

Delta enters sectional as underdog despite ranking

■ The No. 13 Eagles will be challenged by No. 7 Yorktown and No. 3 Hamilton Southeastern.

By ROBERT SULLIVAN
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MUNCIE — The Delta boys' swim team began the season with a victory over state-ranked Yorktown and has been included in the state poll ever since. But when sectional action be-

gins tonight at Hamilton Southeastern High School, the Eagles will be the underdog in a field that features three teams ranked in the state's top 13 teams — No. 3 Hamilton Southeastern, No. 7 Yorktown and No. 13 Delta.

"There is not much pressure on us at all," Delta senior Andrew Dawson said. "[Hamilton Southeastern and Yorktown] know we're there, but they're not going to worry about us too much. We all know what to expect."

Dawson is a member of the 200 free relay team that is one of

three Eagles relay teams seeded in the top three for the sectional. But Delta has bigger hopes than just competing at the sectional.

Sectional winners and swimmers meeting a state standard automatically qualify for the state finals.

The Eagles, who also have individuals seeded in the top three in four events, have adjusted their lineup slightly in an effort to get all three relay teams to

Joaquim Pinto, who is seeded first in the 200 IM, and Jagen

Arnold, who is seeded fourth in the 500 freestyle, are foregoing the chance to swim a second individual event to compete on a third relay team.

"We know Southeastern has too much depth to be beaten in the sectional," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "We've basically been even with Yorktown in our dual meet and conference, but I'd give them the edge for second in the sectional because of what we've done with our relays."

Boys' swimming sectional

Sites involving East Central Indiana teams (Preliminaries in swimming events tonight, diving preliminaries and championship and consolation finals for all events Saturday.):

- At Hamilton Southeastern
- Delta, Central, Southside, Yorktown
- At Jay County
- Blackford, Jay County
- At Richmond
- New Castle

► See DELTA, 3B

Delta, Tigers go for title

Continued from 1B

"All season long, this has been about state. We are giving up 25 points in the sectional by having kids swim in relays instead of their individual events. But hopefully, we'll get more points in the relays at state."

Yorktown is bolstered by Kyle Ruth (50 freestyle, 100 butterfly), Eric Mattingly (100 freestyle) and its 200 free and 400 free relay teams, all of which are seeded No. 1 in their

Overall, Yorktown has the most No. 1 seeds — five — followed by Hamilton Southeastern with three, Pendleton Heights with two and Delta with Pinto in the 200 IM.

"This is the second toughest sectional in the state. Carmel [with No. 1 Carmel, No. 5 Lawrence North and No. 10 North Central] is the only one better," Brannock said. "I think we'll see a lot of sectional winners here go to state with high seeds. With the depth and talent that the teams have, it will be the most competitive sectional we've ever had down there."

■ Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

ECI swimmers advance to sectional finals

THE STAR PRESS

FISHERS, Ind. — Delta and Yorktown had a productive outing at the Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming sectional preliminaries Thursday.

The Eagles qualified 11 individuals and all three relay teams for Saturday's championship finals. Yorktown had eight individuals and all three relay teams qualify for the championship finals.

Delta's Joaquim Pinto posted the best time in the 200 IM, and the Eagles had the fastest times in the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay.

Kyle Ruth (50 free and 100 butterfly) and Eric Mattingly (100 free) both posted top times for the Tigers, who also qualified first in the 400 freestyle relay

"It was just an outstanding night," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "We moved a lot of

Boys' swimming Hamilton SE Sectional

Championship qualifiers
Top local finishers
200 medley relay — 1. Delta, 1:41.82; 4. Yorktown, 1:45.52; 200 free — 2. Reising (Y), 1:50.06; 5. Brannock (D), 1:50.58; 200 IM — 1. Pinto (D), 2:21.19; 2. Mattingly (Y), 2:16.69; 3. Arnold (D), 2:22.22; 5. Clark (Y), 2:28.85; 100 butterfly — 1. Ruth (Y), 51.95; 3. Routh (Y), 56.85; 6. Juntunen (D), 57.46; 100 free — 1. Mattingly (Y), 48.71; 4. Brannock (D), 50.44; 6. Dawson (D), 50.77; 500 free — 5. Reising (Y), 5:03.75; 200 free relay — 1. Delta, 1:31.06; 2. Yorktown, 1:32.42; 100 backstroke — 2. Richter (D), 59.56; 6. Juntunen (D), 1:00.25; 100 breaststroke — 3. Pelkey (D), 1:02.57; 400 free relay — 1. Yorktown, 3:19.37; 3. Delta, 3:22.37.

