 12 Shockey (Cen) 27.95, Diver — 4 Tisha Clevenger 351.45, 11 Baalkey (Cen) 270.40, 12 Christine Gryce (Cen) 247.70, 100 butterfly — 3 Smiley (Del) 1:03.71, 6 Staggs (Cen) 1:07.42, 7 Chickmore (Del) 1:06.14, 12 Karl Wisener (Yor) 1:14.74, 100 freestyle — 2 Thompson (Del) 55.85, 5 Clark (Del) 59.08, 10 Abby Thomas (Cen) 1:01.75, 500 freestyle — 4 Staggs (Cen) 5:46.56, 5 Fisher (Del) 5:47.54, 6 Raggio (Del) 5:49.83, 12 Emily Coers (Cen) 6:01.67, 200 freestyle relay — 1 Delta (Christine Clark, Abbie Smiley, Jordan Thompson, Anne Spencer) 1:43.97, 5 Central (Caroline Shockey, Hyman, Thomas, Staggs) 1:51.65, 7 Yorktown (Susy Boyce, Mitchell, K Wisener, Jessica Metzner) 1:54.57, 9 South (Green, Crow, Lopez, McKibbin) 2:03.12, 100 backstroke — 6 Spencer (Del) 1:16.40, 12 Richter (Del) 1:12.72, 100 breaststroke — 5 Mitchell (Yor) 1:15.03, 9 Boyce (Yor) 1:14.53, 9 Fisher (Del) 1:15.11, 11 Hyman (Cen) 1:17.53, 12 Crow (South) 1:19.58, 400 freestyle relay — 2 Delta (Clark, Spencer, Thompson, Smiley) 3:53.99, 6 Central (Shockey, Flatter, Thomas, Staggs) 4:08.66, 7 Yorktown (Metzner, K Wisener, Mitchell, Boyce) 4:16.59, 9 South (McKibbin, Britany Hale, Jessica Smith, Delores Williams) 5:35.00.

### Eagles have no state qualifiers

Continued from Page 1C

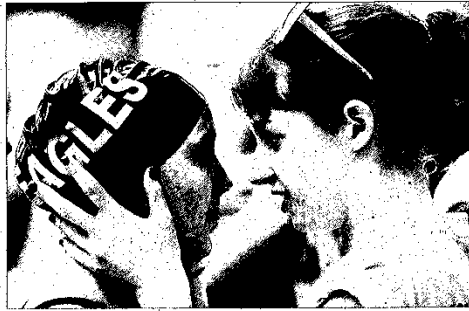
The Eagles failed to qualify anyone for state but defeated Anderson with an overall team effort that displayed the Eagles' depth. Anderson had two individual winners qualify for state and another swimmer qualify for state by breaking the state standard in the 200 freestyle. Delta's best individual finishes were third by Jillian Smith (50 freestyle) and 100 backstroke) and Tisha Cleveland (400 freestyle). The 200 freestyle relay team — Smith, Jenny Sabura, Elizabeth Nagget and Courtney Hestep — placed second.

The individual efforts by the Indians weren't enough, however. "We won with a total team effort," Hestep said. "We needed everybody to come together, and there it was just a question of whether with our young team if they could all hold it together in a big meet like this. It was a new experience for a lot of the girls. We started the meet on paper after Thursday night, and if everything went to the weeds, they would have had us by the points. We needed every swimmer from the girls today."

Anderson led 7-21 after the first four events, in diving, Delta's Tisha Cleveland (third place), Katie Condit (third place) and Brittany Cleason (12th place) and the Eagles on top 46-40.

"We knew after the first couple of events that they would be ahead and that we would come back to get them in the closing," Hestep said. "After that, we knew they would get back ahead again. We just couldn't let the girls get down, because we had a couple of events late in the meet that we knew we would outscore them by."

Anderson pushed the margin to 178-146 after the 200 freestyle relay, but the Eagles used their dominance in the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke to keep the momentum of the meet. The highlight in that run was Lacey



COMFORT: Delta swimmer Lesly Wyher (right) consoles Jenny Sabura following her last-place finish in the 100 yard breaststroke during the girls' swim sectional Saturday at Hamilton Southeastern High School.

Hendricks' Delta freshman record swim in the 100 breaststroke consolation final for seventh place.

With three swimmers in each coral, Delta outswam the lead ones 42-4 to take a 104-150 lead into the final event of the day. That meant that if Anderson didn't win the 400 freestyle relay, Delta needed just a fifth 100 or better to place second overall.

Yorktown placed sixth behind Davidson Heights and Anderson Highland.

The Tigers were pleased with their finish, highlighted by Katie Mitsch's victory in the 100 freestyle. Delta's Tisha Cleveland qualified for Tuesday's Hamilton Southeastern District Regional with a third-place sectional finish.

"We had some outstanding swimmers overall," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "Both the third-place, 200 and 400 freestyle relay went along, and beyond what was expected, and Julia

Boyer had a great swim in the 100 freestyle. Center's last individual finish was an eighth-place consolation final.

Ally Thomas in the 100 freestyle. Concord Robert Sullivan at 100 freestyle was a consolation final.

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### Tiger surprises herself in victory

By ROBERT SULLIVAN  
The Star Press

FISHERS — Entering the finals of the Hamilton Southeastern girls' swim sectional Saturday, Yorktown freshman Katie Mitsch was confident she could go faster than her 6th-place preliminary time in the 100 freestyle.

She wasn't confident that she would win, and she was as shocked as anyone when she looked up to see her winning time on the board after touching the wall, 15 seconds ahead of Anderson's Stephanie Cleason.

"I was very surprised," said Mitsch, who earlier this season made the decision to swim the 100 freestyle after competing as a distance swimmer in age-group competition. "I was just trying to stay in my zone. I knew I had to win to have a chance to get to state."

Mitsch, who earlier in the day placed fourth in the 200 freestyle, was the only East Central Indiana swimmer at the Southeastern Sectional to automatically qualify for state. Delta's Tisha Cleveland qualified for Tuesday's Hamilton Southeastern District Regional with a third-place sectional finish.

Today, times will be submitted from other sectional sites to determine the remainder of a state final swimming field.

Mitsch knew her time was going to be a fast one as the race unfolded.

She made a fast start and he solid turns to propel her into 6th lead mix, and as she kicked to the wall, she made a fast-grip effort to save a few ticks of time.

"My start was crisp, and I try to make sure I get a good push-off every turn," Mitsch said. "I know it was really close, so I just try to finish out with a good touch of the wall. I'm always a little crisp of touch, but I really thought it was a very good race as I'm swimming."

The result slightly surprised Yorktown coach Jay Agnew, but he knew Mitsch was capable.

"We are absolutely thrilled we got a win, but this definitely isn't something that just happened," Agnew said. "She has been working hard for a long time to get to this point. Now we're hoping that we can go to state and drop some more time."

Concord Robert Sullivan at 100 freestyle was a consolation final or 213-5818.

# never pay long distance

## Delta swimmer sets school mark at state

**STATE FINALS:** Jordan Thompson finished in 12th place in the 50 freestyle; Jay County's Dawn Ogden finished in 24th place in the diving competition.

THE STAR PRESS STAFF REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — After missing Saturday's state swimming events last season, Jordan Thompson made her long-awaited return to the Indiana University Natatorium one for the record books.

"It was probably my best race ever," Thompson said.

Thompson placed 12th in the consolation finals with a time of 24.86, improving her own school record by .03.

"My whole goal was to swim on Saturday," she said. "After I got sixth in my heat on Friday night, I was a little worried, but I squeezed in there."

Thompson's lifetime best capped a remarkable season for the senior.

"It looked like she was going to win the consolation coming home [in the final stretch]," Delta coach Toby Weir said. "She really went after it. That was the best turn she's had in 2 years."

Chesterton's Jenni Anderson touched the wall first in the championship with a 23.4.

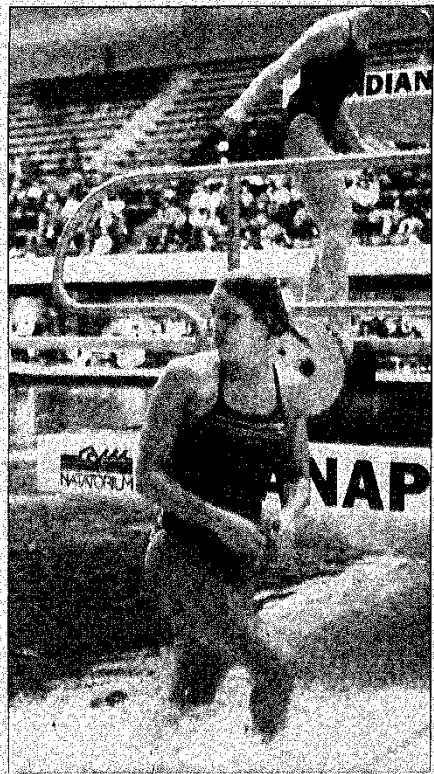
Jay County's Dawn Ogden finished her storied high school diving career in the state finals Saturday.

The Ball State bound diver finished 24th overall with a 150.75 on her first five dives.

Sarah Conso of North Central captured the first place medal with a score of 466.10.



THOMPSON



Dawn Ogden glances over her shoulder to see her scores after a dive Saturday during the state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

### Girls' swimming Hamilton SE Sectional

Hamilton Southeastern 404, Delta 206, Anderson 206, Pendleton Heights 150, Anderson Highland 148, Yorktown 122, Central 65, Elwood 30, Southside 26

#### All Fishers Championship Results Winners and local finishers

200 medley relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:50.93; 2. Delta (Smith, Seburu, Raggo, Heban), 1:57.27; 6. Central (Tucker, Hyman, Coers, Thomas), 2:08.18; 200 freestyle — 1. Allfrey (HSE), 1:53.98; 4. Mitsch (Y), 2:01.28; 200 IM — 1. Elpers (A), 2:16.56; 5. Raggo (D), 2:24.32; 50 freestyle — 1. Otto (HSE), 24.26; 3. Smith (D), 26.03; Diving — 1. Reburn (HSE), 482.20; 3. Clevenger (D), 343.00; 9. Condit (D), 258.80; 12. Gleason (D), 216.40; 100 butterfly — 1. Mitsch (Y), 1:02.68; 100 freestyle — 1. Allfrey (HSE), 53.63; 6. Heban (D), 58.98; 500 freestyle — 1. Shearer (A), 5:13.07; 200 freestyle relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:41.70; 3. Yorktown (J. Boyca, S. Boyca, Mitchell, Mitsch), 1:45.25; 4. Delta (Seburu, Bumbalough, Crickmore, Fisher), 1:49.20; 6. Central (Hyman, Cairns, Tucker, Thomas), 1:53.92; 100 backstroke — 1. Otto (HSE), 1:00.46; 3. Smith (D), 1:01.7; 6. Teagle (D), 1:05.71; 100 breaststroke — 1. Atherton (HSE), 1:09.24; 6. Seburu (D), 1:13.92; 400 freestyle relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 3:39.25; 3. Yorktown (J. Boyca, S. Boyca, Mitchell, Mitsch), 3:53.44; 5. Delta (Heban, Crickmore, Smith, Raggo), 3:53.91

#### Consolation results

##### Local finishers

200 medley relay — 7. Yorktown (Cole, Herbert, Clevenger, Metzner), 2:10.03; 9. Southside (Hale, Craw, McKibben, Koons), 2:25.25; 200 freestyle — 6. Crickmore (D), 2:10.47; 10. Naltzger (D), 2:14.10; 12. Tucker (C), 2:16.97; 200 IM — 7. Seburu (D), 2:27.15; 8. Mitchell (Y), 2:29.11; 9. Teagle (D), 2:31.08; 12. Coers (C), 2:35.04; 50 freestyle — 7. J. Boyca (Y), 26.68; 9. Heban (D), 27.17; 10. Hyman (C), 27.33; 11. Thomas (C), 27.55; 100 butterfly — 7. Crickmore (D), 1:06.19; 8. S. Boyca (Y), 1:06.87; 100 freestyle — 7. J. Boyca (Y), 57.88; 8. Thomas (C), 1:00.28; 9. Bumbalough (D), 1:00.96; 11. Richter (D), 1:01.16; 500 freestyle — 7. Raggo (D), 5:47.90; 8. Fisher (D), 5:51.73; 11. Naltzger (D), 5:58.03; 12. Coers (C), 6:01.72; 200 freestyle relay — 8. Southside (Koons, Valenti, Crawford, Hale), 2:05.13; 100 backstroke — 11. Richter (D), 1:10.96; 12. Tucker (C), 1:12.74; 100 breaststroke — 7. Ringespach (D), 1:13.40; 8. S. Boyca (Y), 1:14.56; 9. Mitchell (Y), 1:16.64; 10. Fisher (D), 1:15.84; 12. Hyman (C), 1:18.42; 400 freestyle relay — 7. Central (Ellis, Eckrich, Cairns, Coers), 4:20.48; 9. Southside (Valenti, Kemezy, Smith, Bibray), 5:14.91



Kurt Hostetler/The Star Press

**SWIFT STROKES:** Yorktown's Katie Mitsch swims the 100-yard butterfly during swimming sectionals Saturday at Hamilton Southeastern High School. Mitsch won the event with a time of 1:02.68.

## Delta takes second at sectional

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**  
The Star Press

**FISHERS** — With host Hamilton Southeastern running away from the field in the girls' swimming sectional, the biggest battle was for second place.

And even though the Delta Eagles were relegated to fighting for the runner-up spot, coach Tim Brannock said his team felt it gained a

More results on Page 8C

victory by edging Anderson 208-206 for the second spot. Yorktown was sixth, Central seventh and Southside ninth in the final team standings.

"Our victory was that we beat everybody else," Brannock said. "We talked the other day, and we told the girls that we don't care about Southeastern. We wanted to beat everybody

else because we knew [Southeastern] couldn't be beat. We especially wanted Anderson — they were the only team to beat us in a dual meet, and this was a little redemption."

Southeastern scored 404 to win the meet, advancing five individuals and all three relay teams to next weekend's state finals.

► See **EAGLES**, Page 8C

## Change of events provides state opportunity



Kurt Hostetler/The Star Press

**WINNER:** Yorktown swimmer Katie Mitsch gets a hug from coach Jay Agnew after finishing first in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:02.68 during the girls' swimming sectionals Saturday at Hamilton Southeastern High School.

**SWIMMING:** Yorktown freshman Katie Mitsch decided earlier this season to swim the 100 butterfly and has qualified for the state.

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**  
The Star Press

**YORKTOWN** — As a distance swimmer, Yorktown freshman Katie Mitsch pieced together quite a portfolio in age-group competition as a youngster in Indianapolis.

Mitsch, who moved to Yorktown 2 years ago from the north side of Indianapolis, finished second in the state in the 500 freestyle, and she was a state qualifier in the 200 freestyle.

"But facing the prospects of a sectional meeting with Anderson's Allison Shearer — a longtime age-group rival — in the 500 freestyle, made Mitsch and Yorktown coach Jay Agnew consider other events that might provide a better avenue for success at the high school level.

Enter Mitsch's third event as a young swimmer — the 100 butterfly.

"I hadn't felt comfortable swimming the 500, and I was getting a good feeling about my fly," said Mitsch, who will swim in the first preliminary of the 100 butterfly in tonight's state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI-Indianapolis.

"I think you have to go with what you're more comfortable with," she said.

"And for the first time, I really started to feel comfortable with my fly, and not so comfortable with the 500 free."

After a lot of thought and some discussion with Agnew, Mitsch began concentrating on the 100 butterfly near the mid-point of the season.

She swam a 1:03 in her first competitive effort, and both coach and swimmer knew immediately that the freshman had a chance to make some waves in the event.

"She's always been a good flyer, but it was always her No. 3 event behind the 500 and 200 free," Agnew said. "The age-group program is really about developing all the strokes equally, and then Katie got quite a bit

### Girls' swimming state finals

**Time:** Swimming preliminaries, 6 p.m. today; Diving preliminaries and semifinals, 9 a.m. Saturday; Consolation and finals in all events, 1 p.m. Saturday.

**Where:** Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI-Indianapolis.

**Cost:** Season ticket, \$10 (good for all sessions); Single-session ticket, \$7.

#### ECI participants

Name	School	Event
Abby Arnold	Jay County	50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 100 freestyle relay, Amanda Breen, New Castle, 200 individual medley, 100 breaststroke, Tisha Clevenger, Delta, diving; Megan Franks, Jay County, 200 freestyle relay, Janelle Johnston, Jay County, 200 freestyle relay; Rachel McKee, Jay County, 200 freestyle relay; Sarah Miller, Jay County, diving; Katie Mitsch, Yorktown, 100 butterfly.

stronger over the past year. She used to be a fitness swimmer, and that paid off in the distance events. Now she is a much more power-

ful swimmer in the water, and that makes a big difference in the fly."

► See **CHANGE**, Page 3C

## ECI state qualifiers



**ABBY  
ARNOLD**  
Jay County



**MEGAN  
FRANKS**  
Jay County



**JANELLE  
JOHNSTON**  
Jay County



**RACHEL  
MCKEE**  
Jay County



**SARAH  
MILLER**  
Jay County



**AMANDA  
BREEN**  
New Castle



**TISHA  
CLEVINGER**  
Delta



**KATIE  
MITSCH**  
Yorktown

## Change created a challenge

Continued from Page 1C

The switch to the fly didn't guarantee Mitsch her spot in the state finals, however.

