



KYLE RUTH: The Yorktown swimmer is seeded first in both the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly for today's sectional.

Dogfight expected in boys' sectional

SWIMMING: The host Royals have won nine consecutive titles, but Yorktown would like to end that streak.

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
The Star Press

Depending on whom you ask, there are two different favorites to win the Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming sectional. Hamilton Southeastern and Yorktown.

No matter whom you ask, the consensus is that the Southeastern Sectional will be one of the most competitive in the state.

"This sectional has probably as good a mix as any sectional you're going to find," said Yorktown coach Jay Agnew, whose No. 11-ranked Tigers enter the meet as one of the favorites along with the host and No. 15-ranked Royals. "I don't think this will be quite as fast as the Carmel Sectional, but it will be much more competitive."

The fierce battles begin to the individual events and continue through the team competition.

Yorktown appears to have the individual talent necessary to upset the Royals, who have won nine consecutive sectional crowns.

Returning state qualifier Kyle Ruth and sophomore Eric Mattingly lead the charge for the Tigers. Ruth is the top-seeded swimmer in both the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly, and Mattingly is seeded first in both the 200 individual medley and the 100 freestyle. Yorktown's 200 individual medley and 200 freestyle relay teams are also seeded No. 1.

"As a team, I think we can do it," said Mattingly, who swam on the Tigers' 200 freestyle relay team that was 14th in the state last year. "We're ready, and we know we are just as good as they are. They've just got more people."

The Royals have plenty of depth, Southeastern coach Andy Pedersen just hopes it is enough to overcome the Tigers' top tier swimmers. With fewer No. 1 seeds — only senior Chris DeFrance in the 200 freestyle — the Royals know every point in every race will be critical.

"I don't care what Jay says. Yorktown is the favorite," Pedersen said. "They have been better than us all season, they've beaten people we didn't beat, and they're ranked higher than us."

Sectional will be competitive

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"And all the individuals from Delta, Pendleton Heights and Anderson that are going to swim at the top benefits the team with the high-end people. It pushes us down and takes away some points."

But Yorktown isn't buying all the praise from their opponents.

"I think in their mind, Southeastern knows they are the favorites," said Yorktown senior Matt Roberts, who swims the 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. "It is hard to call a team that has won nine straight championships an underdog. They've had good swimmers who know what it's like to win sectional titles. That is something we haven't done."

Delta will likely be a major player in deciding the team outcome, even though the Eagles don't have enough muscle to contend for the top spot.

Senior Brandon Crawford and junior Jagen Arnold are seeded second and third in the 100 freestyle, respectively, and highlight the Eagles' top-seeded 400 freestyle relay team. Crawford is also seeded third in the 200 individual medley, and Arnold is seeded second in the 50 freestyle.

"I don't know if we'll help or hurt either [Hamilton Southeastern or Yorktown] — but we are certainly going to be a factor," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "I think in some ways not having expectations has made this season more enjoyable. Being the underdog was a change for us — people were not really looking at us being that strong, but we knew we could be pretty decent."

Also figuring in the mix at the top of the heap is Burriss senior

Ritchie Caudill, a two-event state qualifier as a junior.

Caudill, who is undefeated in dual meets this season, and Patrick Burkhart are the only Owls competing, so there is no focus on the team finish for Burriss. But with Caudill seeded first in the 100 breaststroke and second in the 200 individual medley, Burriss is definitely a concern of the top teams.

"Our goal is to just go in and do the best we can — give our best performances," said Burriss coach Laura Seibold-Caudill, Ritchie Caudill's mother and the Ball State women's swimming coach. "They have been training and swimming in dual meets with Central, so they've had some good competition. I think they are ready to compete in the sectional."

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ECI swimmers advance in sectional

THE STAR PRESS

FISHERS — Yorktown advanced all three relay teams and eight individuals, and Delta advanced all three relay teams and five individuals into Saturday's championship finals of the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional.

"All of our guys dropped a significant amount of time," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "For the most part, it was about what we expected. It is very fast, and it is very hard to get swimmers into the finals."