Consolation qualifiers
Top local finishers
200 medley relay — 9. Central, 1:54.83; 12. Southside, 2:19.09; 200 free — 10. Allardt (Y), 1:56.87; 200 IM — 12. Extine (Y), 50 free — 8. Golden (C), 23.23; 12. Dawson (D), 23.55; 100 butterfly — 9. Hewitt (D), 59.21; 11. Jaromlin (Y), 1:00.28; 100 free — 7. Clark (Y), 50.77; 10. Extine (Y), 12. Golden (C), 52.85; 500 free — 10. Allardt (Y), 5:19.57; 200 free relay — 7. Central, 1:39.14; 8. Southside, 1:41.27; 100 backstroke — 7. Routh (Y), 1:00.76; 11. McLochlan (Y), 1:02.63; 100 breaststroke — 11. Thomas (D), 1:07.49; 12. Williams (Y), 1:08.49; 400 free relay — 7. Central, 3:41.60; 11. Southside, 3:55.27.



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S KYLE RUTH (left) and Matthew Routh watch the scoreboard after Ruth finished first in his heat of the 100 butterfly Thursday.

kids up in seedings in just about every event tonight."

Central and Southside failed to qualify any individuals or relay

teams for the championship finals. The Bearcats have two individuals and three relay teams in

the consolation finals. Southside qualified for the consolation finals in all three relays.

Tigers, Eagles impress at boys' swim sectional

■ Yorktown advanced four individuals and two relay teams, and Delta has three individuals and three relays state bound.

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
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FISHERS — Yorktown edged Delta for second place in the Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming sectional on Saturday.

And both teams felt like winners, as the Tigers advanced four individuals and two relay teams and the Eagles advanced three individuals and three relays to next week's state finals.

"The way the kids swam was incredible," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "We just let the placing take care of itself and tried to focus on the process. We knew we'd have a hard time catching Southeastern, but we felt like we made progress."

The Tigers accumulated 231 points to finish second ahead of Delta's 214 in the most com-

petitive battle among the top teams. Southeastern scored 344 to claim the team title. Central was 10th with 33 points, and Southside finished 12th with 16 points.

Yorktown scored a bulk of its points with three individual sectional championships and two relay victories, setting four sectional records.

Senior Kyle Ruth won the 50

freestyle in record time and also won the 100 butterfly. Junior Eric Mattingly set a sectional record in winning the 100 freestyle and qualified for state by bettering a state standard in his runner-up finish to Ruth in the 50 freestyle. Both swam on the winning 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams that set sectional records.



Kyle Ruth set a sectional record in the 50 free, and he also won the 100 butterfly.

► See DELTA, 3C

Delta finishes 1-2-3 in IM

Continued from 1C

"They all went above and beyond what we expected," Agnew said. "We came here to swim fast, but some of the times blew our minds."

Ruth's winning time of 20.53 in the 50 was the most eye-popping effort of the meet. That time is just .07 off the state meet record that Ruth will be shooting for Saturday.

"The time in the 50 surprised me," Ruth said. "I thought I could go 20.8. But it felt good, and I should go faster next week."

"My favorite thing, though, was swimming with the relay teams — swimming with guys who have put in a lot of time and worked really hard to get here — and setting records with them."

Delta's Joaquim Pinto also set a sectional record in winning the 200 IM, as the Eagles swept the top three spots in the event.

Pinto will be joined at state by Sam Pelkey, who finished second in the IM, and Conrad Richter, who placed second in the 100 backstroke.