After making the change, she began focusing more of her practice efforts on the butterfly — swimming additional butterfly yardage in Saturday practices — while continuing to swim the 200 freestyle in competition.

She entered the sectional as the No. 5 seed in the butterfly and swam the fifth-fastest time in the preliminaries to qualify for the finals.

In the finals, she blistered her previous best time in the event with a 1:02.68. The time was more than 1.5 seconds faster than her swim in the preliminaries just 2 days earlier.

"When I won, I was really shocked — I was still shocked all

weekend," Mitsch said. "I don't think I'll realize everything until I'm behind the starting block [tonight]. I'll know then what it is all about."

Her victory came as somewhat of a surprise after the fifth-place preliminary effort, but it was exactly the reason why Mitsch and Agnew had made the change in events earlier in the season.

"She is still a very good 500 freestyler, and we'll never know how fast she would've gone now — I think a 5:19 was possible, and that probably would've made it [to state]," Agnew said, citing that Shearer swam a 5:13.07 in winning the sectional title. "It was not an easy decision for her or for me. We looked at the sectional times in both events, and we knew she wasn't that far out of it in the fly — the times in the 500 were really fast. Our goal is always to get to the highest level of competition, and we felt like the fly gave her the best chance."

■ Contact Robert Sullivan at [rsullivan@thestarpress.com](mailto:rsullivan@thestarpress.com) or 213-5816.



**KATIE  
MITSCH:**  
The  
Yorktown  
swimmer just  
missed a  
return to  
today's  
consolations.

## Local swimmers fail to advance

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Yorktown's Katie Mitsch missed advancing to today's consolation finals of the 100 butterfly by just .3 second on Friday, at the Indiana University Natatorium on the IUPUI Indianapolis campus.

Mitsch finished 18th, the best finish by any East Central Indiana swimmer in the meet, and she was the only swimmer to improve on her seed time. Mitsch swam the 100 butterfly in 1:00.60, 2.08 seconds faster than her personal best time entering the event.

Other ECI individuals finished as follows: New Castle's Amanda Breen, 27th in the 200 individual medley and 25th in the 100 breaststroke; Jay County's Abby Arnold, 31st in the 50 freestyle and 29th in the 100 freestyle; and Jay County's Megan Franks, Janelle Johnston, Rachel McKee and Arnold, 32nd in the 200 freestyle relay.

Delta's Tisha Clevenger and Jay County's Sarah Miller will participate in the diving preliminaries at 9 a.m. today. Event finals and consolation races begin at 1 p.m.

*The Star Press*

# Swimmers' state hopes begin today

By ROBERT SULLIVAN  
rsullivan@thestarpress.com

**FISHERS** — The Yorktown girls' swim team recently completed an undefeated regular season and enters tonight's Hamilton Southeastern Sectional ranked No. 11 in the state poll.

But the Tigers, along with the other teams in the highly competitive field, are still trying to catch fifth-ranked Hamilton Southeastern.

"We're not favorites," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "Not to be negative, but it's a big mountain ahead of us. We're aware of Southeastern's incredible speed, so we're not walking in there blind. But we have zero room for error."

Swimmers from seven East Central Indiana schools will compete tonight and Saturday at three sites in an effort to secure a spot at the state meet.

The top eight swimmers in each event in tonight's preliminaries will qualify for Saturday's sectional finals. The next eight qualify for the consolation finals. All swimmers who compete Saturday will score team points, but only sectional winners and swim-

## Sectionals start tonight

East Central Indiana girls' swim teams will compete at the following sectional sites:

- Hamilton Southeastern: Delta, Central, Southside, Yorktown.
- Comersville: New Castle.
- Jay County: Blackford, Jay County.

mers meeting a state qualifying standard are guaranteed a spot in the state finals.

"We have always talked about Thursday being the most important night," Brannock said. "If you don't swim well [tonight] you don't swim Saturday."

At Hamilton Southeastern, qualifying for state has always been a daunting task, with the Royals claiming several spots and strong individuals from the other schools making it one of the fastest sectionals in the state.

This year, three schools — New Palestine, Greenfield-Central and Mount Vernon — have been added to the field. Their presence will make tonight's preliminaries and Saturday's finals even more competitive.

"The times this year are significantly faster than they have been," Brannock said. "Adding

## Top seeds

The top seeded ECI individuals and relay teams in tonight's Hamilton Southeastern Sectional:

- No. 1  
500 freestyle — Maggie Bird, Yorktown
- 100 butterfly — Jill Lockhart, Yorktown
- No. 2  
100 backstroke — Jillian Smith, Delta
- 200 freestyle — Lockhart, Yorktown
- 200 medley relay — Yorktown
- 200 freestyle relay — Yorktown
- 400 freestyle relay — Yorktown
- No. 3  
200 freestyle — Bird, Yorktown

three schools just made things that much tougher for everyone. That and some really strong freshmen classes around the sectional have made this the most competitive sectional I can remember."

"I wouldn't have it any other way," Agnew said. "We know we can compete, and we want to compete against the best. For us, this is just a start for the state finals."

Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

# Tigers qualify 13 for swim sectional finals

THE STAR PRESS

**FISHERS** — Yorktown qualified 13 swimmers and three relay teams for Saturday's Hamilton Southeastern Sectional championship finals.

Jill Lockhart emerged from Thursday's preliminaries with the best time in the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Teammate Maggie Bird swam the best time in the 500 freestyle and was third in the 200 freestyle. Ashley Bevans was second in the 200 IM and fourth in the 200 freestyle for the Tigers, who will have eight additional swimmers competing in the sectional consolation finals on Saturday.

Delta placed three swimmers and all three relay teams in the championship finals, led by Jillian Smith. Smith qualified second in the 100 backstroke and was fifth in the 200 IM. Courtney Heban was the only other Eagle to qualify for the championship final, finishing sixth in the 50 freestyle. Delta had 14 swimmers advance to the consolation finals.

"Hamilton Southeastern is a heavy favorite, and they swim like it tonight," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "Yorktown put itself in a good position for second, and we are in a nice little battle with Anderson and Pendleton Heights for third."

"We knew it was going to be tougher than ever, and it was. The girls did a nice job of rising to the occasion." Central qualified four girls and all three relay teams for the consolation finals. Southside's three relay teams will compete in Saturday's consolation finals.



YORKTOWN'S MAGGIE BIRD swims the 500 yard freestyle on her way to a sectional record 5:12.26 Thursday night at Hamilton Southeastern.

## Two Patriots in finals

**PORTLAND** — Two Jay County individuals and a relay team will swim in Saturday's Jay County Sectional championship finals.

Ashley Imel finished sixth in the 500 free to reach the finals, and teammate Rachel McKee was fifth in the 100 free.

McKee, Julie Sours, Ashley Smith and Megan Franks teamed to finish fifth in the 200 medley relay.

## Hamilton SE Sectional

**All Fishers**  
100 butterfly — 1. Lockhart (1): 1:28.79; 2. Smith (1): 1:30.12; 3. Heban (1): 1:31.45; 4. Bird (1): 1:32.78; 5. Smith (1): 1:34.11; 6. Smith (1): 1:35.44; 7. Smith (1): 1:36.77; 8. Smith (1): 1:38.10; 9. Smith (1): 1:39.43; 10. Smith (1): 1:40.76; 11. Smith (1): 1:42.09; 12. Smith (1): 1:43.42; 13. Smith (1): 1:44.75; 14. Smith (1): 1:46.08; 15. Smith (1): 1:47.41; 16. Smith (1): 1:48.74; 17. Smith (1): 1:50.07; 18. Smith (1): 1:51.40; 19. Smith (1): 1:52.73; 20. Smith (1): 1:54.06; 21. Smith (1): 1:55.39; 22. Smith (1): 1:56.72; 23. Smith (1): 1:58.05; 24. Smith (1): 1:59.38; 25. Smith (1): 2:00.71; 26. Smith (1): 2:02.04; 27. Smith (1): 2:03.37; 28. Smith (1): 2:04.70; 29. Smith (1): 2:06.03; 30. Smith (1): 2:07.36; 31. Smith (1): 2:08.69; 32. Smith (1): 2:10.02; 33. Smith (1): 2:11.35; 34. Smith (1): 2:12.68; 35. Smith (1): 2:14.01; 36. Smith (1): 2:15.34; 37. Smith (1): 2:16.67; 38. Smith (1): 2:18.00; 39. Smith (1): 2:19.33; 40. Smith (1): 2:20.66; 41. Smith (1): 2:21.99; 42. 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# Tigers state success



ADAM CAIRNS / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN FRESHMAN JILL LOCKHART competes in the 100-yard butterfly at the state swim finals held at the IUPUI Natatorium. Lockhart finished second in the event to South Dearborn's Katie Robinson with a time of :57.11.

## Lockhart swam to two runner-up finishes

By ROBERT SULLIVAN  
rsullivan@thestarpress.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown's talented young swimmers served notice to the state that the days of struggling to field a team are well behind the Tigers.

Just two seasons removed from a sub-500 campaign and a roster that included only nine swimmers, Yorktown capped an undefeated regular season with an eighth-place finish in Saturday's IHSAA state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Carmel edged North Central 277-259 to win the team title. Munster, Columbus North, Hamilton Southeastern, Lake Central and Fort Wayne Snider rounded out the top seven.

"These girls have a funny way of making you a believer... they never cease to amaze me," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "We have a rule that we don't talk about next season until this season is over. Well now that this season is over, I can say we'll be 30 percent better next year. We

have one of the toughest freshmen classes coming in, and we have great leadership from the girls who were here this year. We feel nothing but enthusiasm."

Most of that anticipation is because every swimmer that competed for the Tigers on Saturday is a freshman or sophomore.

Jill Lockhart, the star of the show for the Tigers, scored two runner-up finishes in her first state meet, losing to two seniors. Lockhart scored 34 of the Tigers' 98 team points with her finishes.

In the 200, Lockhart finished second to North Central's Susan Hentschel, who also won the 100 freestyle state championship. Her runner-up effort in the butterfly was overshadowed only by South Dearborn's Katie Robinson, the defending state champion in the event who broke her own state record Saturday to win by 2.47 seconds.

"It feels really good to know that both the girls who beat me are seniors... that means next year I'll have a good chance to

win," Lockhart said. "I pushed out — not slow, but slower — in the 200 and used a sprint in the last 100... I just raced my race."

"In the fly, I knew my start was a little off, so I had to push much harder in my kick, and I was really tired. I couldn't have caught [Robinson] anyway, so I tried not to think about her. I thought I might get third, so second was a little surprise."

Maggie Bird scored a victory in the consolation final of the 500 freestyle to place ninth and was second in the consolation final of the 200 freestyle to place 10th and add 16 more points for the Tigers.

And Yorktown scored points in all three relays, with the 200 free team of Jenna Long, Lockhart, Katie Mitsch and Bird placing sixth, the 400 free team of Bird, Long, Ashley Bevans and Lockhart ninth and the 200 medley team of Kiley Tolbert, Julia Boyce, Mitsch and Bevans 15th to tally 48 points.

► See TIGERS, 3C

## Yorktown freshman in two finals today

INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown freshman Jill Lockhart qualified for the championship finals in two events during Friday's preliminaries of the IHSAA girls' swimming state finals.



Lockhart finished second in the 100-yard butterfly and fourth in the 200 freestyle.

She also joined teammates Jenna Long, Katie Mitsch and Maggie Bird to finish fifth in the 200 free relay for the only other East Central Indiana swimmers to qualify for today's championship finals.

Those qualifying for today's consolation finals were Yorktown's Bird, 10th in the 200 free and 11th in the 500 free; Yorktown's 400 free relay, ninth; New Castle's Amanda Breen, 15th in the 100 breast; and the 200 medley relay teams of Delta and Yorktown, 14th and 16th, respectively.

The Star Press



ADAM CAIRNS / THE STAR PRESS

DELTA'S JILLIAN SMITH leads off in the consolation heat of the 200 medley relay at the IUPUI Natatorium on Saturday. The Eagles' team of Smith, Lacey Ringlespaugh, Courtney Heban and Katie Bryan finished 13th.

## Tigers score points in relays

Continued from 1C

"Coming in, we just wanted to swim the best we could," Bird said. "As a team, we did really well. I think all the excitement of being here got us going."

Delta, New Castle and Jay County were also represented in Saturday's finals.

The Eagles' 200 medley relay team of Jillian Smith, Lacey Ringlespaugh, Courtney Heban and Katie Bryan placed 13th in the 200 medley relay.

New Castle's Amanda Breen finished fifth in the consolation final to place 13th in the 100 breaststroke.

Jay County's Sarah Miller finished 19th in the diving preliminaries, missing a spot in the top

16 and the finals by 3.95 points.

Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

### Girls' swimming

#### IHSAA state meet

Team scores (top 10 and East Central Indiana teams): 1. Carmel 277, 2. Indianapolis North Central 259, 3. Munster 207, 4. Columbus North 199, 5. Hamilton Southeastern 177, 6. Lake Central 170, 7. Fort Wayne Snider 109, 8. Yorktown 98, 9. Chesterton 69, 10. South Dearborn 67, 35. Delta 6, 41: New Castle 4.

**At Indianapolis**  
**100-yard butterfly** — 1. Lockhart (Yorktown), 1:51.35; 2. Robinson (South Dearborn), 1:53.02; 3. Bird (Yorktown), 1:57.11; 4. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 5. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 6. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 7. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 8. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 9. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11; 10. Hentschel (North Central), 1:57.11.

**200-yard butterfly** — 1. Robinson (South Dearborn), 3:44.12; 2. Lockhart (Yorktown), 3:47.07; 3. Bird (Yorktown), 3:50.02; 4. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 5. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 6. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 7. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 8. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 9. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02; 10. Hentschel (North Central), 3:50.02.

**GIRLS' SWIMMING** | Yorktown advanced 17 individuals into Saturday's finals

# Swimmers advance

THE STAR PRESS

Yorktown fared extremely well in the opening round of sectional swimming at Hamilton Southeastern on Thursday.

The Tigers qualified first in four events — Maggie Bird in the 200 and 500 freestyle events, Katie Simmons in the 200 IM, and Jill Lockhart in the 100 butterfly.

"The kids swam really strong tonight," said Yorktown coach Jay Agnew.

► See SWIMMERS, 3B



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS  
**ABOVE: YORKTOWN'S KILEY TOLBERT** swins the 100 backstroke during Thursday's sectional at Hamilton Southeastern. **RIGHT: Lacey Ringlespaugh** (facing) celebrates with teammate Maggie Nafzinger after Ringlespaugh set a school record in the 100 breaststroke.



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

**CENTRAL'S SAMANTHA GOLDEN** competes in the preliminaries of the 500 freestyle on Thursday at Hamilton Southeastern.

## Swimmers now focus on finals

Continued from 1B

"The girls who had to step up and earn a spot in the consolation final really stepped up for us too. We put ourselves in a good position for Saturday, which is what it's all about."

Bird finished with a time of 1:56.72 in the 200 and 5:08.66 in the 500.

Maggie was really just

stretching out into her swim. She is feeling really good right now. She feels really fresh but didn't feel like that was her best effort yet," Agnew said.

Lockhart was under a minute in the 100 butterfly at 57.97, which set a sectional and pool record. Simmons finished at 2:12.36 in the 200 IM.

Overall, Yorktown advanced 17 individuals and all three relay teams into Saturday's finals.

Delta was not as successful. Of all the events, only one swimmer took the top spot — Lacey Ringlespaugh set a school record

with 1:10.18 in the 100 breaststroke.

The Eagles did advance two relay teams — the 200 medley and the 400 free relays finished with the fourth and sixth best times, respectively.

Cowan's Sarah Kowalski advanced to Saturday's finals with a sixth-best time of 2:00.10 in the 200 free. Kowalski was the only swimmer not from Delta or Yorktown to advance to the finals at Hamilton Southeastern.

Delta advanced nine other individuals and one relay team to the consolation finals. Yorktown

will send seven girls to Saturday's consolations.

Central advanced four individuals and three relay teams to the consolation finals while Southside advanced just three relay teams to Saturday's consolations.

In the Jay County Sectional, only one swimmer, Rachel McKee from Jay County, advanced to the championship finals. McKee will compete in the 50 and the 100 freestyle.

Jay County also advanced its 200 and 400 free relay teams to the finals.

# Tigers just miss swimming sectional title

By JOSH HENDRIXSON  
sports@thestarpress.com

FISHERS, Ind. — Yorktown's girls' swim team finished second in the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional for the second consecutive year.

But Saturday, the Tigers kept the host Royals from romping to an easy victory. A year after losing by 145 points, Yorktown lost by just 25 points, 347-322.

The Royals and Tigers made the sectional a two-team race by leaving the rest of the field behind early, with Yorktown scoring 164 more points than third-place Pendleton Heights.

"Hamilton Southeastern is a great team," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "As a coach, I couldn't ask for anymore out of these kids. Everyone on our team swam great."

Maggie Bird, Jill Lockhart and Katie Simmons swam especially well for Yorktown.

Simmons broke the sectional record time in the 200 IM by finishing in 2 minutes, 10.26 seconds.

Lockhart swam the 100 butterfly in 57.87 for a new sectional record.

And Bird set a new sectional mark in the 500 freestyle with a time 5:06.32.