Central and Burriss also had some success, with the Bearcats advancing two relays and Marcus Dial (100 butterfly) to the championship finals. The Owls' Ritchie Caudill qualified for the championship finals in both the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke.

The Tigers hopes of winning a sectional title were made more difficult, however, as the host Royals advanced all three relays and 18 individuals into Saturday's finals.

At Jay County

PORTLAND — The Patriots advanced all three relay teams and 16 individuals into Saturday's championship finals.

Kyle Weaver (100 butterfly), Andrew Wells (500 freestyle) and the Jay County 200 individual medley and 400 freestyle relay teams all posted the fastest times in their respective events in Thursday's preliminaries.

Boys' swimming

Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

Preliminaries

ECI championship qualifiers

200 medley relay — 1. Yorktown (Roberts, Shirk, Ruth, Sursa), 1:43.71; 4. Delta (Thomas, Hughes, Miller, Juninen), 1:49.34; 5. Central (Golden, Jackson, Dial, Walker), 1:52.12; 200 freestyle — 6. Sursa (Y), 1:52.69; 200 IM — 2. Caudill (B), 2:02.27; 3. Crawford (D), 2:03.58; 5. Mattingly (Y), 2:05.63; 50 freestyle — 1. Ruth (Y), 21.88; 2. Arnold (D), 22.14; 4. Clark (Y), 22.88; 100 butterfly — 1. Ruth (Y), 53.28; 4. Roberts (Y), 57.85; 6. Dial (C), 58.24; 100 freestyle — 1. Crawford (D), 29.74; 3. Mattingly (Y), 50.15; 5. Arnold (D), 50.88; 200 freestyle relay — 1. Yorktown (Mattingly, Sursa, Clark, Ruhl), 1:30.15; 2. Delta (Arnold, Dawson, Crawford, Juninen), 1:33.09; 6. Central (Golden, Jackson, Weiker, Dial), 1:40.30; 100 backstroke — 2. Roberts (Y), 57.58; 100 breaststroke — 1. Caudill (B), 1:04.26; 5. Koger (D), 1:05.21; 400 freestyle relay — 1. Delta (Arnold, Crawford, Dawson, Thomas), 3:25.10; 5. Yorktown (Clark, Reising, Exline, Sulanke), 3:38.09

ECI consolation qualifiers

200 medley relay — 9. Southside (Bales, Wood, Lips, Johnson), 2:13.58; 200 freestyle — 7. Brannock (D), 1:54.8; Reising (Y), 1:56.31; 11. Allard (Y), 2:01.57; 200 IM — 9. Koger (D), 2:12.60; 11. Exline (Y), 2:17.33; 50 freestyle — 7. Dawson (D), 23.55; 6. Hie, Golden (C), Dial (C), 23.60; 12. Sulanke (Y), 24.06; 100 butterfly — 8. Juninen (D), 59.35; 10. Jaromin (Y), 1:00.17; 100 freestyle — 7. Clark (Y), 51.29; 8. Dawson (D), 51.37; 10. Golden (C), 52.0; 11. Exline (Y), 53.61; 500 freestyle — 7. Sursa (Y), 5:13.72; 9. Reising (Y), 5:17.11; 10. Brannock (D), 5:21.10; 11. Allard (Y), 5:25.79; 12. Thomas (D), 5:26.66; 200 freestyle relay — 7. Southside (Sexton, Kennedy, Bicknell, Justice), 1:42.99; 100 backstroke — 8. Thomas (D), 1:02.24; 9. Crawford (D), 1:02.80; 11. Jackson (C), 1:03.74; 12. Hammons (Y), 1:04.98; 100 breaststroke — 9. Sulanke (Y), 1:08.14; 10. Kimmel (Y), 1:08.50; 11. Hughes (D), 1:09.32; 12. Shirk (Y), 1:09.55; 400 freestyle relay — 8. Southside (Bicknell, Sexton, Kennedy, Justice), 3:58.96; 9. Central (Wall, Jenkins, Hill, Reno), 4:11.76

Tigers second, set sights on state finals

BOYS' SECTIONAL: Delta finished third and advanced two relay teams to Saturday's state finals.