The Eagles' three relay teams placed second and bested state standards to qualify for the state finals.

"We thought we'd have a shot to get three to state in the IM, but we didn't know they'd go 1-2-3 like they did," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "That shows how

Hamilton Southeastern 344, Yorktown 231, Delta 214, Pendleton Heights 141, Anderson 122, Anderson Highland 95, New Palestine 83, Mount Vernon 49, Greenfield-Central 42, Central 33, Elwood 23, Southside 16.

Championship finals

Winners and ECI results

200 medley relay — 1. Hamilton Southeastern, 1:36.89; 2. Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Pinto, Arnold), 1:37.03; 3. Yorktown (Reising, Extline, Jaromin, Ruth), 1:44.27. **200 freestyle** — 1. Emerson (HSE), 1:45.89; 5. Brannock (D), 1:51.75; 6. Reising (Y), 1:52.70. **200 IM** — 1. Pinto (D), 1:55.33; 2. Pelkey (D), 1:58.54; 3. Richter (D), 1:59.68. **50 freestyle** — 1. Ruth (Y), 20.53; 2. Mattingly (Y), 21.12; 4. Arnold (D), 22.24; 5. Clark (Y), 22.46. **Diving** — 5. Gruppe (Y), 327.65; 12. Hutchison (D), 255.45. **100 butterfly** — 1. Ruth (Y), 49.89; 4. Ruth (Y), 56.87; 6. Juntunen (D), 58.31. **100 free** — 1. Mattingly (Y), 47.27; 5. Dawson (D), 50.32; 6. Brannock (D), 52.07. **500 free** — 1. Emerson (HSE), 4:49.33; 6. Reising (Y), 5:00.66. **200 free relay** — 1. Yorktown (Mattingly, Extline, Clark, Ruth), 1:27.10; 2. Delta (Pinto, Dawson, Arnold, Juntunen), 1:29.11. **100 backstroke** — 1. Retrum (HSE), 53.79; 2. Richter (D), 53.97; 3. Juntunen (D), 1:04.29. **100 breaststroke** — 1. Walter (HSE), 59.05; 3. Pelkey (D), 1:01.55. **400 free relay** — 1. Yorktown (Ruth, Reising, Clark, Mattingly), 3:15.07; 2. Delta (Pinto, Richter, Pelkey, Arnold), 3:15.22.

* sectional record

Consolation finals

ECI results

200 medley relay — 9. Central (Kerrigan, Jackson, Guarnery, Walker), 1:52.45; 12. Southside (Henry, Lipps, Mansfield, Watterson), 2:19.18. **200 freestyle** — 8. Allardt (Y), 1:54.67. **200 IM** — 11. Extline (Y), 2:10.17. **50 freestyle** — 10. Dawson (D), 23.18; 11. Golden (MC), 23.29. **100 butterfly** — 7. Jaromin (Y), 58.03; 9. Hewitt (D), 58.51. **100 free** — 9. Extline (Y), 51.84; 10. Clark (Y), 51.67; 12. Golden (MC), 52.95. **500 free** — 10. Allardt (Y), 5:12.50. **200 free relay** — 7. Central (Walker, Coombes, Beasley, Golden), 1:38.58; 9. Southside (Bicknell, Sexton, Kennedy, Justice), 1:46.83. **100 backstroke** — 7. Ruth (Y), 59.99; 12. McLachlan (Y), 1:03.07. **100 breaststroke** — 9. Thomas (D), 1:06.76; 12. Williams (Y), 1:07.89. **400 free relay** — 9. Central (Beasley, Walker, Jackson, Golden), 3:37.92; 10. Southside (Justice, Bicknell, Kennedy, Sexton), 3:48.80.

big a boost Joaquim has been. Without him pushing in practice every day, the other two might not get to where they are now.

"We expected to finish third [in the team standings], but it was good competition. We're not disappointed at all with what we did today."

■ Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

Tigers head to swimming state with lofty goals

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
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INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Ruth and Eric Mattingly left the state finals in 2002 with a bitter taste in their mouths.