Those three Tigers also teamed up with Ashley Bevans to finish the 400 free relay in 3:35.06 for yet another sectional record.

"There were a lot of sectional and pool records broken today, and it was a great meet," Hamilton Southeastern coach Andy Pederson said. "Every kid on that pool deck will remember this meet today for a long time."

Despite not having its own team, Cowan was well represented by Sarah

Kowalski. She finished third in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:55.24 and was second in the 100 freestyle behind Hamilton Southeastern's Kelly Otto, who holds the sectional record in that event.

Delta just missed third place, finishing two points behind Pendleton Heights. The Eagles got solid efforts from their 200 medley relay team and 400 freestyle relay team. The Eagles finished third in those events behind Yorktown and Southeastern. Jobeth Clevenger and Katie Condit represented the Eagles well in diving by finishing second and fifth, respectively.

Agnew was named sectional coach of the year.

"The coach of the year honor was really nice," Agnew said. "It means a lot, especially around this kind of company."

## State qualifiers

East Central Indiana swimmers who qualified for next week's IHSSA state finals from Saturday's Hamilton Southeastern Sectional (other swimmers might be added today to fill out the 32-girl field in each event):

**200 MEDLEY RELAY:** Yorktown (Kiley Tolbert, Katie Simmons, Katie Mitsch, Jenna Long), Delta (Jillian Smith, Lacey Ringlespaugh, Courtney Heban, Katie Bryan)

**200 FREE:** Maggie Bird (Y), Jill Lockhart (Y), Ashley Bevans (Y), Sarah Kowalski (Cowan)

**200 IM:** Simmons (Y), Mitsch (Y)

**50 FREE:** Long (Y)

**100 BUTTERFLY:** Lockhart (Y), Mitsch (Y), Long (Y)

**100 FREE:** Bevans (Y), Kowalski (C)

**500 FREE:** Bird (Y), Simmons (Y)

**200 FREE RELAY:** Yorktown (Bird, Long, Bevans, Lockhart)

**400 FREE RELAY:** Yorktown (Bird, Lockhart, Simmons, Bevans)

**DIVING:** Clevenger, Delta, qualified for Tuesday's regional

## Girls' swimming Hamilton SE Sectional

### Team scores

1. Hamilton Southeastern 347, 2. Yorktown 322, 3. Pendleton Heights 158, 4. Delta 156, 5. Anderson Highland 103, 6. Anderson 76, 7. New Palestine 61, 8. Central 53, 9. Mount Vernon 29, 10. Greenfield-Central 22.

### Individuals

**200 medley relay:** 1. Yorktown (Tolbert, Simmons, Mitsch, Long), 1:50.40; 3. Delta (Smith, Ringlespaugh, Heban, Bryan), 1:53.02; 7. Central, 2:06.11; 12. Southside, 2:45.16.

**200 free:** 1. Bird (Y), 2. Lockhart (Y), 3. Kowalski (C), 4. Bevans (Y), 9. Adrian (MC), 10. Kirby (D), 11. Golden (MC).

**200 IM:** 1. Simmons (Y), 2:10.26; 3. Mitsch (Y), 2:11.55; 5. Clevenger (Y), 2:16.31; 6. Smith (D), 2:17.92; 10. Bryan (D), 2:23.50; 12. Rybarczyk (D), 2:28.94.

**50 free:** 2. Long (Y), 24.87; 6. Heban (D), 25.81; 10. Boyce (Y), 26.50; 11. Tolbert (Y), 26.65.

**Diving:** 2. Clevenger (D), 325.90; 5. Condit (D), 289.55; 8. Grice (MC), 278.00; 11. Gleason (D), 257.35.

**100 butterfly:** 1. Lockhart (Y), 57.87; 3. Mitsch (Y), 59.08; 5. Long (Y), 59.77; 11. Rybarczyk (D), 1:08.89.

**100 free:** 2. Kowalski (C), 3. Bevans (Y), 9. Heeter (Y), 10. Heban (D), 11. Tolbert (Y).

**500 free:** 1. Bird (Y), 5:06.32; 2. Simmons (Y), 5:08.88; 4. Clevenger (Y), 5:22.15; 8. Nafziger (D), 5:30.98; 9. Kirby (D), 5:44.58; 10. Golden (MC), 5:44.98.

**200 free relay:** 2. Yorktown (Bird, Long, Bevans, Lockhart), 3:38.86; 7. Delta, 1:50.16; 8. Central, 1:51.01; 12. Southside, 2:22.63.

**100 back:** 2. Tolbert (Y), 1:01.03; 3. Smith (D), 1:01.83; 6. Heeter (Y), 1:04.74; 9. Richter (D), 1:07.22; 11. Heckman (Y), 1:07.94; 12. Adrian (MC), 1:09.27.

**100 breaststroke:** 5. Ringlespaugh (D), 1:10.99; 6. Laverty (Y), 1:11.66; 8. Tolbert (Y), 1:12.82; 9. Nafziger (D), 1:13.09; 10. Boyce (Y), 1:14.09.

**400 free relay:** 1. Yorktown (Bird, Lockhart, Simmons, Bevans), 3:35.06; 3. Delta, 3:49.45; 7. Central, 4:01.00; 1. Southside, 5:15.31.

# Cowan swimmer excels without a pool

By PHIL BEEBE  
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MUNCIE — At least a few Cowan students learned for the first time this week that the Blackhaws have a swim team.

If, that is, you call Sarah Kowalski a swim "team."

Kowalski is a swimmer for a school without a pool.

The freshman is also a state finalist. She qualified in the 100 and 200 freestyle events and will be part of a large contingent of East Central Indiana swimmers participating in this weekend's state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

"Most of them didn't know," Kowalski said of Cowan students



Kowalski

who learned of the school's lone swimmer through announcements and signs at the school this week. "It was mainly just my friends that knew about it. Some of the kids were kind of shocked about it."

Lacking lap water, Kowalski was befriended by the Yorktown program. She practices with the Tigers daily, getting rides to practice from her grandfather, former Central swim coach Bob Chico, and rides home from her mother, Emily Kowalski, who coaches Yorktown's age-group teams.

"The people at Yorktown really helped me out a lot," said

## Tiger pride

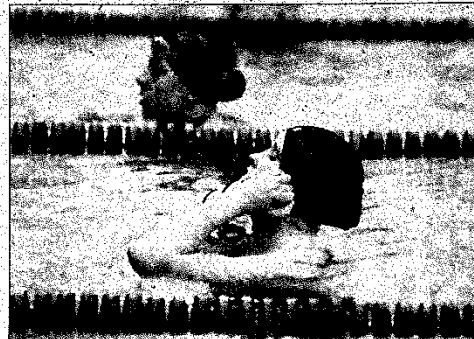
► Yorktown swimmers are hoping to top last year's eighth-place finish at the state tournament. **4B**

► A list of local swimmers competing at state. **4B**

Kowalski, who is seeded eighth in the 200 free and 13th in the 100 free. "They've all been really nice to me."

Yorktown coach Jay Agnew talks about Kowalski as if she wore Tiger green.

"Sarah has really added a new dimension to our team," Agnew said. "It's neat to get an outside perspective, and the kids have really gotten along well."



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

► See AD, 3B

COWAN swimmer Sarah Kowalski competes in the 100 freestyle at sectionals.

## AD: 'It's a unique situation'

Continued from 1B

"This hasn't happened since (Burris graduate) Ritchie Caudill. He trained at Central with Bob Chico, and we've taken our lead from what Ritchie did."

Cowan athletic director Suzanne Crump said attending the state finals will be a first for her.

"It's a unique situation to be going to the swim state finals," Crump said. "That's one that I haven't been to."

Crump said Thursday was Cap and Goggles Day at the school to

recognize Kowalski.

"We had a few kids say they didn't have swimming goggles," Crump said with a laugh. "But there were a few kids that wore goggles today, and a couple of the teachers did."

Because of limited pool space during Yorktown meets, Kowalski swam during meets most of the season with Central or Southside.

Kowalski has been swimming since she was six years old and has competed in club swimming with Cardinal Swim Club. Last fall, she thought she might have been limited to club competition.

"I wasn't sure what I was going to do, because I didn't know if I could swim without a team or a pool," she said.

## GIRLS' SWIMMING | Yorktown places fourth in the state meet



MICHAEL HICKEY / FOR THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S 200 FREESTYLE relay team of Maggie Bird, Jenna Long, Jill Lockhart and Ashley Bevans (from left) celebrates its second-place finish in Saturday's state swimming meet in Indianapolis.

# Fantastic finish

■ The Tigers had four runner-up finishes in Saturday's state finals.

By PHIL BEEBE  
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INDIANAPOLIS — Four runner-up finishes for Yorktown nearly gave the Tigers a runner-up finish in the team standings at Saturday's IHSAA girls' swimming state finals.

The Tigers had near-misses from Jill Lockhart in the 100 butterfly and Maggie Bird in the 500 free, and the Tiger 200 free relay and 400 free relay teams also were second.

Those accomplishments, com-

bined with seven other placings, helped Yorktown to fourth place, four spots higher than last year. "In the top eight in this state, there are so many good teams," said Yorktown coach Jay Agnew, who was named coach of the year. "This is just the pinnacle of swimming in the Midwest."



Jay Agnew was named state coach of the year.

The runner-up finishes by Lockhart and Bird were equally exciting at the finish. Lockhart, swimming in the lane next to eventual winner Christy Greevich of Chesterton, trailed the entire

length of the butterfly. Greevich appeared to be cruising to victory, but Lockhart closed fast in the final 15 yards, finishing in 57.5 seconds, less than a half-second behind Greevich.

"I was just trying to take it out with her," Lockhart said of the early part of the race. "But she took it out faster than I ever thought she would."

Bird, swimming in between teammate Katie Simmons and eventual winner Christine Sheburn of North Central in the 500 free, stayed just behind Sheburn throughout. She narrowed the gap in the final 25 yards and finished in 4:55.6, less than three-tenths of a second behind Sheburn.

► See EC, 4C

## Tigers to swim for state championships

INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown swimmers Jill Lockhart and Maggie Bird will each compete for a state championship in two events today in the IHSAA girls' swim state finals.

Lockhart finished third in the 200 free and 100 butterfly in Friday's preliminary races at the Indiana University Natatorium.

Bird was third in the 500 free and fourth in the 200 free.

The top eight swimmers in each event from Friday's prelims advance to the championship finals, and the second eight finishers compete in the consolation finals.

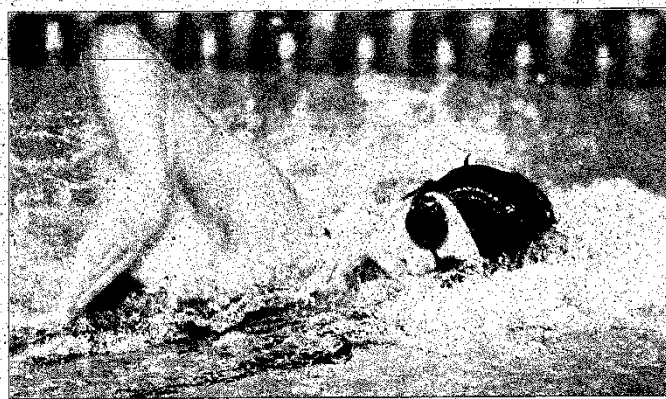
Two other East Central Indiana swimmers and two relay teams will be in the championship finals: Yorktown's Katie Simmons was fifth in the 500 free, New Castle's Amanda Breen was eighth in the 100 breast and Yorktown's 200 free relay and 400 free relay teams were both fifth.

Consolation finals participants will be Yorktown's 200 medley relay; Cowan's Sarah Kowalski and Yorktown's Ashley Bevans in the 200 free; Simmons in the 200 IM; Kowalski in the 100 free; Yorktown's Kiley Tolbert in the 100 backstroke.

The Star Press



Bevans



MICHAEL HICKEY / FOR THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S KATIE SIMMONS swims the 500 freestyle during Saturday's girls' swimming state finals in Indianapolis. Simmons placed seventh in the event.

## ECI individuals also compete

Continued from 1C

"I was just trying to stay with her and swim my heart out," said Bird, who finished her Indiana high school career as she prepares to move with her family to Illinois.

Yorktown's third runner-up finish came from the 200 free relay of Jenna Long, Ashley Bevans, Bird and Lockhart. Long and Bevans kept the Tigers in the race. Bird narrowed the gap on the leaders and Lockhart finished in second.

And then the 400 free relay came home second in the day's final event. The Tigers led the final race when Bird got out of the water after the first leg, and they were third after Simmons and Be-

vans finished. Lockhart anchored the event and moved them into second, two-tenths of a second ahead of the third-place team.

"Jill Lockhart just has the heart of a lion," Agnew said. "She knows that sprinting isn't her thing, but nobody brings it home better than her."

Other Yorktown finishes in the championship finals were Lockhart and Bird, third and fourth, respectively, in the 200 free; and Simmons, seventh in the 500 free.

New Castle's Amanda Breen and Jay County's Sarah Miller each brought home sixth-place finishes. Breen was sixth in the 100 breaststroke, and Miller — in her third state finals appearance — was sixth in diving.

Cowan's Sarah Kowalski swam in the consolation finals of the 100 and 200 free. She won the consolation race in the 200 for ninth

place, and she was 16th in the 100. Contact sports editor Phil Beebe at 213-5810.

## Girls' swim state finals

at IU Natatorium, Indianapolis

(Top 10 and area schools)

Team scores  
1. Carvel 316.50; 2. North Central 196; 3. Muncie 177; 4. Yorktown 176.5; Lake Central 150; 6. North Southeastern 121; 7. Chesterton 120; 8. Fort Wayne Senior 118.5; Homestead 8; 10. Southridge 70; 130. Jay County 13; New Castle 13.28; Cowan 10.

Individual results  
(Winners and next placers)

200 medley relay: 1. Carmel 1:44.05; 9. Yorktown (Cowan, Simmons, Misch, Long) 1:51.06.

200 free: 1. Breege (Lake Central), 1:50.95; 2. Lockhart (Yorktown), 1:51.57; 4. Bird (Yorktown), 1:51.81; 5. Kowalski (Cowan), 1:55.52; 11. Bevans (Yorktown), 1:57.33.

200 IM: 1. Sparks (Carmel), 2:07.41; 12. Simmons (Yorktown), 2:11.02.

50 free: 1. Daughman (Carmel), 23.15; 50 free: 1. Fickman (Broad Ripple), 431; 6. Miller (Jay County), 409.

100 butterfly: 1. Greevich (Chesterton), 55.57; 2. Lockhart (Yorktown), 57.04.

100 breast: 1. Baughman (Carmel), 50.33; 16. Kowalski (Cowan), 54.36.

200 free: 1. Sheburn (North Central), 4:54.9; 2. Bird (Yorktown), 4:55.16; 7. Simonsen (Yorktown), 5:00.07.

200 free relay: 1. Lake Central 1:45.86; 2. Yorktown (Long, Bevans, Bird, Lockhart), 1:48.02.

100 backstroke: 1. J. Gill (Southridge), 56.52; 15. Tolbert (Yorktown), 1:01.10.

100 breaststroke: 1. Sparks (Carmel), 1:01.85; 6. Breen (New Castle), 1:05.01.

400 free relay: 1. Carmel 3:28.63; 2. Yorktown (Bird, Simmons, Bevans, Lockhart), 3:32.40.

**GIRLS' SWIMMING** | Sectional begins tonight for East Central Indiana teams

# Impact freshmen



**YORKTOWN'S KATIE MITSCH** (left) and Kelsi Hall listen to coach Jay Agnew during practice Wednesday. Hall, a freshman, has been a key performer for the Tigers this year. Mitsch, a senior, was a state qualifier as a freshman.

DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

## The growth of Yorktown's program can be traced to having successful freshmen complimenting veterans

By **PHIL BEEBE**  
pbeebe@muncie.gannett.com

**YORKTOWN** — As a freshman, Kelsi Hall doesn't understand everything about the Yorktown swim team. But she does understand that she's a valuable, and wanted, member of the team.

"I ask a lot of questions," the Tiger swimmer said a couple of days before today's IHSAA sectional action begins. "Some of the things they talk about, I don't get."

But upperclassmen, under the direction of captain Katie Mitsch, make sure Hall doesn't feel left out.

"It's important for her to know that she's not a threat to us, that she's one of our equals," said Mitsch, who understands well her role as a senior because she was once in Hall's position. "She gets confused a lot, she's a blond. But she's curious, and she asks a lot of

questions."

Hall is the latest in a string of talented freshmen who have helped raise the talent level for the Tigers, who will chase the host school, Hamilton Southeastern, for a sectional title that will begin with tonight's preliminaries and finish with Saturday's finals.

Last year it was Katie Simmons, qualifying for state in three events. In 2003, Jill Lockhart and Maggie Bird were freshmen, with Lockhart finishing second in two events.

And in 2002, Mitsch was the star freshman, finishing second in the 500 freestyle.

Mitsch likes to tease Hall, who is friends with Katie's younger sister.

"She's a ton of fun," Mitsch said. "She's a spunky thing. It's just a kick to



Agnew

### Swimming sectionals

**HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN:** Anderson, Anderson Highland, Cowan, Delta, Elwood, Hamilton Southeastern, Central, Southside, Pendleton Heights, Union City, Yorktown.