KYLE RUTH: The Tiger swimmer will compete in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly.

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
The Star Press

FISHERS — The expected showdown between Yorktown and the host Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming teams was finished before it ever got started Saturday at the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional.

Qualifying 18 individuals and all three relays for the championship finals, the 15th-ranked Royals had the meet in hand after Thursday's preliminaries were completed. They capped their 10th consecutive sectional championship with a

More inside

► Summary of the Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming sectional. **Page 2C.**

371-231 final margin over No. 11 Yorktown-Delta was third with 190. Central finished in a tie with Anderson Highland for sixth with 71 points, and Southside and Burriss were ninth and 10th.

"We knew what they had coming in here, so we knew what we were up against," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew

said. "We came up short of a sectional title, but we got the best swims out of our kids that we could ask for — our big guns swam with their big guns, they just had more depth."

Southeastern won all three relays and had eight swimmers qualify for state with victories or by bettering a state standard time.

"This was one of those meets that you dream about," Southeastern coach Andy Pedersen said. "From our top guy to our last swimmer, everyone had a great meet. But Yorktown swam very well too, and I expect them to have a really good state meet. They are going to be very fast."

Yorktown advanced three swimmers to this Saturday's state finals in individual events. Kyle Ruth won

the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, and Eric Mattingly won the 100 freestyle.

The Tigers also qualified their 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay teams by topping state standard times.

"After Thursday, we were really disappointed because we knew we couldn't win," said Ruth, who finished 14th in the state in the 50 freestyle last year. "We just had to come back and keep our focus on our individual races. I'm very satisfied with how things turned out even though we didn't win as a team. I swam my best times in the 50 free and the fly, and I think I set myself up with good seeds for state."

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Delta advances 2 relay teams

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For Mattingly, the individual victory was somewhat bittersweet. The sophomore was the top seed in the 200 individual medley and the 100 freestyle entering the sectional. Aside from his victory in the 100 freestyle, he managed only a fourth-place result in the 200 individual medley.

"I swam a better time in the IM, but the place wasn't where I wanted, and I came back and the opposite happened in the 100 free ... my time wasn't as good as I thought it should be, but I won," Mattingly said. "I'm pretty pleased. I knew Southeastern was going to win it all along. But we have a good chance to do well at state, and that is what we've been working for all year."

Delta will also continue on to state, qualifying in the 200 and 400 freestyle relay events by beating a state standard time.

The Eagles are hopeful that a couple of swimmers will be picked up based on sectional times to round out the 32-swimmer state field. Jagen Arnold and Brandon Crawford both narrowly missed state standard time in their events and will likely be among the fastest times in the state of non-qualifiers. Arnold's time missed the state standard in the 50 freestyle by just 0.04 seconds.

Burr's Ritchie Caudill is in the same position as Crawford in the IM after finishing second with a time that missed the state standard by just 0.6 seconds. Caudill, who was seeded first in the 100 breaststroke, finished third in that event and missed the state standard by just 0.09 seconds.

Boys' swimming Hamilton SE Sectional

Hamilton Southeastern 371, Yorktown 231, Delta 190, Pendleton Heights 174, Anderson 158, Anderson Highland 71, Central 71, Elwood 49, Southside 34, Burns 25.