The Yorktown swimmers expected to compete in the championship finals in their individual events. Instead, both qualified for the consolation finals, with Ruth finishing ninth in the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly and Mattingly finishing 11th in the 100 free and 13th in the 200 individual medley.



Kyle Ruth finished .07 off the state record with a time of 20.53 in winning the 50 freestyle in sectional action.

With that disappointment fresh in their minds, the duo set out last summer to change their training habits in an effort to enhance their state chances.

"We put in the work this year to win state," said Ruth, who finished .07 off the state record with a time of 20.53 in winning the 50 free at the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional. "We changed how we trained. We cut the yardage and sprinted a lot more in practice. It's had a huge impact on our times."

The hard work has paid off as Ruth enters tonight's preliminaries as the No. 1 seed in the 50 free and the 100 butterfly after dominating the sectional in

Boys' swimming state finals

When: Preliminaries, 6 p.m. tonight; Diving preliminaries, 9 a.m. Saturday; Consolation and championship finals in all events, 1 p.m. Saturday.

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

ECI well represented

► A list of East Central Indiana swimmers and their events in this weekend's state finals is on **A8**.

both events. Mattingly is the No. 5 seed in both the 50 and 100 freestyle events, and he swims the lead leg for the No. 2 seed 200 freestyle relay team which Ruth anchors.

For Mattingly, the state finals provide another opportunity for the junior to swim alongside his longtime teammate and friend Ruth.

"My best moment [at the sectional] was the 50 free," Mattingly said. "I don't care that I was second because my best friend — somebody I've been swimming with for 10 years — missed the state record by half a centimeter. And I know that somehow, I got him there."

Both swimmers think they can improve their times with an extra week of rest during the 3-week taper period.

► See **SWIMMERS, A8**

Boys' swimming state finals

East Central Indiana swimmers who will be competing:

Delta
Jagen Arnold — 50 free
Sam Pelkey — 200 IM, 100 breaststroke
Joaquim Pinto — 200 IM
Conrad Richter — 200 IM, 100 backstroke
200 medley relay — Richter, Pelkey, Pinto, Arnold
200 free relay — Pinto, Andrew Dawson, Arnold, Ryan Juntunen
400 free relay — Pinto, Richter, Pelkey, Arnold

Jay County
Caleb Bye — diving
Kyle Weaver — 100 butterfly
200 medley relay — Weaver, Derek Arnold, Dustin Lee, Ryne Fulton
200 free relay — Arnold, Lee, Fulton, Weaver

New Castle
Jacob Brunoehler — 200 IM
Yorktown
Eric Mattingly — 50 free, 100 free
Kyle Ruth — 50 free, 100 butterfly
200 free relay — Mattingly, Jordan Extine, Alex Clark, Ruth
400 free relay — Ruth, Nick Reising, Clark, Mattingly



D. Arnold Pelkey Lee J. Arnold Juntunen



Weaver Richter Dawson Pinto Fulton



Brunoehler Reising Extine Clark

Caleb Bye and Eric Mattingly photos not available

Swimmers hope for state titles

Continued from **1B**

But while both Ruth and Mattingly hope to win state titles, they individually have different expectations for the meet.

"If I swim a perfect race, I think I can swim a 20.1 [in the 50]," Ruth said. "The extra week of rest will be huge because I'm usually horrible the first week of taper and better the second week. The third week, I usually

get down to something unbelievable."

Delta qualified the most swimmers of any East Central Indiana team with four individuals and three relay teams.

Joaquim Pinto, an exchange student from Brazil, is seeded second in the 200 IM. Jagen Arnold (50 free), Conrad Richter (200 IM, 100 backstroke) and Sam Pelkey (200 IM, 100 breaststroke) will also compete in the preliminaries tonight for the Eagles.

■ Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

BOYS' SWIMMING | East Central Indiana teams post strong showing at state

Tigers 5th; Eagles 11th

Ruth misses record, wins state title

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
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INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown's Kyle Ruth has dreamed of winning a state championship for 4 years.

It took him less than 4 seconds to forget that he fell short of his goal of setting a state record.