**HOMESTEAD:** Adams Central, Belmont, Bluffton, Blackford, Homestead, Huntington North, Jay County, Marion, Norwell, Oak Hill, South Adams, Southern Wells.

**NEW PALESTINE:** Centerville, Connersville, Eastern Hancock, Greenfield-Central, Hagerstown, Mount Vernon (Fortville), New Castle, New Palestine, Richmond, Rushville.

be around her."

Mitsch also knows that Hall is ready to take a freshman leap to state, in the same way that she did three years ago.

▶ See **TIGERS**, 4B

## Tigers see progress

Continued from 1B

"She's at that point where (coach Jay Agnew) says, 'You're going to state,'" said Mitsch, who has played a role in Hall's development with her leadership. "We want to help her, not hinder her. We don't want to discourage her in any way."

The annual influx of freshmen gives the Tigers the depth and talent they need to be successful

at the state level. Yorktown finished fourth in the state last year.

"The impact of a freshman class is determined when a team goes to replace the seniors," Agnew said. "When we lose Katie Mitsch and Julia Boyce, we need someone who can fill those holes."

As Mitsch and Boyce prepare for their final days as a Yorktown swimmer, they can look back at the development of the program and see the progress they were a part of.

"My freshman year, no one knew where Yorktown was," Mitsch said of other elite swim-

mers from across the state. "They would say, 'Where is Yorktown?' The second year a few people knew of us, and by my junior year, some people were starting to get a little scared of Yorktown."

And Hall, meanwhile, is soaking in the atmosphere to make sure she's prepared to play a larger role in the coming years.

"It helps me know how to be a leader," she said, "so that I'll be able to help the freshmen when my time comes."

■ Contact sports editor Phil Beebe at 213-5810.

"The impact of a freshman class is determined when a team goes to replace the seniors. When we lose Katie Mitsch and Julia Boyce, we need someone who can fill those holes."

Jay Agnew,  
Yorktown swim coach

# Tigers end up in second

■ The Yorktown girls' swim team couldn't win as a group, but 11 individuals advanced to the state finals.

By **BRIAN SAPARNIS**  
bsaparnis@muncie.gannett.com

FISHERS, Ind. — Breaking the one-minute barrier in the 100 backstroke has been an elusive goal for Yorktown swimmer Kiley Tolbert.

The junior achieved that milestone and won a blue ribbon in the process when she was clocked at a school- and sectional-record 59.28 seconds Saturday. She was one of three individual Yorktown champions in the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional, where the Tigers finished second to the hosts for the third year in a row.

"The 100 back is my favorite event, and I've been wanting to break a minute for a long time, and I'm glad I finally did," said Tolbert, who dropped about 1.5 seconds from her previous best time and won the event by more than a second over her closest competitor.

Yorktown also got a pool-record performance from freshman Kelsi Hall in the first leg of the 200



Tolbert



Hall

freestyle relay when she was clocked at 24.12 during her 50 yards, a shade better than the previous pool record and almost a full second better than her previous best 50 time.

"At first, I looked at the wrong time, and I thought my time was slower than that," Hall said, "so when I heard the public-address announcer, I was really excited."

Though the seventh-ranked Tigers swam fast, they were no match for No. 2 Hamilton Southeastern, which has a sectional-title streak that nears a decade. The Royals won eight of the 11 swimming events and scored 384.5 points, 66.5 more than Yorktown, which finished within 25 points of the Royals last year.

"Overall, the team score didn't work out the way we had hoped," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "We looked a little tired toward the end; that doesn't mean we didn't have some outstanding efforts."

► See DELTA, 5C

## State qualifiers

East Central Indiana swimmers who qualified for Friday's IHSAA state finals, based on their times Saturday in the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional. Local qualifiers and their sectional finish:

### YORKTOWN

**200 medley relay:** 2. Kiley Tolbert, Katie Simmons, Katie Mitsch, Jenna Long, 1:51.15

**200 freestyle:** 1. Jill Lockhart, 1:54.45; 2. Maggie Bird, 1:56.21

**200 IM:** 2. Katie Simmons, 2:11.59

**50 free:** 2. Kelsi Hall, 24.15; 7. Jenna Long, 24.77

**100 butterfly:** 2. Jill Lockhart, 57.28; 5. Katie Mitsch, 59.73

**500 freestyle:** 1. Maggie Bird, 5:07.25; 4. Katie Simmons, 5:31.01

**200 freestyle relay:** 2. Kelsi Hall, Jenna Long, Maggie Bird, Jill Lockhart, 1:38.37

**100 backstroke:** 1. Kiley Tolbert, 59.28

**100 breaststroke:** 3. Claire Lavery, 1:08.42

**400 freestyle relay:** 2. Maggie Bird, Katie Simmons, Kelsi Hall, Jill Lockhart, 3:39.57



Lockhart

Bird



Simmons

Mitsch

### DELTA

**200 medley relay:** 3. Jillian Smith, Lacey Ringlespaugh, Courtney Heban, Katie Bryan, 1:53.79

### COWAN

**200 freestyle:** 5. Sarah Kowalski, 1:56.94

**100 freestyle:** 2. Sarah Kowalski, 53.32

Additional swimmers might be added today if needed to fill 32 spots for the state finals.

## Delta, Cowan advance some

Continued from 1C

In addition to Tolbert's sectional title, junior Maggie Bird repeated as sectional champion in the 500 freestyle, and classmate Jill Lockhart — who was sectional champ in the 100 butterfly last year — won the 200 freestyle.

Overall, Yorktown qualified all three relay teams and 11 individuals to next weekend's IHSAA state finals based on sectional times. More could be added today to fill out the state finals roster if enough swimmers didn't qualify based on the state-standard time.

Last year, the Tigers finished fourth in the state finals; they have their sights set even higher this season.

"We hope for a top-three finish, and I think we can do it if we put our mind to it," Tolbert said. "We're all pretty positive. If we have the attitude that we had at sectional, I think we'll do great at state."

Agnew also has high expectations.

"We're going to take our week of rest, and we're going to relax," Agnew said. "The whole time we've talked about state; that's our goal. These kids are unshaved and uninterested, and we're going to be fast next week. We're looking forward to racing them again."

Delta didn't take long to earn a state-finals bid. The Eagles finished third in the 200 medley relay in 1:53.79, beating the state standard of 1:54.03.

Delta relay members were Jillian Smith, Lacey Ringlespaugh, Courtney Heban, and Katie Bryan. The same foursome qualified in the same event last year.

### Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

1. Hamilton Southeastern 384.5; 2. Yorktown 318; 3. Delta 159; 4. Anderson Higgins 123.5; 5. Perletten Heights 123; 6. Anderson 98; 7. Central 65; 8. Elwood 28; 9. Cowan 23; 10. Southside 20; 11. Frankton 3

### At Fishers, Ind.

**Top fishers and ECJ points winners**  
**200 medley relay** — 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Oto: Rogers, Paul, Stolon), 1:46.59; 2. Yorktown (Kl: Tolbert, Ka: Simmons, Ka: Mitsch, J: Long), 1:51.15; 3. Delta (Smith, Ringlespaugh, Heban, Bryan), 1:53.79; 6. Central (Agnon, Sebara, Golden, Collins), 2:04.51; 8. Southside (C: Kroons, A: Kroons, Valenti, Williams), 2:24.08; **200 free** — 1. Lockhart (Y): 1:52.8; Bird (Y): 1:53.82; 5. Kowalski (Co): 1:56.94; 7. Bevans (Y): 2:00.14; 9. Kirby (D): 2:04.87; 10. Golden (Ce): 2:07.55; 11. Agnew (D): 2:10.82; **200 IM** — 1. Peltz (HSE): 2:11.58; 2. Simmons (Y): 2:11.59; 3. Ka: Mitsch (Y): 2:13.99; 4. Heeter (Y): 2:16.18; 8. Rybarczyk (D): 2:25.71; 10. Shaler (D): 2:32.40; **50 free** — 1. Otto (HSE): 24.12; Hall (Y): 24.15; 6. Heban (D): 25.44; 7. J: Long (Y): 24.77; 11. Smith (Y): 25.77; 12. Collins (D): 25:35; **100 fly** — 1. Riley (PH): 54.5; 2. Clevenger (D): 54.75; 7. Heaton (Y): 55.0; 8. Payne (Y): 57.25; 12. Niccum (Y): 57.8; **100 butterfly** — 1. Paul (HSE): 56.37; 2. Lockhart (Y): 57.28; 5. Ka: Mitsch (Y): 57.73; 7. Smith (D): 59.36; 8. J: Long (Y): 1:01.07; **100 free** — 1. Rogers (HSE): 53.82; 7. Kowalski (Co): 53.32; 4. Bevans (Y): 54.55; 5. Heban (D): 56.77; 8. Kl: Tolbert (Y): 56.82; 10. Collins (Co): 56.76; 12. Lavery (Y): 56.99; **500 free** — 1. Bird (Y): 5:07.25; 4. Ka: Simmons (Y): 5:31.01; 7. Kirby (D): 5:32.25; 8. A: Long (Y): 5:32.72; 9. Heflinger (D): 5:45.62; 10. Golden (Ce): 5:52.72; **200 free relay** — 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Paul, Stolon, Retrun, Otto), 1:37.94; 2. Yorktown (Kl: Long, Bird, Lockhart), 1:38.37; 3. Delta (Smith, Ringlespaugh, Heban, Rybarczyk), 1:47.65; 6. Central (Sebara, Adrian, Coombes, Collins), 1:48.58; 8. Southside (A: Kroons, Co: Valenti, C: Kroons), 2:00.15; **100 backstroke** — 1. Kl: Tolbert (Y): 59.28; 2. Smith (D): 1:00.44; 7. Heeter (Y): 1:04.58; Ka: Mitsch (Y): 1:05.55; 11. Anderson (D): 1:10.09; 12. Ripley (D): 1:10.31; **100 breaststroke** — 1. Rogers (HSE): 1:06.11; 2. Lavery (Y): 1:08.42; 6. Kl: Hall (Y): 1:10.07; 7. Ka: Tolbert (Y): 1:11.03; 8. Ringlespaugh (D): 1:12.21; 9. Heflinger (D): 1:14.74; 10. Shaler (D): 1:14.72; 12. Seban (Co): 1:15.52; **400 free relay** — 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Peltz, Paul, Retrun, Schroeder), 1:40.06; 2. Yorktown (Ka: Simmons, Bevans, Ka: Mitsch, Heeter), 1:45.40; 5. Delta (Heban, Rybarczyk, Bryan, Golden), 2:42.57; 7. Central (Sebara, Miller, Coombes, Golden), 4:11.30

Potentially, Smith and Heban could be added to the state finals in individual events today.

Cowan sophomore Sarah Kowalski will make her second straight state-finals appearance as the sole member of Cowan's team. In spite of being bothered by tendinitis, she qualified in the 100 and 200 freestyle events and outscored Southside and Frankton teams.

"She's a great racer," said Agnew, who also coaches Kowalski. "When it comes down to it, I wouldn't want to line up and race against her. She went after it and attacked."

► Contact assistant sports editor Brian Saparnis at 213-5811.

# Tigers feel fortunate swimmer stayed in Yorktown

By PHIL BEEBE  
pbbeebe@muncie.gannett.com

YORKTOWN (and BLOOMINGTON, Ill.) — Maggie Bird turns her cell phone off during class at Yorktown High School. But when she turns it on, she can count on listening to a message from her father.

"He leaves me little messages all the time, just calling to check up on me," the Yorktown junior said in the days leading up to the IHSAA girls' swimming state finals that will begin with preliminaries tonight.

"They're usually just silly little father-daughter things," father Henry Bird said of the messages. Maggie Bird is living a life

much like any other junior in high school, with two major differences: She's one of the best swimmers in the state, and her father spends most of his time out of state.

In February 2001, Henry Bird left his position as publisher of The Star Press for a similar position at The Pantagraph in Bloomington, Ill.

After a heart-wrenching decision not to pull Maggie from her friends and teammates at Yorktown, Henry and his wife, Debbie, have managed to manage the family from two homes.



Bird

"We were going to move after Maggie got done with school last year," Debbie Bird said. "But the more we thought about it, the more we realized she should stay at Yorktown. She's a straight-A kid, and we wanted her to stay with the swim team. She has such a close relationship with the other swimmers, and we just didn't have the heart to pull her out of that."

Maggie Bird will be one of nine Tigers swimming in 11 events in the state finals, and the large Yorktown contingent will be joined by four swimmers each from Delta and New Castle and one from Cowan.

In addition to leaving the cheery messages with his Irish

## IHSAA state finals

**WHEN:** Preliminaries 6 p.m. today, diving 9 a.m. Saturday, finals 1 p.m. Saturday.

**WHERE:** IU Natatorium, Indianapolis.

**LAST YEAR:** Carmel won its 18th consecutive state title, the longest streak in any team sport in Indiana history. Yorktown finished fourth, three points behind third-place Munster.

**ECI REPRESENTATION:** Eighteen swimmers from Yorktown, Delta, New Castle and Cowan will participate (full list on page 30).

accent on Maggie's cell phone. Henry makes a phone call nightly to talk to Maggie and Debbie. Maggie's demeanor has made challenges manageable, Debbie said.

"She's a very calm, very easy-going child," Debbie said, "and that has made a difference. Mag-

gie's always been very adaptable. It was never her decision. When we decided to stay, she was quick to say, 'No, no, no. I don't want you to have to live separately. But we made the decision for her.'"

► See NEVER, 3B

## 'Never thought I would stay'

Continued from 1B

Maggie has been in the Yorktown schools since fourth grade. She had trouble imagining moving to a new school in another state, but she was prepared for just that.

"When my dad moved to Illinois, I just knew that I was going to move," she said. "I never thought in a million years that I would stay. I didn't ask them to, I told them I would do whatever they told me to, that family comes first. But I was very thankful I got to stay."

Henry Bird said the decision was one of many difficult obstacles parents face.

"It's one of those sacrifices

you make as parents in the best interest of your children," he said. "I miss them. But again, life is full of little sacrifices."

Yorktown coach Jay Agnew is one of those most appreciative of the Birds' decision.

"Maggie is such a neat girl, and really the whole family has been such a big help since they've been with the team. We know it's been a tremendous sacrifice for them."

Debbie is almost like the team mom. She organized last summer training trip to the Ozarks, she deals with chaperoning and things like that. All the headaches that a coach would love to do without, I get to do without because she's there: hotel reservations, food for the state meet, she's always there.

■ Contact sports editor Phil Beebe at 213-5910.



Bevens



Hall



Laverly



Lockhart



Long



Mitsch



Simmons



Tolbert



Bryan



Heban



Ringlepaugh



Smith

## State qualifiers

East Central Indiana swimmers who qualified for today's IHSAA state finals:

### YORKTOWN

**200 medley relay:** Kiley Tolbert, Katie Simmons, Katie Mitsch, Jenna Long.  
**200 freestyle:** Jill Lockhart, Maggie Bird.  
**200 IM:** Simmons.  
**50 free:** Kelsi Hall, Long.  
**100 butterfly:** Lockhart, Mitsch.  
**100 freestyle:** Ashley Bevans.  
**500 freestyle:** Bird, Simmons.  
**200 freestyle relay:** Hall, Long, Bird, Lockhart.  
**100 backstroke:** Tolbert.  
**100 breaststroke:** Claire Laverly.  
**400 freestyle relay:** Bird.

Simmons, Hall, Lockhart.

### DELTA

**200 medley relay:** Jillian Smith, Lacey Ringlepaugh, Courtney Heban, Katie Bryan.

### COWAN

**200 freestyle:** Sarah Kowalski.  
**100 freestyle:** Kowalski.

### NEW CASTLE

**200 IM:** Amanda Breen.

**100 breaststroke:** Breen.

**500 freestyle:** Jessica Hadsell.

**200 freestyle relay:** Michelle Ray, Breen, Cari Janssen, Hadsell.



Kowalski

# Tiger juniors reach state swimming finals

THE STAR PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Juniors Jill Lockhart and Maggie Bird led the way for Yorktown in the preliminaries of the IHSAA girls' state swimming final Friday at the IUPLU Natatorium.

Lockhart and Bird each qualified for this afternoon's finals in two individual events. They joined Jenna Long and Kati Hall on the 200 freestyle relay team that will also compete in the fi-

nals, which will start at 1 p.m.

The Tigers, hoping to improve on last year's fourth-place finish in the state finals, had two relay teams barely miss reach-

ing the finals. In Friday's last event, the Tigers placed ninth in the 400 freestyle relay. Their time of 3:36.73 was just short of



Bird



Lockhart

the eighth-place finishers, who were clocked at 3:36.47.

Lockhart was third in the 200 free prelims and sixth in the 100 butterfly. Bird was fifth in the 200 free and second in the 500 free prelims.

In last year's state finals, Bird was runner-up in the 500 free,

and Lockhart was second in the 300 butterfly to complement two

runner-up relay teams.

In addition to two relay teams, the Tigers will be represented in four events in the consolation.

Lockhart was 12th in the 200 IM and 11th in the 500 freestyle. Katie Mitsch was 11th in the 100 butterfly, and nabbed the 16th and final spot in the 50 free.

Cowan sophomore Sarah Kowalski was 14th in the 200 free, and New Castle's Amanda Breen was 13th in the 100 breaststroke.