All Fishers

Championship winners and ECI finishers

200 medley relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:37.46; 2. Yorktown (Mattingly, Ruth, Roberts, Sursa), 1:39.66; 4. Delta (Thomas, Miller, Hughes, Juntunen), 1:48.87; 5. Central (Golden, Dial, Jackson, Walker), 1:49.82; 200 freestyle — 1. DeFrance (HSE), 1:45.15; 5. Sursa (Y), 1:50.34; 200 IM — 1. Keltner (HSE), 1:58.06; 2. Caudill (B), 1:59.83; 3. B. Crawford (D), 2:00.38; 4. Mattingly (Y), 2:00.48; 50 freestyle — 1. Ruth (Y), 21.67; 3. Arnold (D), 21.97; 5. Clark (Y), 22.99; Diving — 1. Coyle (HSE), 453.65; 5. Gruppe (Y), 297.65; 6. J. Miller (D), 296.35; 8. Smith (D), 265.60; 12. Harper (C), 195.60; 100 butterfly — 1. Ruth (Y), 52.03; 2. Roberts (Y), 56.83; 3. Dial (C), 56.98; 100 freestyle — 1. Mattingly (Y), 48.47; 2. B. Crawford (D), 48.55; 4. Arnold (D), 49.56; 500 freestyle — 1. DeFrance (HSE), 4:47.37; 200 freestyle relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:28.79; 2. Yorktown (Mattingly, Sursa, Clark, Ruth), 1:29.04; 3. Delta (Arnold, Dawson, B. Crawford, Juntunen), 1:30.09; 6. Central (Golden, Jackson, Walker, Dial), 1:37.99; 100 backstroke — 1. Reburn (HSE), 54.41; 3. Roberts (Y), 56.94; 100 breaststroke — 1. Walter (HSE), 57.54; 3. Caudill (B), 1:01.09; 4. Koger (D), 1:03.84; 400 freestyle relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 3:17.66; 2. Delta (Arnold, Dawson, B. Crawford, Thomas), 3:17.66; 5. Yorktown (Clark, Reising, Exline, Roberts), 3:30.56.

ECI consolation finishers

200 medley relay — 9. Southside (Bales, Lipps, Wood, Mansfield), 2:07.91; 200 freestyle — 7. Brannock (D), 1:54.85; 9. Reising (Y), 1:55.89; 11. Allardt (Y), 1:59.20; 200 IM — 8. Koger (D), 2:11.64; 10. Exline (Y), 2:14.78; 50 freestyle — 7. Dawson (D), 23.34; 8. Golden (C), 23.40; 11. Dial (C), 23.57; 12. Sulanke (Y), 24.14; 100 butterfly — 9. Juntunen (D), 59.62; 12. Jaromir (Y), 1:01.35; 100 freestyle — 7. Dawson (D), 51.23; 9. Clark (Y), 52.17; 10. Golden (C), 52.67; 11. Exline (Y), 53.10; 500 freestyle — 7. Sursa (Y), 5:03.55; 8. Reising (Y), 5:15.47; 10. Brannock (D), 5:21.76; 11. Allardt (Y), 5:26.24; 12. Thomas (D), 5:34.21; 200 freestyle relay — 7. Southside (Bicknell, Justice, Sexton, Kennedy), 1:41.94; 100 backstroke — 9. Thomas (D), 1:02.65; 10. S. Crawford (D), 1:02.89; 11. Hammons (Y), 1:04.17; 12. Jackson (C), 1:04.79; 100 breaststroke — 7. Farrell (Y), 1:07.85; 10. Sulanke (Y), 1:08.96; 11. Hughes (D), 1:09.77; 12. Shirk (Y), 1:10.84; 400 freestyle relay — 8. Southside (Justice, Kennedy, Bicknell, Sexton), 3:49.21; 9. Central (Wulf, Jenkins, Hill, Guarnery), 4:05.06.

Yorktown swimmers bounce back after rough prelims to finish ninth overall

THE STAR PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Ruth was the best in his races Saturday afternoon at the IHSAA boys' swimming state finals.

Unfortunately, the Yorktown swimmer was competing in the consolation finals of the 50-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly. He won both for a pair of ninth-place finishes. Ruth won the butterfly consolation race with a time of 52.14 seconds, which was the eighth-fastest time overall. He finished the 50 free in 21.42, which would have been good for a fifth-place tie.