Ruth won the 50 freestyle in 20.67 seconds, missing the state record in the event by .21 seconds. The state record seemed like an attainable goal after he missed the mark by .07 seconds in winning the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional last week.

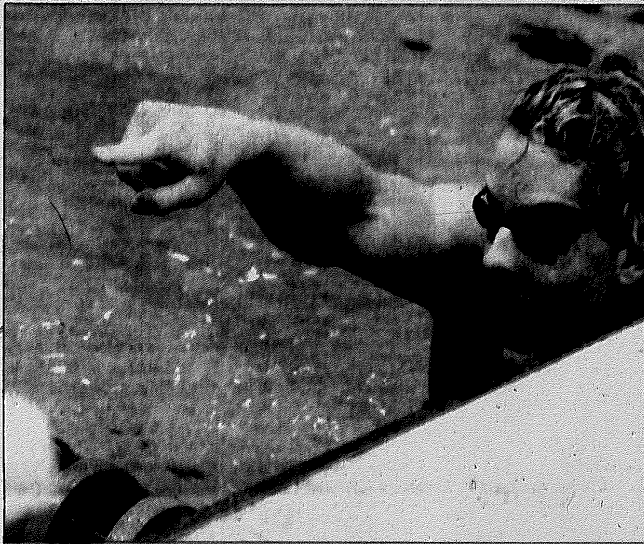
Ruth won the 50 freestyle in 20.67 seconds, missing the state record by .21 seconds. The state record seemed like an attainable goal after he missed the mark by .07 seconds in winning the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional last week.



Kyle Ruth won the 50 free in 20.67 seconds, missing the state record by .21 seconds.

"I shouldn't be upset about [missing the record] because I won a state championship, but honestly I am," said Ruth, who also finished third in the 100 butterfly and was part of the Tigers' runner-up 200 freestyle relay team.

▶ See RUTH, 3C



ADAM CAIRNS / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S ERIC MATTINGLY points to Westfield's Eddie Kenney after the two tied for second place in the 100 yard freestyle Saturday at the boys' swimming state finals. Mattingly also finished fourth in the 50 yard freestyle and was a member of the state runner-up 200 and sixth-place 400 freestyle relay teams.

Mattingly a runner-up; Delta relay finishes fourth

By **ROBERT SULLIVAN**
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INDIANAPOLIS — Yorktown and Delta showed Saturday that smaller schools from rural East Central Indiana can compete with the biggest, best boys' swimming teams in the state.

The Tigers placed fifth be-

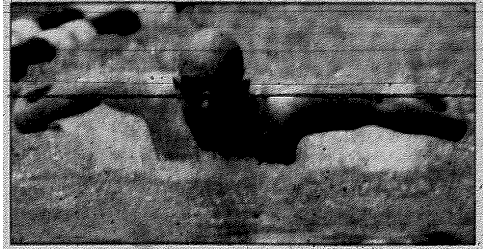
hind Carmel, South Bend Riley, Homestead and Lafayette Harrison in the team race, while Delta placed 11th, missing a top-10 result by three points.

"We're thrilled to be fifth because it shows that our team's made progress," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "It's been fun, and right now we're just en-

joying it. We know we're not as big as these other schools, but we let them know we are not afraid to compete with the big dogs."

Yorktown scored key individual points from Kyle Ruth and Eric Mattingly.

▶ See DELTA, 3C



ADAM CAIRNS / THE STAR PRESS

DELTA FRESHMAN CONRAD RICHTER swims the butterfly leg of the 200-yard individual medley Saturday at the state swim meet. Richter's time of 2:00.81 was good for 15th place.

Delta's Pinto gets a seventh

Continued from 1C

Ruth won the 50 freestyle and was third in the 100 butterfly, while Mattingly was fourth in the 50 free and tied for second in the 100 free with Westfield's Eddie Kenney.

"After the individual 50, I knew I was going to be fast," Mattingly said. "I didn't get the time I wanted, so I just started thinking about the 100."

Agnew said there was more to the runner-up finish in the 100 than just putting the 50 behind him.