Carmel seemed to take a leg up on its bid to win its 19th consecutive state title. The Tigers' bounds will have 12 representatives in the finals, compared to eight last season. Ranked Hamilton Southeastern and five Jay swimmers qualified for the

consolations.

# Top 10 Tigers

## Yorktown places 7th as one of state's best teams for third straight season



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S JILL LOCKHART swims the 100 yard butterfly on Saturday at the IHSAA state finals. Lockhart finished fourth in 57.13. Yorktown placed seventh as a team.

Yorktown has finished eighth, fourth and seventh, respectively, the last three years at the IHSAA state tournament.

By BRIAN SAPARNIS  
bsaparnis@muncie.angnet.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Katie Mitsch is leaving the Yorktown girls' swimming program in considerably better shape than when she arrived.

As a freshman, two years after moving to Yorktown from Indianapolis, Mitsch was the only Tiger to advance to the state finals.

As a sophomore, the Tigers started to make waves and were put on the swimming map at the state level. They finished eighth in the 2003 IHSAA finals and followed that with a fourth-place finish last year.

On Saturday, Mitsch finished her high-school swimming career and scored points in three consolation races to help Yorktown to a seventh-place finish.

"It's a big thing to be sort of a domino effect for success," Mitsch said. "I've enjoyed it. I like that I set an example for people and started that out and made it kind of possible to expect things from Yorktown. I think people knew good things were going to come from us."

Yorktown coach Jay Agnew — who became coach when Mitsch was in eighth grade — considers Mitsch the instigator of the team's success at the state level.

"I can't tell you how much I'm going to miss Katie on this



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S JILL LOCKHART (from left) Maggie Bird, Jenna Long and Kelsi Hall stand on the podium after receiving their medals for placing fifth in the state finals of the 200 yard freestyle relay.

team," he said. "She was there when we had very little. We had nine girls. We built this team with her in the lead, and she carried us through. I couldn't be prouder of her."

The Tigers had hoped for a top-three finish at the state level to better last year's effort, but they fell short.

Carmel continued its dynasty run that nears two decades. The Greyhounds lapped the field for the 19th consecutive year, the longest string of IHSAA state championships in any sport.

Carmel scored 269 points, 69 more than runner-up Hamilton Southeastern. North Central, Homestead, Fort Wayne Snider and Chesterton also finished ahead of the Tigers, who were a half-point from sixth place.

Two of Yorktown's three relay teams just missed spots in the finals based on Friday's preliminaries and had to settle for consolation points. The 200 freestyle re-

lay team of Kelsi Hall, Jenna Long, Maggie Bird and Jill Lockhart was clocked at 1:38, a school record, but good for just fifth place.

Last year, the Tigers also set a school record in that event, resulting in a second-place finish.

"The whole state has gotten faster," Agnew said.

The Tigers were paced by juniors Bird and Lockhart.

Bird became Yorktown's first female state swimming champion by winning the 200 freestyle in a school-record 1:50.42. She followed that with a second-place finish in the 500 freestyle.

"We have the best group of girls, I think, and we all swam our hardest and worked really hard to get where we were," Bird said. "I think we'll come back stronger next year."

Lockhart had fourth-place finishes in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

► See ECI SWIMMERS, 40



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN COACH Jay Agnew talks to freshman Kelsi Hall after she swam in the 50 meter freestyle consolation match.

## ECI swimmers score points

Continued from 1C

15th in the 200 freestyle.

IHSAA finals

At Indianapolis  
Team scores  
(Top 10 and ECI schools)  
1. Carmel 269; 2. Hamilton Southeastern 200; 3. North Central 179; 4. Homestead 151; 5. Fort Wayne Snider 149.5; 6. Chesterton 133; 7. Yorktown 132.5; 8. Munster 131; 9. Lake Central 118; 10. Center Grove 104; 35. New Castle 6.5; 41. Cowan 2.  
Winners and ECI finishers  
200 medley relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern (O'Lo, Rogers, Paul, Stoen) 1:45.31; 10. Yorktown (Tolbert, Lavery, Mitsch, Long) 1:51.52; 200 free — 1. Bird (Y) 1:50.42; 4. Lockhart (Y) 1:51.59; 15. Kowalski (C) 1:56.67; 200 IM — 1. McKeehan (CG) 2:30.98; 15. Simmons (Y) 2:32.99; 50 free — 1. Baughman (Ca) 23.44; 16. Hall (Y) 25.29; Diving — 1. Bryant (Marrison) 504.19; 100 butterfly — 1. Rusinek (Ca) 56.66; 4. Lockhart (Y) 57.13; 713. Mitsch (Y) 59.06; 100 free — 1. Baughman (Ca) 56.83; 500 free — 1. Shehom (North Central) 4:55.19; 2. Bird (Y) 4:55.45; 15. Simmons (Y) 5:24.47; 200 free relay — 1. Chesterton (Whitaker, Liponakis, Kehe, Greulich) 1:36.51; 5. Yorktown (Hall, Long, Bird, Lockhart) 1:38.00; 100 backstroke — 1. Martin (Jeffersonville) 56.47; 100 breaststroke — 1. McKeehan (CG) 1:02.88; 110. Breen (NC) 1:07.69; 400 free relay — 1. Carmel (Young, Sparks, McRoberts, Baughman) 3:29.61; 9. Yorktown (Bird, Simmons, Hall, Lockhart) 3:35.98.



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

COWAN'S SARAH KOWALSKI swims in the 200 yard freestyle consolation heat on Saturday. She finished 15th.



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SWIMMING SECTIONALS

# Tigers rule the pool



MEMBERS OF THE Yorktown girls' swim team chat in the corner of the pool during Tuesday practice.

MELANE MAXWELL / THE STAR PRESS

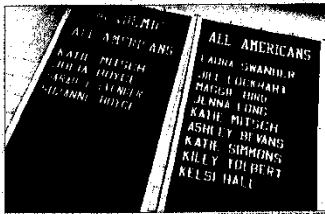
## Yorktown swimmers finish careers unbeaten

By TROY MEZERA  
tmezera@hcn.com

YORKTOWN — Trying to remain undefeated for one season is tough; keeping a perfect record through seven seasons is something to be proud of.

The Yorktown girls' swim team has won 59 consecutive dual meets stretching back to sixth grade, and the accomplishment is something the 10 seniors are starting to grasp.

"It's pretty amazing," said senior Jill Lockhart, who will swim for Ohio State next season. "It makes me feel accomplished. I know I will cherish it even more when I get to college and see how hard it is to stay perfect." The Tigers have won 43 straight high school meets and



BARRIERS HONOR Yorktown girls' swimming All Americans.

could contend for a state title this season if things go well. Yorktown sixth-year coach Jay Agnew said that his No. 3 Tigers are good enough to "race eyeball to eyeball" with the best teams in the state.

### Swimming sectionals

Today and Saturday  
Hamilton Southeastern  
Anderson, Johnson  
Highland, Delta, Wood  
Hamilton Southeastern,  
Liberty Christian,  
Central, Southside,  
Pendleton Heights,  
Yorktown,  
Homesite, Adams  
Central, Belmont,  
Buffton, Blackford,  
Homesite, Huntington  
North, Lee County,  
Marion, Newell, Oak  
Hill, South Adams,  
New Palestine,  
Centerville, Commerce,  
Eastern Hancock,  
Greenville Central,  
Hagerstown, Mount  
Vernon (Fayetteville), New  
Castle, New Palestine,  
Richmond, Rushville.

See TIGERS, 31

## Tigers hope to top Carmel

Continued from 1B

A solid core of swimmers, including seven high school All-Americans, gives Yorktown hope to compete with Carmel — the state's No. 1 team and winners of a national-best 19 consecutive state titles.

Yorktown will first swim against Hamilton Southeastern, the state's No. 4 team, in the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional today and Saturday.

"Beating Hamilton Southeastern is a really big deal, a huge goal," said last year's 200-meter freestyle state champion Maggie Bird, who will swim for NCAA No. 2 Auburn next season. "Not everyone on the team gets to swim at state, but a big chunk will swim at sectional, so it's even more of a team thing."

Yorktown has failed to beat Hamilton Southeastern in the sectional, despite outperforming the Royals at the state finals in 2004.

The scoring format differs at sectionals and state, and the state format gives a school like Yorktown, 732 students, a better chance to compete with the Carmels (3,998 students) of the world.

"They (Carmel) are so deep that it's tough to compete without big numbers," Agnew said. "The biggest difference at state is that only 45 kids score points in any event — so it's our good kids versus their good kids. But the main thing is that they might have quality racers just miss that top 16. So it's basically our best 12 against their best 12 or 15."

Bird and Lockhart lead the Tigers into this year's tournament with another winless

record, last year's disappointing seventh-place finish at the state finals hanging above their heads and a confidence that has grown throughout the season.

"Last year, after state, we talked about what we did individually and as a team," said Bird, who hopes to win the double in the 200 and 500 free (first and second last season). "We talked about

winning in the summer some, and from day one of the high school season, it's been our goal."

Joining Bird (began at Yorktown in ninth grade) and Lockhart in the senior class are Jenna Long, Ashley Bevans, Kiley Tolbert, Katie Heeter, Claire Laverty, Elizabeth Opie (started swimming in 10th grade), Kalene Heckman and Shannon Shuk.

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# Tigers dominate sectional

THE STAR PRESS

FISHERS, Ind. — Yorktown's girls' swim team got in position to compete for a sectional championship Thursday.

The third-ranked Tigers improved their seed times, broke two school records and pushed 18 swimmers into Saturday's championship finals, where they will compete with host Hamilton Southeastern for the title in what has turned into a two-team race.

The Tigers have 18 participants in the finals and six in the consolations, while the



Hall



Bird

Royals have 19 in the finals and five in the consolations. No other team has more than five swimmers in the finals.

"We knew when we were heading into the meet that we were going to be slight underdogs, and we made up a lot of ground," Yorktown

coach Jay Agnew said.

Saturday's sectional finals will begin with diving at 9 a.m., followed by the consolation and finals at 2 p.m.

Kelsi Hall set school records in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle events, finishing the 50 in 24:79 seconds and the 100 in 52:50. Her time in the 50 was also a HSE Sectional and pool record, and it bettered her previous season best of 24:19.

Hall's 52:59 was also a sectional record, but not for long, as HSE's Lindsay Rogers swam 52:11 in the next heat. Hall's previous season

best was 54:05.

Maggie Bird broke her sectional record with a time of 5:05.70 in the 500 free.

Kristen Mitsch led the way among those Tigers qualifying for the consolation finals. Seeded 12th in the 100 free, she finished seventh.

"That's one of those examples of the younger kids stepping up to help the seniors," Agnew said.

Complete results were unavailable late Thursday because of scoring questions. Results will be published when they become available.

# Tigers sending 13 to swimming state finals

Yorktown finished second to Hamilton Southeastern on Saturday.

By PHIL BEEBE  
pbbee@muncie.gannett.com

FISHERS, Ind. — The disappointment of not winning a girls' swimming team sectional championship was quickly overshadowed by Yorktown's individual efforts Saturday.

The Tigers qualified 13 individuals or relays for this week's state finals, and a few more could find their way in when the IHSAA fills the field with those swimmers just missing the cut times.

The annual sectional battle between Yorktown and host Hamilton Southeastern was another thriller, with the fourth-ranked Royals managing a 392-369 victory. The meet was tied with two events remaining, but Southeastern finished 1-2-3 in the 100-yard breaststroke to seal the victory.

"We knew that we were going to have to have a lead before the breaststroke, because they have some big-time swimmers in the breaststroke," Tiger coach Jay Agnew said. "But our kids dropped a ton of times, and we got a lot of kids through to state."

Leading the way for the Tigers was Maggie Bird, who won sectional titles in the 200 free and 500 free and helped the 200 free relay to a first-place finish. Kelsi Hall won the 50 free, Jill Lockhart the 100 butterfly and Kiley Tolbert the 100 backstroke, and Jenna Long, Hall and Lockhart were on the winning relay with Bird.

Hall scorched the water in the 50 free, finishing in a pool and sectional record 23.43 seconds. She and Southeastern's Lindsay Rogers both established new pool and sectional records in the 100 free on Thursday, and they both bettered that number again Saturday, with Rogers beating her by a half-second.

"I did a lot better than I expected," admitted Hall, a sophomore.

With Thursday's preliminaries setting the stage for a Yorktown-HSE showdown, most contests Saturday featured swimmers from the two schools side-by-side in the middle lanes. In some cases, a Tiger had Royals on both sides.

"It's really nerve-wracking, because you know that a tenth of a point can make the difference in a place, and one place can make the difference in the team standings," Hall said.

"It gets everybody excited," Bird added of the side-by-side racing. "Nobody wants to lose."

► See TIGERS, 3C



Agnew



Bird



RUBI HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

TEAMMATES KELSIE HALL (left) and Jenna Long smile as they look to the scoreboard after swimming the 50 freestyle Saturday during the sectional finals at Hamilton Southeastern High School. With a time of 23.47 seconds, Hall broke the school, pool and sectional records, which also belonged to her.

## Tigers only area athletes at state

Continued from 1C

In addition to the winners, Yorktown qualified Lockhart in the 200 free, Long in the 50 free, Hall in the 100 free, Kasey Tolbert and Claire Lavery in the 100 breast and the 400 free relay and 200 medley relay teams.

Tolbert and Lavery finished fifth and sixth in the 100 breast, but all six participants in the finals met the state qualifying time.

The 200 medley relay team consisted of both Tolberts, Katie Simmons and Hall, and the 400 free relay team was Long, Lockhart, Simmons and Bird.

"This is the best competition we can ask for," Agnew said of the repeated runner-up finishes to Southeastern. "What a great team to match up with before the state finals."

No swimmers from other ECI schools reached the state finals, which will be next Saturday at the JUPUI Natatorium.

Central finished sixth, Delta seventh and Southside eighth.

The Bearcats' best finishers were Christina Adrian, sixth in the 100 free and ninth in the 50 free, and Samantha Golden, eighth in the 200 free and ninth in the 500 free. The Bearcats' 200



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S KATIE SIMMONS (right) moves ahead of teammate Kiley Tolbert in the 200 individual medley.

free relay team of Adrian, Paige Williamson, Golden and Kristina Kerrigan was fourth.

Delta's best finisher was Kaylee Kirby, eighth in the 500 free and ninth in the 200 free, and the Eagles' 400 free relay team of Rachel Bolka, Kristen Ripley, Elaine Shafer and Kirby was fifth.

Southside's 200 free relay team of Jessica Arnold, Jillian Cox, Courtney Williams and Christa Koons was sixth.

### Homestead Sectional

Jay County's Cori Vormohr finished fourth in the two events in which she qualified for the finals.

Vormohr, a freshman, competed in the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly.

The Patriots' 400 free relay team was the only other Jay County representative in the finals at Homestead. It finished sixth.

### Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

All Fishers, Ind. Team scores

1. Hamilton Southeastern 392; 2. Yorktown 369; 3. Anderson Highland 154; 4. Pendleton Heights 153; 5. Anderson 82; 6. Central 79; 7. Delta 51; 8. Southside 28.

Winners, local placings

200 medley relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:45.84; 2. Yorktown (K. Tolbert, K. Tolbert, Simmons, Hall), 1:49.91; 3. Delta (Ripley, Shafer, Teagle, Bolka), 2:04.99; 4. Central (Kuzma, Williamson, Londt, Bradshaw), 2:13.53; 5. Southside (Cox, Koons, Arnold, Gallardi), 2:19.67; 200 free — 1. Bird (Y.), 1:53.18; 2. J. Lockhart (Y.), 1:53.70; 5. Bevans (Y.), 1:57.44; 8. Golden (C.), 2:04.28; 9. Kirby (D.), 2:08.29; 12. Noble (C.), 2:18.41; 200 IM — 1. Rogers (HSE), 2:06.05; 3. Simmons (Y.), 2:12.88; 4. K. Tolbert (Y.), 2:15.03; 7. Heeter (Y.), 2:14.72; 10. Thomas (D.), 2:29.62; 12. O'Bryen (D.), 2:36.82; 500 free — 1. Hall (Y.), 2:43; 2. Long (Y.), 2:43.8; Lavery (Y.), 2:52.4; 9. Adrian (C.), 2:57.3; Kerrigan (C.), 2:57.4; 11. Shafer (D.), 2:57.07; 100 IM — 1. Clay (HSE), 4:45.65; 3. Simmons (Y.), 3:51.90; 5. Heavilin (Y.), 3:17.30; 6. Niccum (Y.), 2:58.75; 12. Morgan (C.), 2:13.85; 100 butterfly — 1. J. Lockhart (Y.), 57.04; 4. Long (Y.), 1:00.17; 7. J. Lockhart (Y.), 1:02.59; 100 free — 1. Rogers (HSE), 51.40; 2. Hall (Y.), 51.89; 4. Bonanz (Y.), 56.83; 8. Adrian (C.), 56.87; 9. Metch (Y.), 56.89; 10. Bolka (D.), 58.42; 200 free — 1. Bird (Y.), 5:02.01; 5. Simmons (Y.), 5:17.34; 6. K. Tolbert (Y.), 5:23.63; 8. Kirby (D.), 5:38.00; 9. Golden (C.), 5:40.56; 11. Noble (C.), 6:11.97; 200 free relay — 1. Yorktown (Hall, Long, Bird, J. Lockhart), 3:36.58; 4. Central (Adrian, Williamson, Golden, Kerrigan), 3:41.01; 5. Southside (Arnold, Cox, Williamson, Koons), 2:01.82; 100 backstroke — 1. K. Tolbert (Y.), 59.34; 6. Arwood (Y.), 1:03.11; 8. Heeter (Y.), 1:03.64; 11. Ripley (D.), 1:10.43; 12. O'Bryen (D.), 1:11.06; 100 breaststroke — 1. Pausterman (HSE), 3:06.21; 5. K. Tolbert (Y.), 3:07.87; 6. Lavery (Y.), 3:08.25; 8. Shaw (Y.), 3:14.36; 11. Shafer (D.), 3:15.82; 400 free relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 3:32.26; 2. Yorktown (Long, J. Lockhart, Simmons, Bird), 3:34.04; 5. Delta (Bolka, Ripley, Shafer, Kirby), 3:48.55; 7. Central (Adrian, Darn, Golden, Kerrigan), 3:58.65.