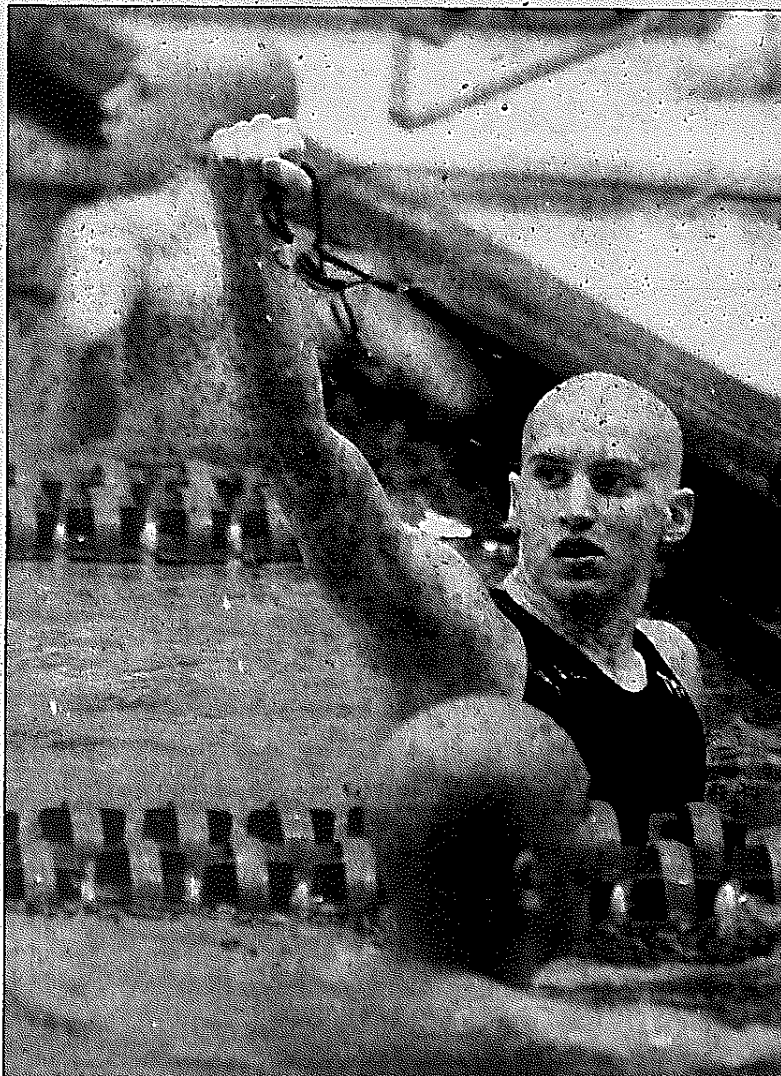
"Kyle swam great today," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "He had a tough night Friday and dropped times. But he kept his head and swam great today."

Ruth anchored the Tigers' 200 free relay team, which gave the best showing among East Central Indiana swimmers. Eric Mattingly, Charlie Sursa, Alex Clark and Ruth were third in 1:27.24, three-hundredths of a second out of second.

"We were extremely happy with how they swam," Agnew said. "To go in and qualify in third and then to hold on to it was great. It is a very competitive event."

Jay County diver Caleb Bye also had a solid day, finishing fourth. Bye was in first place by 10 points after the semifinals but finished 24 points behind winner Marsh Lindley of Jeffersonville.

In addition to Ruth and the Yorktown relay team, the Tigers had participants in three other events. Their 200 medley relay team of Mattingly, Ruth, Matt Roberts and Sursa was 10th, improving by one spot their placing after Friday night's preliminaries. Mattingly was 11th in the 100 free and 13th in the 200 IM.



Kurt Hosteller / The Star Press

YEAH! Yorktown's Kyle Ruth gestures to fans after winning the consolation heat of the 100-yard butterfly in Saturday's state finals.

Burriss' Ritchie Caudill was 14th in the 100 breast and 15th in the 200 IM.

Delta's 200 free relay team of Jagen Arnold, Andrew Dawson, Brandon Crawford and Ryan Juntunen was 11th, and Crawford was 15th in the 100 free.

Carmel won the team title with 299.5, easily beating South Bend Riley and Indianapolis North Central. Riley scored 154 points to North Central's 153.5. Yorktown was ninth with 74 points, Jay County 33rd, Delta 34th and Burriss 48th.