"Eric has a tendency to swim really well when he's really mad," Agnew said. "After the 50, he was upset. We knew he'd come out firing in the 100 and he swam a great race."

Ruth and Mattingly also swam on the Tigers' runner-up 200 free relay team with Jordan Extine and Alex Clark and the sixth-place 400 free relay team with Clark and Nick Reising.

"It felt just as cool to stand on the podium with the 200 free relay team as it did to stand at the top when I won the 50," Ruth said. "I wish we could've beat Carmel, but they have so many swimmers that it isn't fair."

Delta's Conrad Richter, Sam Pelkey, Joaquim Pinto and Jagen Arnold scored a fourth-place finish in the 200 medley relay to begin the meet and the Eagles stayed in the top 10 throughout most of the meet.

Pinto posted Delta's top individual result, placing seventh in the 200 individual medley. The Eagles capped the day with an eighth-place swim in the 400 freestyle relay by Pinto, Arnold, Richter and Pelkey.

"In some cases, I think they're disappointed. But I'm very happy

with how we swam," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "We had to fully taper at sectional just to get here, so we didn't think our times would come down that much. It is really amazing that we swam as well as we did."

Jay County diver Caleb Bye improved three positions in the finals to finish fifth.

The senior entered the final three dives in eighth, 47.55 points behind leader and eventual winner Corey Cole of Indianapolis Tech. Bye outscored Cole by 5.80 points and passed three divers — Lawrence North's Rafael Alvarez, Valparaiso's Tom Clifford and Park Tudor's David McKown — in the standings with his strong showing.

"He tried to put in the last six dives he was most comfortable with, and they also happen to have the highest degree of difficulty," Jay County coach Barry Weaver said. "Early, he didn't dive poorly, he just didn't dive sharp. He managed to get through those bugs and he piled on the points in the final three dives."

Contact sports writer Robert Sullivan at 213-5816.

Boys' swimming State finals

All-time records
Top 10 and 600 yards
1. Carmel 309, 2. South Bend Riley 143, 3. Homestead 131, 4. Lafayette Harrison 126, 5. Yorktown 127.5, 6. Hamilton Southeastern 113, 7. Penn 111, 8. Chesterton 97, 9. North Central 93, 10. Wawasee 82, 11. Delta 79, 12. Jay County 14.

Championship results
Winners and 600 results
200 medley relay — 1. Carmel, 1:23.65; 4. Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Pinto, Arnold), 1:37.36; 200 freestyle — 1. Wiczcopak (Carmel), 1:39.01; 200 IM — 1. Brown (Western), 1:51.82; 7. Pinto (Delta), 1:55.84; 50 freestyle — 1. Ruth (Yorktown), 20.67; 4. Mattingly (Yorktown), 21.90; Diving — 1. Cole (Indianapolis Tech), 466.55; 5. Bye (Jay County), 424.80; 100 butterfly — 1. Wiczcopak (Carmel), 49.81; 1. Ruth (Yorktown), 50.39; 100 free — 1. Belcher (Carmel), 46.27; 2. Eric Mattingly (Yorktown), Kenney (Westfield), 46.65; 300 free — 1. Brown (Western), 4:35.97; 200 free relay — 1. Carmel, 1:24.38; 2. Yorktown (Mattingly, Extine, Clark, Ruth), 1:26.16; 100 backstroke — 1. Hean (Lafayetteville), 49.75; 100 breaststroke — 1. Walter (Hamilton Southeastern), 56.74; 400 free relay — 1. Carmel, 3:07.30; 5. Yorktown (Ruth, Reising, Clark, Mattingly), 3:13.49; 6. Delta (Pinto, Arnold, Richter, Pelkey), 3:15.31.

Consolation results
600 yards
200 IM — 15. Richter (Delta), 2:00.81; 200 free relay — 14. Delta (Pinto, Arnold, Dawson, Juntunen), 1:29.67; 100 backstroke — 13. Richter (Delta), 56.21; 100 breaststroke — 14. Pelkey (Delta), 1:01.28.2