# Sister swimmers have own schedules

■ The state swimming finals begin today and will end on Saturday.

By TROY MEZERA  
tmezera@muncie.gannett.com

YORKTOWN — Yorktown swimmer Kiley Tolbert and sister Kasey live three minutes away from Yorktown High School.

But the short commute didn't stop the state qualifiers from driving separate to swim practices this season.

Kasey, a junior, insists that being in the parking lot early, before just about everyone else, is the relaxation she needs just before a strenuous workout.

Kiley, a senior, said she would never get up 15 minutes earlier than she already had to.

"She gets up at 5:05 (a.m.) and I need that sleep," said

Kiley, who will swim the 200 medley relay and the 100 backstroke at the state finals which begin today and conclude Saturday.

While the two didn't get to practice at the same time, their efforts have landed both in the state finals with six of their teammates.

The third-ranked Tigers will look to the Tolbert sisters to score points in their individual events, but their teamwork in the medley relay might be the most important aspect of their day.

The two lead off the relay and, in a sense, Yorktown's entire day, since the relay is the first event of the competition.

"It's really a cool thing that they get to be back-to-back in the relay," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "After all these years of swimming together, they are going to have a chance to win a state title together."

## Girls' swimming state finals

East Central Indiana participants in the IHSAA girls' swimming state finals that begin today at the IUUPI Natatorium (listed by state finals seed position):

<b>YORKTOWN</b>	<b>200 free relay</b>	2. Yorktown (Kelsi Hall, Jenna Long, Maggie Bird, Jill Lockhart)
8. Yorktown (Kiley Tolbert, Kasey Tolbert, Katie Simmons, Kelsi Hall)	<b>100 backstroke</b>	12. Kiley Tolbert
<b>200 free</b>	<b>100 breaststroke</b>	16. Kasey Tolbert; 21. Claire Lavery
3. Maggie Bird; 6. Jill Lockhart	<b>400 free relay</b>	3. Yorktown (Jenna Long, Jill Lockhart, Katie Simmons, Maggie Bird)
<b>50 free</b>	<b>NEW CASTLE</b>	<b>500 free</b>
1. Kelsi Hall; 6. Jenna Long		32. Jessica Hadsell
5. Jill Lockhart		
<b>100 free</b>		
3. Kelsi Hall		
<b>500 free</b>		
1. Maggie Bird		

The Tigers' medley relay is seeded eighth; a seed time that would qualify them for the finals and big points if they can hold their spot.

Kiley, who is the first leg of

the relay, was excited about the sisters' starts at practice on Monday.

"We were at about 10 apart," Kiley said. "Kasey kept telling everyone that it

was our 'sister ESP.'"

Their solid starts are just the beginning of a day that will be filled with nerves and excitement.

Kasey will be competing at the IHSAA state finals for the first time, but Kiley has already been there and has been offering advice.

"She has just been telling me to stay positive," said Kasey, who will swim in the relay and 100 breaststroke. "I don't know what to expect, so it just feels different."

The sisters have both competed in club swimming state finals, so pressure isn't something that should rattle the duo.

Also competing for Yorktown in an attempt to knock off 19-time defending state champion Carmel are Jenna Long, Maggie Bird, Jill Lockhart, Kelsi Hall, Claire Lavery and Katie Simmons.

■ Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5816.

SPORTS EDITOR: FRED DEWEE, 213-5816 • FAX: 213-5803 • E-MAIL: SPORTS@muncie.gannett.com • PAGE DESIGNER: GREG TAYLOR, 213

# Tiger swimmers move on to finals

THE STAR PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Kelsi Hall, Jill Lockhart and Maggie Bird all gave strong performances on Friday in the preliminary round of the IHSAA state girls' swim meet at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUUPI.

All three swimmers advanced to today's finals in two individual events.

Hall won the 50-yard freestyle in 23.70 to advance as the top seed. She also advanced to the 100 freestyle finals by finishing sixth in 52.53 seconds.

Lockhart positioned herself for a run at state championships in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly. She placed second in the 200 free prelim in 1:51.69, and she was seventh in the



Bird Hall Lockhart Long Simmons Ka. Tolbert Kiley Tolbert

Two Yorktown athletes will swim in today's consolation round:

• Jenna Long was 13th in the 50 freestyle prelims in 24.59.

• Claire Lavery finished 14th in the

100 butterfly in 57.26.

Bird moved on by finishing third in the 500 freestyle in 5:04.56 and fifth in the 200 freestyle in 1:52.38.

Other Yorktown participants also advanced to the finals:

• The Tigers finished eighth in the 200 medley relay. Swimmers were Kiley Tolbert, Kasey Tolbert, Katie Simmons and Kelsi Hall.

• Kiley Tolbert was sixth in the 100 backstroke in 58.26.

• Yorktown was third in the 200 freestyle relay in 1:37.37. Swimmers were Hall, Jenna Long, Bird and Lockhart.

• Yorktown placed seventh in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:35.42. Swimmers were Long, Lockhart, Simmons and Bird.

100 breaststroke in 1:07.02.

Kasey Tolbert of Yorktown placed 27th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:09.09 and did not advance.

The only other East Central Indiana participant was New Castle's Jessica Hadsell. She bettered her seed time by more than two seconds but failed to advance in the 500 freestyle, finishing 28th in 5:27.67.

GIRLS' SWIMMING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Second sounds alright**  
Bird wins 200 and 500 freestyles; Tiger soph Hall takes 50 crown

By TROY MEZERA  
tmezera@muncie.gannett.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown swimmer Maggie Bird placed fourth in the IHSAA girls' swim meet at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUUPI.

The 200 freestyle was the only event that saw more than one Yorktown swimmer advance to the finals. Bird placed second in 1:51.69, and she was seventh in the 200 medley relay in 1:37.37.

Bird won the 50-yard freestyle in 23.70 to advance as the top seed. She also advanced to the 100 freestyle finals by finishing sixth in 52.53 seconds.

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Two Yorktown athletes will swim in today's consolation round:

• Jenna Long was 13th in the 50 freestyle prelims in 24.59.

• Claire Lavery finished 14th in the

**400 relay sealed second**  
Continued from 1C

The third-place finish in the final event of the day — the 400 freestyle relay — sealed Yorktown's second-place finish. The Tigers led by North Central by 3/4 points heading into the final event. Yorktown, which was seeded seventh, needed to finish within one position of the Panthers, who were seeded fifth.

The team of Long, Lockhart, Katie Simmons and Bird came through with a third-place finish, two spots ahead of North Central.

"It thought we did awesome," Long said. "It was so much fun,

and it was so exciting to have end it that way. Everybody swam so well. To have three state championships and other great finishes, it's amazing."

Coach Jay Agnew, still dripping from his leap into the pool, was nearly at a loss for words.

"You can't even describe the emotion that swells up inside," he said. "You feel like you're watching something really special. I can't tell you how happy I am for this group of girls."

■ Contact assistant sports editor Brian Saparnis at 213-5811.

All Indiana's Team results (top 10):  
1. Carmel 791.5, 2. Yorktown 217.5, 3. North Central 212.4, Hamilton Southeastern 187.5, 5. Chesterton 177.9, 6. Ellettsburg 177.9, 7. Fort Wayne 177.9, 8. Ellettsburg 177.9, 9. Fort Wayne 177.9, 10. Munster 94.

Individual results  
200 medley relay — 1. Carmel, 1:46.42; 2. Yorktown (Kl. Tolbert, Ka. Tolbert, Simmons, Hall), 1:59.29;

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200 free — 1. Bird (Yorktown), 1:06.02; 2. Lockhart (Yorktown), 1:11.72; 3rd (tie) — 1. McKeenhan (Center Grove), 2:06.99; 5th free — 1. (tie) Hall (Yorktown), Martin (Jeffersville), 23.54; 9. Long (Yorktown), 24.47; 10th — 1. Feldman (Broad R. High), 48.25; 100 butterfly — 1. Drevlich (Chesterton), 52.28; 5. Lockhart (Yorktown), 57.42; 100 free — 1. Winkler (Chesterton), 51.34; 5. Hall (Yorktown), 52.65; 9th free — 1. Bird (Yorktown), 4:55.09; 200 free relay — 1. Chesterton, 1:32.42; 2. Yorktown (Kiley Tolbert, Kasey Tolbert, Katie Simmons, Kelsi Hall), 1:36.36; 100 backstroke — 1. Connelly (Harrison), 56.57; 6. Kiley Tolbert (Yorktown), 58.12; 100 breaststroke — 1. McKeenhan (Center Grove), 1:02.07; 13. Lavery (Yorktown), 1:08.15; 400 free relay — 1. Chesterton, 3:29.48; 3. Yorktown (Long,

# Yorktown looking up to HSE at sectionals

By SCOTT DUNCAN  
sduncan@mncie.gannett.com

When Yorktown swimming coach Jay Agnew measured his team's chances last year against perennial swimming power Hamilton Southeastern in the sectional championship, he said he thought the Tigers were "eyeball to eyeball" with the Royals.

This year, he said it's a little more like "eyeball to shoulder."

"Hamilton Southeastern is tough, there is no question about that," Agnew said. "They are loaded with speed and talent."

Yorktown, Central, Delta and Southside are four of the 11 schools competing in the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional, which begins with the swimming preliminaries today.

The sectional championship continues on Saturday with the swimming finals and consolations and the diving finals.

Agnew said the goal for his team is to steal a few races from the Royals, the second-ranked team in the state.

"The first thing you have to do is to bring as many swimmers as you can from Thursday to Saturday," Agnew said. "Then the hope is to get as many swimmers as you can through to the state finals."

The top six swimmers in each event in today's preliminaries advance to the finals; the next six swimmers qualify for the consolation.

On Saturday, the individual sectional champion earns a spot in the state finals, along with any swimmer who reaches the state standard time in the event.

## Swimming sectional

**When:** Swimming preliminaries, 5:30 p.m. today; Swimming and diving finals, 1 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** Hamilton SE High School

**Notes:** Hamilton Southeastern has won 10 consecutive sectional championships ... Last season, Yorktown finished second, Central was sixth, Delta took seventh and Southside finished eighth.

Yorktown, ranked ninth in the state, is strong in both the 200-yard and 400-yard freestyle relays. In the 200 free relay, the Tigers are seeded first with a seed time that is two seconds below the state cut, Yorktown's 400 free relay team is the second seed and also has a time below the state standard line.

Junior Kelsi Hall, who swims on both relay teams, also returns as the defending sectional champion in the 50 freestyle, an event she went on to win at the state finals.

For teams other than Hamilton Southeastern and Yorktown, the task can be somewhat daunting, considering the Tigers and the Royals are in the state's top 10.

But Delta coach Penny Wright said the teams and swimmers have to try not to worry about that.

"You have to keep your focus on yourself; you can't control anything else," Wright said. "The hope is to get them into the individual and relay finals."

■ Contact sports writer Scott Duncan at 213-9811.

## Girls' swimming Hamilton SE Sectional Preliminaries

### At Fishers

#### Local finals qualifiers

**200 medley relay** — 3. Yorktown (Simmons, Tolbert, Lockhart, Smith) 1:57.6, 6. Delta (Kirby, Shafer, Pelkey, Krschuk) 2:06.21; **200 free** — 4. Mitsch (Y) 1:59.82; **300 free** — 4. Simmons (Y) 2:14.49, 5. Tolbert (Y) 2:16.07; **400 free** — 1. Hall (Y) 22.85, 3. Kowalski (Y) 24.42, 4. Kerrigan (C) 24.44; **500 free** — 1. Hall (Y) 51.74, 5. Mitsch (Y) 54.02; **800 free** — 3. Simmons (Y) 5:20.13, 6. Long (Y) 5:32.28; **200 free relay** — 1. Yorktown (Kowalski, Mitsch, Tolbert, Hall) 1:38.57, 3. Central (Kerrigan, Sheffield, Bryant, Adriani) 1:40.32, 6. Delta (Shafer, Bolka, Thomas, Austin) 1:48.83; **100 backstroke** — 5. Arwood (Y) 1:04.56; **100 breaststroke** — 5. Tolbert (Y) 1:09.83; **400 free relay** — 2. Yorktown (Kowalski, Mitsch, Simmons, Long) 3:47.41, 3. Central (Bryant, Sheffield, Adrian, Kerrigan) 3:48.42, 6. Delta (Austin, Kirby, Thomas, Bolka) 4:06.53.



YORKTOWN COACH JAY AGNEW talks with Kelsi Hall after her win in the 50 freestyle on Saturday. Hall is the defending co-state champion in the event.

## GIRLS' SWIMMING SECTIONAL

# Once again, Yorktown takes 2nd

■ The Tigers' Hall and Central's Kerrigan lead local state qualifiers.

By TROY MEZERA  
tmezera@mncie.gannett.com

**FISHERS** — Defending state runner-up Yorktown found itself in a familiar place Saturday at the Hamilton Southeastern

### Girls' Swimming Sectional

The Tigers, like they have the past five seasons, finished second to the host Royals.

Hamilton Southeastern dominated the meet with 430 points, while Yorktown tallied 274. Delta finished in sixth place with 81 points, Central in seventh with 78, while Southside scored 28, good enough for ninth place.

"The goal is always to win,"

### Yorktown coach Jay Agnew

said. "That's just part of the sport. We don't train to get second. We don't put in an hour and half in the morning and two and a half hours after school to finish second, but the kids swim awesome today."

Several individuals and relay teams qualified for Saturday's IHSAA State Finals Meet at the Natatorium in Indianapolis, including Central's Kristina

### Kerrigan and the Royals' 200 freestyle relay team.

Kerrigan will compete in the 50 freestyle after she finished fifth with a state-cut time of 24.71. Kerrigan was behind four swimmers, including Yorktown's Kelsi Hall and Sarah Kowalski. Hall won the event, while Kowalski was third.

► See PAGE 3C

## Hall was only local winner

Continued from 1C

To qualify for the state meet, a swimmer must win the sectional or meet a state-standard time.

"I swam a state-cut time (in preliminaries), but you have to do it today to make it count," said Kerrigan, a sophomore. "To know you can do it can make you a little nervous, but I just wanted to keep my time right around the same time today."

Hall, the No. 1 seed in the event at the sectional and defending co-state champion in the 50 free, didn't swim quite as fast as she did Thursday in the preliminaries, but still beat the field by more than a half-second.

Hall swam a time on Thursday that would be considered the state record if she duplicates or betters it on Saturday at the state finals meet.

"We are really happy with the way Kelsi saw and (are) confident she can try and shave that record down a few notches on Saturday," Agnew said. "She came into this meet kind of ragged and just started resting. She's still swimming in her

practice suit, so she can still drop some time."

Hall was the only local winner as the host Royals won 10 of 12 events. Outside of Hall's win in the 50 free, Pendleton Heights diver Krissy Riley was the only winner that didn't come from the Royals squad.

"Our kids used to not like coming to this meet," Central coach Steve Spradlin said. "But I have always liked it because it lets our kids see what the best are doing and what it takes to get to state and swim state-cut times. It's helped our program improve."

Spradlin will also be coaching Kerrigan in the 200 free relay as she will join teammates Brittanay Sheffield, Heidi Bryant and Christina Adrian. The team finished third behind Hamilton Southeastern and Yorktown, but saw more than a second faster than the state standard in the event.

Central is also hoping to get a call back in the 400 free relay as the team missed a state-cut time, but did finish in fourth place.

Delta and Southside didn't earn any state finals berths, but the Eagles did have five top-eight finishes for the day. The Rebels earned top-eight status twice.

Hall will also be representing the Tigers in the 100 freestyle and on the 200 and 400 free relay teams. Both teams finished second, but made the state standard. Joining Hall in the 200 relay will be Kowalski, Kristen Mitsch and Kasey Tolbert, while the 400 team was rounded out by Kowalski, Mitsch and Katie Simmons.

Other state qualifiers for the Tigers were the 200 medley relay team of Laura Arwood, Tolbert, Simmons and Shelly Smith and Mitsch in the 100 and 200 freestyle races.

"Mitsch had an outstanding meet for us," Agnew said about his junior that dropped nearly four seconds from Thursday to Saturday in the 200 freestyle. "To come in here and drop time like she did is really outstanding. Last year she was fighting to make a sectional roster. This year, she will be a big part of what we do at the state meet."

Swimmers that just missed state-cut times could be called back to the state finals when all sectionals are evaluated today. The IHSAA is supposed to announce call backs around 2 p.m.

Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5616.

# Yorktown's Mitsch swims her way to top

Junior improves from 91st to 13th seed for this week's swimming state finals.

By TROY MEZERA  
tmezera@muncie.gannett.com

YORKTOWN — Throughout the year, it was commonplace for Yorktown swim coach Jay Agnew to give junior Kristen Mitsch a hard time about the past.

He would jab at her about not making Yorktown's dual-meet roster. But he wasn't taking a shot to demoralize the swimmer, more to build up the fact that Mitsch has come so far.

Mitsch is one of seven Tigers who will compete for a state championship when the IHSAA Girls' Swimming State Finals kick off tonight at the Indiana Natatorium.

Ranked 91st statewide in the 100 freestyle after sectionals last season, Mitsch enters tonight's preliminaries

as the 13th seed.

"I wish I could tell you the difference," said Agnew, who led his girls' team to a second-place finish last season. "If I knew how she improved so much, I would have about eight more girls at the state finals."

Mitsch will compete in the 100 and 200 free and is part of the 200 and 400 free relay teams that are seeded second and third respectively.

► See HALL, 3B

## Hall enters final with fastest time

Continued from 1B

Yorktown's lone top seed in the event is defending state champion Kelsi Hall. The junior tied for the 50 free state title a season ago, and enters the state finals with the fastest time by more than a half second in the race.

Hall swam a 22.85 in the sectional preliminaries, and if she can repeat or better the performance, she will own the state record. State swimming records are only official if set at the state finals.

"I swam at sectionals with only a few days rest, but now I am basically fully tapered," Hall said. "I think I can drop some time still."

Hall said she relished the defending champion role and learned a lot from some of the graduates from last year's team.

The Tigers were led last season by seniors Maggie Bird and Jill Lockhart. This season, the team has less experience, but Agnew and the members of the state finals roster said confidence isn't an issue.

"We certainly believe that we have the athletes to win titles," Agnew said. "We think we have something very special with

our relays."

Included in the 200 medley relay team is Laura Arwood, a sophomore. Arwood is making her first state finals appearance after just missing the team as an alternate a year ago.

Arwood said she is excited and nervous, but is enjoying the team experience.

"Even after the state finals ended last season, we talked about how this year could still be good," said Arwood, who will join Kasey Tolbert, Katie Simmons and Shelly Smith in the relay. "It doesn't feel that much different, we just miss the girls."

Yorktown has finished inside the top five two of the past three years.

Also competing for Yorktown will be Sarah Kowalski, who sat out last season after transferring from Cowan. Kowalski will swim in the 50 and 100 free and both freestyle relays. Agnew was impressed with the senior's ability to come off a year of no high school competition to earn multiple berths into the state finals.

"It's tough to train without competition, so what she's done is great," Agnew said. "To watch your teammates swim twice a week during the season is hard, but she worked for this moment."

Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5616.



ADAM ALEXANDER / THE STAR PRESS

**YORKTOWN JUNIOR KELSI HALL** receives her first-place medal for her win in the 50 freestyle Saturday at the IU Natatorium.

# Hall defends 50 free title

Yorktown junior just misses record as Tigers finish seventh at state

By **SCOTT DUNCAN**  
sduncan@indianapolis.gannett.com

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Kelsi Hall's excitement at the IH-SAA girls' swimming and diving state championship had a tinge of disappointment.

The Yorktown junior dominated her competition in the 50-yard freestyle to capture her second consecutive IH-SAA state title on Saturday at the IU Natatorium. But in her battle against history and the clock, Hall came up short — two one-hundredths of a second short.

Hall clocked in at 22.92 seconds in the 50 free, just shy of the state meet record of 22.90 set in 1998 by Noblesville's Lacey Boutwell.

"Coming so close to the state record and not getting it is a little disappointing," said Hall, who tied for first in the 50 free last season. "But it's still really great to win a second state championship."

Led by Hall's individual state title, Yorktown finished seventh in the team standings with 14 points. Central picked up two points and was 51st.

Carmel won its 21st consecutive state championship

## Girls' swimming and diving championships

Noteworthy results from Saturday's state championships:

► Yorktown's **Kelsi Hall** won her second consecutive state title in the 50-yard freestyle.

► Yorktown finished seventh in the team standings. Carmel was 51st.

► Carmel won its 21st consecutive championship.

► Center Grove's **Michelle McKeenan** set a national high school record in the 200 individual medley.

with 335 points, and Hamilton Southeastern was second with 280.5 points.

Hall had swum under the state mark in the preliminaries of the sectional championships, but state records can be set only in the state Championships. Hall, who has one more season with the Tigers, said the state record will continue to be one of her main goals.

► See HALL, 4C



ADAM ALEXANDER / THE STAR PRESS

**CENTRAL'S KRISTINA KERRIGAN**, (from left) Brittany Sheffield and Heidi Bryant nervously await the finish of teammate Christina Adrian during the 200 freestyle relay at the girls' state meet Saturday in Indianapolis. Central finished 16th in the event with a time of 1:41.21.

## Hall takes 3rd in 100 free

Continued from 1C

"The good thing is I already have the satisfaction of knowing I can do it," Hall said. "But I just didn't do it at the right time."

The small disappointment didn't overshadow the junior's meet.

Later in the day, Hall took third place in the 100 freestyle with a time of 51.68. She then anchored Yorktown's third-place 200 freestyle relay and its fifth-place 400 freestyle relays, completing an impressive day for the junior.

"She stepped up and knocked them out of the park," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "And even though the (50 free) time makes it a little bittersweet, she has that time to keep her hungry."

Agnew said he was proud of his relay teams, which were relatively inexperienced coming into this season.

The 200 relay team of Hall, senior Sarah Kowalski, junior Kristen Mitsch and senior Kasey Tolbert had a time of 1:36.04 to take third. And the 400 relay team of Hall, Kowalski, Mitsch and senior Katie Simmons swam a 3:34.04 to finish fifth.



ADAM ALEXANDER / THE STAR PRESS

**YORKTOWN'S KELSI HALL** swims her way to the state title in the 50-yard freestyle, just missing the state record by two one-hundredths of a second.

"Since we didn't have too much experience, we really didn't have too big of expectations," Mitsch said. "We just wanted to do well and improve our times."

Tolbert said getting onto the state finals podium was a high point of her season.

"We kind of wanted to prove that just because some seniors graduated, didn't mean we couldn't get to the podium," Tolbert said.

Kowalski also placed in two individual events. She finished ninth in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.44, and she was 12th in the 100 free with a 53.50. Sim-

## McKeenan's mark

Center Grove junior Michelle McKeenan's national record in the 200 IM (1:58.06) not only shattered the old state record of 2:00.33 in the medley, she became the fastest high school swimmer in the country with her effort, according to information from the Indianapolis-based National Federation of High Schools.

McKeenan, who had qualified fastest in Friday's preliminaries with a record time of 1:59.61, said she didn't think she was going that fast.

"I was just hoping to go faster than last night," said McKeenan. "I was shooting for a low 59, but I had no idea I would break 59."

"I knew it was good, because everything was perfect in the water."

— The Associated Press

**AW**

Contact sports reporter Scott Duncan at 213-5811.

# Girls swim finals set

Yorktown qualified nine in the Fishers Sectional on Saturday, and the Bearcats and Patriots qualified two each in the Jay County Sectional.

THE STAR PRESS

Local girls swimmers took their first step towards the state meet in the sectional preliminaries on Thursday evening.

Yorktown qualified nine for the Saturday finals in the Fishers Sectional. Defending 50-free-style state champion Kelsi Hall will be seeded second in both the 50 and 100 freestyle behind Hamilton Southeastern's Carly Mercer.



Kerrigan

Kristin Mitsch also made two finals. The senior had the second-best time Thursday night in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

The Tigers' lone disappointment came in the 400 freestyle relay. The team was disqualified for leaving the block early.

In the Jay County Sectional prelims, both Central and Jay County had two entrants qualify first in events.

Kristina Kerrigan had the top 50 freestyle time (24.83) and was second in the 100. She was also a part of the 200 freestyle relay that qualified first along with Heidi Bryant, Paige Williamson and Brittany Sheffield.

Cori Vormohr provided both Patriot top swims Thursday evening. She posted the top times in the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke.

For Delta, Chelsea Thomas and Emilee Kirby both had a pair of top-3 swims. The Delta 200 medley relay qualified second with a team of Thomas, Kirby, SarahAnne Pelkey and Margaret Austin.

Defending 50-free-style state champion Kelsi Hall will be seeded second in both the 50 and 100 freestyle



KURT MOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S KRISTEN MITSCH swims the second heat of the 200 Yard Freestyle event Thursday night during the Fishers swimming sectionals.

## Girls swimmers compete to earn state meet berth

Majority of ECI schools will be at Jay County swimming sectionals.

THE STAR PRESS

The finals of the Indiana High School Athletic Association girls swimming sectionals are this afternoon and will be held around the state with the East Central Indiana schools spread out over three sites.

The majority of the ECI schools will be at Jay County as swimmers from Central, Delta and Jay County advanced during Thursday's preliminary round. The diving finals will begin at 9 a.m. while the swimming portion is scheduled to start by 1 p.m.

Bearcat Kristina Kerrigan will be the top seed in the 50 freestyle and the second seed in the 100. Jay County's Cori Vormohr grabbed the top prelim time in both the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke.

Yorktown is the only local school in the Fishers Sectional and the Tigers will have nine entrants in Saturday's finals led

by senior Kelsi Hall. The defending 50 freestyle state champ swam the second fastest time in Thursday's prelims in both the 50 and 100 freestyle events.

Hamilton Southeastern's Carly Mercer nosed the University of Kentucky recruit in both events. Yorktown interim volunteer coach Bob Chico said the prelim results weren't a big surprise considering Mercer had the second-best times in the state for both events.

Tiger Kristin Mitsch recorded the second-best times in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

Diving will begin at 9 a.m. in Fishers with swimming starting at 1 p.m.

The top sectional times automatically qualify for the state meet, to be held on Feb. 8-9 in Indianapolis. Any swimmer who equals or beats the state time standard in sectional finals or consolation will also make state. The next best times up to 32 in each event will finish off the state field.

In diving, the top four athletes in each sectional will advance to Tuesday's diving regionals.

**Jay County Sectional**  
 1. Norwell 292, 2. Central 187, 3. Jay County 180, 4. Delta 158, 5. South Adams 157, 6. Belmont 142, 7. Bluffton 103, 8. Adams Central 102, 9. Blackford 22, 10. Southside 19  
 At Portland  
**Top local finishers**  
 200 medley relay - 2. Delta (Thomas, Kirby, Pelkey, Austin) 1:59.22, 4. Central (Kuzma, Williamson, Rawson, Alhardt) 2:05.56; 300 free - 2. Sheffield (C) 2:43.20, 3. Thomas (D)

2:06.02; 200 free - 2. Kirby (D) 2:29.27; 50 free - 1. Kerrigan (C) 24.93, 2. Bryant (C) 25.46, 5. Landfair (JC) 26.76; Diving - 1. Ruriyon (JC) 302.75, 2. Acker (JC) 208.85; 100 butterfly - 1. Vormohr (JC) 59.99, 5. Pelkey (D) 1:08.67; 100 free - 2. Bryant (C) 56.42, 3. Kerrigan (C) 56.67, 5. Landfair (JC) 59.05; 500 free - 2. Thomas (D) 5:39.41, 3. Sheffield (C) 5:43.97; 200 free relay - 1. Central (Bryant, Sheffield, Williamson, Kerrigan) 1:42.16, 3. Delta (Austin, Pelkey, Kirby, Thomas) 1:46.99, 4. Jay County (Miller, Landfair, Sarman, Vormohr) 1:49.99; 100 breaststroke - 3. Kuzma (C) 1:07.61, 4. Austin (D) 1:08.23; 100 breaststroke - 1. Vormohr (JC) 1:49.30, 2. Kirby (D) 1:11.89, 6. Pelkey (D) 1:17.49; 400 free relay - 2. Central (Bryant, Sheffield, Williamson, Kerrigan) 3:54.09, 3. Jay County (Miller, Landfair, Sarman, Vormohr) 4:02.40.

# Central finishes second at Jay County Sectional

■ Norwell won the title with a 105-point cushion over the Bearcats on Saturday.

By MICHAEL CASAGRANDE  
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PORTLAND — Central's Kristina Kerrigan was feeling the pressure Saturday afternoon. "The owner of the best 50 freestyle prelim time at the Jay County Sectional said her urgency high since it was her coach handing out the ribbons during the awards

ceremony for the event. "You didn't want to blow that seed," Kerrigan said. She didn't. The Bearcat junior took first in the sprint event in which her teammate Heidi Bryant finished second.

As a team, Central was second in the first year of the Jay County Sectional and its coach, Steve Spradlin, was named coach of the year. Norwell won the title with a 105-point cushion over Central. Kerrigan, who finished second in the 100 freestyle, was also on

the winning 200 free relay along with Bryant, Paige Williamson and Brittany Sheffield.

Jay County was seven points behind the Bearcats in third led by junior Cori Vormohr. The Patriot won both the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke. She was also on the 200 freestyle relay that finished fourth and the 400 freestyle relay that was third.

As the top seed in both individual events, Vormohr said she also felt the heat from the lower seeds as Kerrigan.

"In prelims, I just tried to keep

my first place seed," she said. "In finals ... finish it off."

Jay County also had a winner in the diving competition as Nadelle Runyan finished first with a score of 302.75, and fellow Patriot April Acker was second.

Delta had three individual and one relay second-place performance on Saturday. Emilee Kirby was the runner-up in the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM and teammate Chelsea Thomas finished second in the 500 freestyle.

► See SWIM, 2B



MELANIE MATWELL / THE STAR PRESS  
DELTA SOPHOMORE SarahAnne Pelkey swims the butterfly in the 200-yard freestyle relay during swimming sectionals at Jay County High School on Saturday afternoon.

## SWIM

Continued from 1B

### Fishers Sectional

Yorktown finished third behind Fishers and champion Hamilton Southeastern.

Defending 50 freestyle state champion Kelsi Hall finished behind Hamilton Southeastern's Carly Mercer. The Tiger was third in the 100 freestyle, but volunteer interim coach Bob Chien said the sectional results should be viewed in context.

He said the girls haven't completed their taper in workouts since they are focusing more on state than sectionals.

Tiger Kristin Mitsch finished third in both the 200 and 500 freestyle. Her 200 time made the state cut as did both of Hall's times.

### New Palestine Sectional

New Castle finished fourth behind two individual titles from Andrea Hadsell.

The Trojan freshman advanced to the state meet with wins in the 200 and 500 freestyles.

Shenandoah sophomore Kate Hillman also took home a title as she won the diving competition with a score of 449.49.

■ Contact prep sports writer Michael Casagrande at 213-5807.



MELANIE MATWELL / THE STAR PRESS  
DELTA SENIOR Chelsea Thomas competes in the 500-yard freestyle during swimming sectionals at Jay County High School on Saturday afternoon.

# ECI girls ready for state swimming preliminaries

## Girls state swimming prelims

■ When: Today, 6 p.m. (Finals are Saturday)

■ Where: University Natatorium, Indianapolis at IUPUI

■ Admission: \$8 per session, \$12 for both days.

■ Locals in prelims: Name, school (seed).

200 freestyle — Andrea Hadsell, New Castle, 32;

Kristen Mitsch, Yorktown, 12; 50 freestyle — Kelsi

Hall, Yorktown\*; Kristina Kerrigan, Central, 31; 100

butterfly — Cori Vormohr, Jay County (29); 100

freestyle — Kelsi Hall, Yorktown, 12; 500 freestyle

— Kristen Mitsch, Yorktown, 18; Andrea Hadsell, New

Castle, 28; 200 freestyle relay — Central, Heidi

Bryant, Paige Williamson, Brittany Sheffield, Kristina

Kerrigan, 27; Yorktown, Kristen Mitsch, Mandy

Long, Rachel Shaw, Kelsi Hall, 24; 100 backstroke

— Hannah Espiritu, New Castle, 33; 100 breast-

stroke — Cori Vormohr, Jay County, 28.

\*Two-time defending state champion

By MICHAEL CASAGRANDE

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MUNCIE — A broken pump wasn't about to stop

the Yorktown girls swimmers

from their final workout be-

fore the state finals, which

begin today.

The malfunctioning part at

the school's pool forced the

Tigers to move their Thurs-

day training to the downtown

YMCA, but Kristen Mitsch

wasn't bothered.

"I'm really superstitious,

actually," she said. "I just try

not to think about this. It's a

pool and that's all we really

need. It will work."

Mitsch is one of four

Yorktown swimmers who will

be among the field when the

preliminary round begins at

6 p.m. at the University Nata-

torium in Indianapolis on the

campus of IUPUI. The top 16

in each event will qualify for

finals, which begin at 1 p.m.

Saturday.

Kelsi Hall and Mitsch each

qualified for two individual

events and are members of

Yorktown's 200-freestyle re-

lay along with Mandy Long

and Rachel Shaw.

Hall, the two-time defend-

ing 50 freestyle state champi-

on enters as the second seed

in the event and the 12th seed

in the 100.

Qualifying second in her

signature event wasn't neces-

sarily a bad thing, the Univer-

sity of Kentucky recruit said,

even though this year's field

is faster than in the past.

"I've won it the past two

years and if I don't win it this

year, I'm afraid of what people

will think," said Hall, who was

not fully tapered when she

recorded her seed time in last

week's sectional. "But really

what matters is how I feel."

For Mitsch, who is seeded

12th in the 200 freestyle and

18th in the 500 free, being a

low seed isn't a problem.

"I feel more like the under-

dog," said the senior, who is

hoping a good weekend will

impress college scouts. "This

way people aren't watching

me so I can focus on them.

I'm hoping some of them

swam their best times (in sec-

tionals) so I know where I

need to be."

Central's Kristina Kerrigan

is also in the 50 freestyle field

after winning the Jay County

Sectional. She is seeded 31st

coming into today's prelims

and is on the 200 freestyle

relay that is seeded 27th.

The Bearcat placed 25th

in the 50 free last year and

agrees with Hall when it

comes to the improvement in

the competition this season.

"I just hope I can improve

my time," she said. "If that

comes with making it back

to Saturday, that would be

great."

■ Contact prep sports writer

Michael Casagrande at 213-5807.

# Yorktown swimmer advances to finals

THE STAR PRESS

Of the 11 opportunities East Central Indiana girls swimmers had to advance to today's Indiana High School Athletic Association swimming state finals championship flight, only one materialized.

Yorktown senior Kelsi Hall — the two-time 50 freestyle defending state champion — finished fourth in her preliminary effort Friday evening and still has the opportunity to win a third straight state title.

She tied Chesterton's Brittany

Fozkos for fourth with a time of 23.85.

Hall was seeded second in the event but swam 31 of a second slower than her seed time. Because the Tiger finished in the top eight, she will race in the championship flight and have the opportunity to finish first in the state today. The state finals begin at 1 p.m. in the University Natatorium in Indianapolis on the IUPUI campus.

No other ECI swimmer will have the same opportunity as Hall.

Yorktown's Kristen Mitsch

came close. The senior finished ninth in the 200 free, an improvement from her seed, which was 12th. Mitsch also finished 12th in the 500 free. She was seeded 18th in that event heading into Friday's prelims.

Hall finished 21st in the 100 free, a big fall from her No. 12 seed.

For New Castle, Andrea Hadsell finished 32nd in the 200 free and 31st in the 500 free. Also for the Trojans, Hannah Espiritu finished 32nd in the 100 backstroke.

Jay County's Cori Vormohr finished 25th in the 100 breast-

stroke and 26th in the 100 butterfly.

Central's Kristina Kerrigan improved one spot from her seed and finished 30th in the 50 free.

There were only two relay teams, both in the 200 freestyle relay, from East Central Indiana competing in Friday's preliminaries. Neither advanced to today's championship flight.

For Yorktown, Mitsch, Mandy Long, Rachel Shaw and Hall finished 21st, and for Central, Heidi Bryant, Paige Williamson, Brittany Sheffield and Kerrigan finished 25th.



# Tiger erases doubts, claims 3rd state title

Yorktown senior Kelsi Hall capped a swimming season full of setbacks with a fantastic finish.

By MICHAEL CASAGRANDE  
mccasagrande@muncie.gannett.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Second at sectionals. Fourth after prelims.

None of that matters now for Yorktown's Kelsi Hall, who won her third straight 50-freestyle state championship Saturday in Indianapolis. Her time of 23.13 was four tenths of a second better than second-place finisher Megan Detro of Carmel, which won its 22nd straight team title.

Hamilton Southeastern's Carly Mercer, who beat Hall in the

Fishers Sectional, finished third at 23.64.

Coming into Saturday, Hall admitted negative thoughts entered her mind after posting the fourth-best prelim time (23.85) on Friday evening. She was shaking when she stepped to the edge of the block before the race.

"I was a little nervous," the University of Kentucky recruit said. "I was just telling myself I can do it and don't ever let down during the 50 — just keep attacking."

That final 23.13 seconds in the

water at the University Natatorium at IUPUI marked the end of her Yorktown career as well as a trying senior season.

A broken wrist suffered while playing powder-puff football before the season started slowed her workout schedule.

Just when she was returning to full strength, her coach quit.

When Todd Griner unexpectedly resigned on Jan. 11, Hall and the rest of the Yorktown program picked up its third coach in a matter of months. Former coach Jay Agnew left for an assistant coach job at Purdue over the summer.



THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR  
YORKTOWN swimmer Kelsi Hall smiles as she looks back at her winning time in the girls 50-yard Freestyle during the MSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships on Saturday at the IUPUI Natatorium.

► See HALL, 9B

## HALL

Continued from 1B

So it was up to the interim coaching team of Bob Chico and Jim Lefler to lead the Tigers. Both were assistants under Agnew and Griner.

Chico, who used to coach at Northside and Central, said he was feeling good about Hall's final 50 from the beginning.

"Her start was near letter perfect," Chico said. "The turn was right on with a beautiful long streamline breakout. There were no tie ups straight in to the wall with a super extension on the finish."

After touching the wall, Hall said she knew she was in the hunt, but had to look at the scoreboard to confirm her hunch. As soon as she saw her name next to the number one, the joy set in along with a touch of relief.

The faster time was expected, Hall said, since she didn't shave her arms or legs until Saturday morning. She also wasn't wearing her "fast suit" in the prelims. Still, a few doubts remained.

"I was thinking maybe I'm just not having a good season," Hall said.

"I had those thoughts creeping into my head, but I did my best to not let them stay in my head."

Her mother, Shari Hall, said she noticed her daughter's sagging confidence.

"We just kept telling her, the op-

portunity is still out there," Shari Hall said. "Tomorrow is a new day and just go for it."

## Shenandoah sophomore seventh in diving

Kate Hillman's said her first trip to the high school state meet was a success after finishing seventh.

Reaching the top-eight was the main objective, she said. Hillman is already looking forward to future trips to high school diving's premier event with thoughts of a top-five finish up next.

"I came in hoping to have consistency, and I think I accomplished all my goals that I set for myself this year," she said.

Of the six divers who finished higher than Hillman on Saturday, five were seniors. Only Valparaiso junior and sixth-place finisher Madel Miskulin scored better.

## Yorktown's Mitsch competes in consols

Tiger senior Kristen Mitsch placed 11th in the 200 freestyle and 13th in the 500 freestyle on Saturday.

After missing the finals of the 200 by just nine-hundredths of a second in Friday's prelims, she finished third in the consolation finals with a time of 5:11.34.

Mitsch's efforts combined with Hall's first-place put Yorktown in 16th place as a team.

► Contact prep sports writer Michael Casagrande at 213-5807.

# Central has shot at first sectional swimming title today

By MICHAEL CASAGRANDE  
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Muncie has been home to seven girls swimming team sectional champions. All seven belong to Northside High School, now a middle school, with the last coming in 1981.

Central has a solid opportunity to end the streak and add a title today at the Jay County Sectional. Diving begins at 9 a.m., while the swimming consolation and finals begin at 1 p.m.

Bearcat coach Steve Spradlin said the meet could come down to a handful of points against defending champion Norwell.

In Thursday's prelims, Central had four entries qualify in the top position, including two of the three all-important relays. Norwell had five top-qualifiers.

Bearcat Brittany Sheffield is the top-seed in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:03.26, while Kristina Kerrigan and Heidi Bryant went 1-2 in the 50 freestyle.

The Bearcats caught a huge break in the final relay of prelims when Norwell's team was disqualified after finishing first in its heat. Team members jumped back into the pool to warm down before the last relay finished its swim — drawing the disqualification.

"That basically gave us 20 points there," Spradlin said. "So it looks good. We knew it's going to be a close meet, and that kind of helps. We have to make sure we stay focused and don't make mistakes."

Central was the runner-up to Norwell finishing 105 points back.

Jay County's Cori Vormohr is the top seed in a pair of events, the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke.

Delta's top qualifier was Emilee Kirby, who will be the second-seeded swimmer in the 200 IM.

The sectional champion in each event qualifies for next week's state championships in Indianapolis. Anyone who meets the state qualifying time standard will also swim in Indy as well as the next-best times statewide to fill out the field of 32 in each event.

# Central girls win first sectional title in swimming

■ Bearcat coaches take a celebratory plunge.

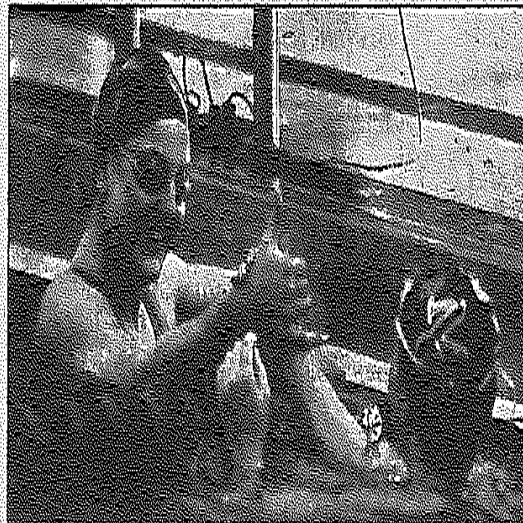
By MICHAEL CASAGRANDE  
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PORTLAND — Huddled on the deck of the Jay County pool, the Central swimming coaches were hard at work following the final event of Saturday's girls sectional.

First, they peeled off their socks.

Then came the belts and a check of the pockets to make sure all technology was removed.

They were about to get soaked.



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

CENTRAL'S KRISTINA KERRIGAN (left) congratulates teammate Heidi Bryant after they took first and second (respectively) in the 50 freestyle.

Per swimming custom, the Bearcat coaching staff was tossed in the pool to celebrate the first sectional title in the

history of the girls swimming program. With Saturday's win, gymnastics became the only Bearcat program without a sectional trophy to its name.

The in-pool party culminated when the team swam to the edge of the pool to belt out an a capella version of the school fight song.

The gleeful Bearcats got to that point in a surprisingly easy fashion. Aided by disqualifications from Norwell, the defending sectional champs, Central took first with 255 points. Jay County was the runner-up with 212 points and Norwell claimed third with 205.

► See SWIMMING, 3B

## SWIMMING

Continued from 1B

The Bearcats did it with balance. Coach Steve Spradlin, who was named sectional coach of the year Saturday, said having two or three swimmers grab points in nearly every event was paramount.

Senior Kristina Kerrigan certainly did her part in leading the team to victory.

She won the 50 freestyle, was second in 100 free and swam the final leg of two winning Bearcat relay teams.

Kerrigan, who also won a sectional title in the fall as a member of the Bearcat volleyball team, said her reaction to the two championship-winning moments varied.

"With volleyball, (winning) is expected," Kerrigan said. "This is kind of unexpected of Central swimming. It's a different kind of emotion. This is kind of a shocked and happy feeling, and (volleyball) is like 'yes we did it, this is where we are supposed to be.'"

A few records also fell in Saturday's meet. Kerrigan

anchored the Central 200 freestyle relay, whose winning time of 1:41.23 took nearly a second off the previous standard set by Delta in 1999. Heidi Bryant, Anne Tinder and Brittany Sheffield joined Kerrigan on the relay.

Sheffield grabbed another blue ribbon when she swam the 200 freestyle in 2:02.53 in the meet's second event. She was also a member of the 400-free relay team along with Kerrigan, Tinder and Bryant that closed the meet with a dominating 3:48.54 that left more than 12 seconds of cushion.

Jay County's Cori Vormohr broke the other record Saturday with her 1:08.74 in the 100 breaststroke. The Patriot senior was also victorious in the 100 butterfly with a 1:00.03.

Delta, which finished sixth in the team standings, got an individual win from Emilee Kirby in the 200 IM. The sophomore who was seeded second after prelims won by nearly a minute and a half with a time of 2:19.53.

After climbing out of the pool but before jumping

into dry-clothes, Spradlin spoke about the pride he felt for the girls program to finally stand next to the boys, which won its fifth sectional last winter.

"It shows we have a good program all around" said Spradlin, who also noted the boys "absolutely" have the pressure on to match the girls in two weeks at their sectional meet.

### Ham. S. Eastern Sectional

Larah Beaver, led Yorktown, which finished fourth in the loaded

Hamilton Southeastern Sectional won by the hosts.

The freshman swam second in the 100 backstroke, but her time of 5:10 met the state qualifying standard for next week's state meet in Indianapolis. It also broke the school and the pool records.

Tiger diver Kinsey Simmons will also move on to the diving regional with her third-place finish. She will move on to Tuesday's meet at Fishers where the top eight will advance to the state finals.



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 Minor League (ages 11-12)

### Girls swimming

#### Jay County Sectional

1. Central 255, 2. Jay County 212, 3. Norwell 205, 4. South Adams 176, 5. Bluffton 133, 6. Delta 123, 7. Belmont 120, 8. Adams Central 66, 9. Southside 29, 10. Blackford 22

#### At Portland

#### Finals

**200 medley relay** — 1. Jay County (Hudson, Vormohr, Miller, Landfair) 1:56.82, 4. Delta (Tomlin, Kirby, Pelkey, O'Bryant) 2:05.20, 5. Central (Koontz, Bradshaw, Kuzma, Brynes) 2:08.06; **200 free** — 1. Sheffield (Central) 2:02.53, 5. Miller (Jay County) 2:14.62; **200 IM** — 1. Kirby (Delta) 2:19.53, 3. Tinder (Central) 2:24.93, 6. Hudson (Jay County) 2:26.24; **50 free** — 1. Kerrigan (Central) 24.64, 2. Bryant (Central) 25.82, 4. Landfair (Jay County) 27.21; **Diving** — 4. Taylor (Jay County) 292.40, 5. Acker (Jay County) 286.80, 6. Skiver (Jay County) 249.80; **100 butterfly** — 1. Vormohr (Jay County) 1:00.03, 4. Miller (Jay County) 1:06.03, 6. Pelkey (Delta) 1:10.25; **100 free** — 2. Kerrigan (Central) 55.22, 4. Tinder (Central) 56.83, 5. Bryant (Central) 57.25; **500 free** — 3. Tomlin (Delta) 5:51.90, 5. Rawson (Central) 5:52.77, 6. Kuzma (Central) 5:59.77; **200 free relay** — 1. Central (Bryant, Tinder, Sheffield, Kerrigan) 1:41.23, 2. Jay County (Hudson, Saxman, Miller, Vormohr) 1:47.68, 6. Delta (Pelkey, O'Bryant, Tomlin, Kirby) 1:54.05; **100 backstroke** — 4. Hudson (Jay County) 1:07.77, 5. Kuzma (Central) 1:09.45, 6. Koontz (Central) 1:10.53; **100 breaststroke** — 1. Vormohr (Jay County) 1:08.74, 2. Kirby (Delta) 1:12.63, 3. Sheffield (Central) 1:13.49; **400 free relay** — 1. Central (Bryant, Tinder, Sheffield, Kerrigan) 3:48.54, 6. Jay County (Mann, Long, Saxman, Landfair) 4:15.59.

# Yorktown swimmer to compete in consolation

THE STAR PRESS

Sixth-seeded Larah Beaver of Yorktown missed qualifying for the 50 freestyle championship finals during preliminaries on Friday in the IHSAA state swimming meet at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Beaver finished 13th in the prelims with a time of 58.46 seconds, and will swim in today's consolation final. Her seed time was 57.10.

These ECI athletes did not advance from the prelims.

• Kristina Kerrigan of Central placed 28th in the

50 freestyle (25.07).

• Emilee Kirby of Delta finished 32nd in the 200 IM (2:23.83).

• Brittany Sheffield of Central finished 36th in the 200 freestyle (2:03.48).

• Cori Vormohr of Jay County placed 26th in the 100 breaststroke (1:09.03)

and 29th in the 100 butterfly (59.89).

• Central (Heidi Bryant, Anne Tinder, Sheffield, Kerrigan) finished 20th in the 200 freestyle relay (1:41.53). The Bearcats (Tinder, Bryant, Sheffield, Kerrigan) placed 23th in the 400 freestyle relay (3:44.23).

## Raider diver fourth at state meet

THE STAR PRESS

Kate Hillman doesn't watch her scores until the finals, so the Shenandoah junior was unaware she was in third until the last minute.

And although her final dive of Saturday's Indiana High School Athletic Association state meet didn't end as planned, Hillman said she wasn't too disappointed with her fourth place finish.

Noblesville's Katie Bittner, a good friend of Hillman, was left standing at the top of the podium at the IUPUI Natatorium in Indianapolis. Bittner scored a total of 470.05 to Hillman's 440.00.

"She didn't miss anything," Hillman said of the champion. "That's what you have to do."

Hillman was sixth after the morning prelims — trailing Bittner by 13.6 points. The Raider moved back to third after the semifinals with an inward dive pike in the final dive of the round that netted four 9s.

"I was pretty excited," Hillman said of her positioning heading into the final round. "That's right where I wanted to be and I just missed one dive in the finals."

Hillman said she still had a shot at winning the title before the inward 1 on her final attempt left her in fourth.

As a sophomore last year, Hillman placed seventh with a score of 390.00.

Yorktown's Larah Beaver was the only East Central Indiana swimmer to make it back to the second day of the swimming competitions. The freshman finished 14th in the 100 backstroke consolation heat with a time of 58.77.

Carmel claimed its 23rd straight state title to break a national record for consecutive titles in any girls sport. Hamilton Southeastern finished 200 points behind the Greyhounds in second and Homestead was third.