

Yorktown senior swimmer eyes state title

■ Eric Mattingly placed second in the 100 free at state last year.

By GREG FALLON
sports@thestarpress.com

YORKTOWN — From ages three to nine, life in the water was a snap for Yorktown's Eric Mattingly.

Day in and day out, he would go to swim practice with no one to beat — everyone else was just too slow.

Then along came Kyle Ruth, at the time a peer just learning how to swim. Through time, the rivalry between the two grew and culminated last season as Ruth won the state championship in the 50 freestyle.

"As he was turning 10, he started getting really fast, and he started keeping up with me," Mattingly said of Ruth. "Since then we have really trained with each other. We just wanted to beat the crap out of each other. We were making each other better."

Now graduated and swimming at Indiana University, Ruth has moved on, leaving behind Mattingly, now searching for a new rival to "beat the crap out of."

Heading into tonight's sectional preliminaries, Mattingly has two opponents in mind — himself and the Yorktown girls' team.

His own marks to which he's looking to beat are not small. Last season, Mattingly was fourth in the 50 free and tied for second in the 100 free at the state meet. His time in the 50 free preliminaries

Sectional assignments

Boys' swim sectional preliminaries are today and finals Saturday.

Where local teams will compete:

HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN
Delta, Central, Southside.

Yorktown.

JAY COUNTY: Blackford, Jay.

County.

RICHMOND: New Castle

was 20.92, a personal best in high school competition.

In July however, he beat that time twice in a camp at Kenyon College, swimming a 20.81 and a 20.87.

"Every year that I've swam I have always gotten better," Mattingly said. "It's not something I look forward to doing, it's something I expect to happen. I already know I am going to go faster, it's just a question of how much."

Mattingly's personal best in the 100 free is almost two full seconds quicker than the state standard. After placing second last year, and with the champion from Carmel, Chris Belcher, not competing in the event this season, Mattingly is hopeful.

"I have a pretty good chance to win," he said.

After making a brief visit back to Yorktown over Christmas break, Ruth thought Mattingly seemed strong.

"He looked pretty good," Ruth said. "I think he has a good chance at winning in both events. He is a natural athlete. He is a really strong kid, and he works really hard in the weight room. He just seems to swim fast when he needs to."

With the pressure of wanting to improve his results in Indianapolis

this year, Mattingly also has another goal in site. His real competitor is on the other side of the pool — the Yorktown girls' team.

He insists that beating the girls' final season results is a point of emphasis for him and the rest of the boys' team.

"Pretty much our entire goal is to beat the girls," Mattingly said. "They finished fourth as a team at state, but we are starting at sectional. They finished 25 points behind Hamilton Southeastern. We are going to try to beat that."

When asked about his team's chances at state, Mattingly's focus remained fixed on bettering the girls' team.

"We are hoping to get around six guys to state," he said. "With that, hopefully we will place higher than the girls."

Yorktown, Delta, Central swimmers advance at sectional

THE STAR PRESS

FISHERS — Yorktown advanced 10 individuals and three relay teams, and Delta advanced seven individuals and two relay teams into Saturday's championship finals from the Hamilton Southeastern boys' swimming sectional preliminaries on Thursday.

Yorktown's Eric Mattingly claimed the top seed in both the 50 and 100 freestyle. The Tigers also had two other swimmers claim top seeds for Saturday's finals — Nick Reising in the 200 freestyle, and Brendon Butler in the 500 freestyle.

Delta was led by Sam Pelkey, who claimed the top seed in the 100 breaststroke.

"We couldn't be much happier with the way things went," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "We got guys in where they needed to get in, and we got a couple of others in where they

weren't supposed to get in."

The Eagles received a big boost from Ben Thomas in the breaststroke. Thomas, who was seeded 13th, qualified for the championship final with a sixth-place result.

"He dropped four seconds in that race," Brannock said. "It was an outstanding swim."

Central's 200 freestyle relay team qualified for the championship finals. The team of Alex Golden, Kyle Kerrigan, Geoff Walker and Robbie Coombes finished in 1:36.32.

At Jay County

Jay County qualified five individuals and three relays for the championship finals.

The Patriots' Adam Miller qualified for the finals in both the 50 and 100 free.

Blackford's Sean Fischer was the Bruins' only championship qualifier. He placed sixth in the 100 backstroke.

PREP RESULTS

Boys' swimming Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

At Fishers
(Central, Delta, Southside, Yorktown swimmers)

Championship qualifiers

200 medley relay — 3. Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Seidner, Brannock), 1:42.72; 4. Yorktown (Butler, Williams, Arwood, Clark), 1:42.75; **200 free** — 1. Reising (Y), 1:47.87; 2. Brannock (D), 1:47.94; **200 IM** — 3. Pelkey, 1:59.65; 4. Butler (Y), 1:59.79; 5. Richter (D), 2:01.80; **50 free** — 1. Mattingly (Y), 21.31; 2. Clark (Y), 21.90; 6. Extine (Y), 22.96; **100 butterfly** — 2. Arwood (Y), 54.14; 4. Routh (Y), 55.64; **100 free** — 1. Mattingly (Y), 48.28; 4. Clark (Y), 49.47; 6. Brannock (D), 50.49; **500 free** — 1. Butler (Y), 4:53.47; **200 free relay** — 1. Yorktown (Clark, Extine, Reising, Routh), 1:30.31; 4. Central (Golden, Kerrigan, Walker, Coombes), 1:36.32; **100 backstroke** — 5. Richter (D), 56.83; **100 breaststroke** — 1. Pelkey (D), 1:00.29; 6. Thomas (D), 1:05.32; **400 free relay** — 2. Delta (Brannock, Seidner, Richter, Pelkey), 3:24.35; 4. Yorktown (Extine, Butler, Arwood, Williams), 3:25.05.

Consolation qualifiers

200 medley relay — 7. Central (Hitt, Reinsmith, Padgett, Hathaway), 1:49.87; **200 free** — 9. Slater (Y), 1:53.84; 10. Hall (Y), 1:54.92; **200 IM** — 8. Arwood (Y), 2:04.88; 11. Seidner (D), 2:09.57; 12. Jaromin (Y), 2:11.79; **50 free** — 7. Golden (C), 23.03; 12. Walker (C), 24.07; **100 butterfly** — 7. Jaromin (Y), 58.28; 9. Jackson (C), 59.16; 11. Wulff (C), 1:00.65; **100 free** — 7. Golden (C), 51.68; 12. Seidner (D), 52.93; **500 free** — 7. Reising (Y), 5:04.39; 8. Hall (Y), 5:07.76; **200 free relay** — 9. Delta (Shafer, Thomas, Ringo, Lennon), 1:42.32; 12. Southside (Araujo, Brown, Rosa, Mansfield), 1:54.97; **100 backstroke** — 7. Routh (Y), 58.72; 8. McLachlan (Y), 59.99; 9. Slater (Y), 1:00.43; 12. Beasley (C), 1:03.04; **100 breaststroke** — 12. Williams (Y), 1:07.61; **400 free relay** — 8. Central (Beasley, Coers, Coombes, Kerrigan), 3:33.33.

ECI boys advance to swim finals

■ Yorktown and Delta combined to send 14 individuals to state.

By TROY MEZERA
sports@thestarpress.com

FISHERS, Ind. — East Central Indiana will be represented well at the State Swimming Finals next weekend.

Delta and Yorktown combined to send 14 individuals and relay teams to the Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Yorktown won six events and had three other qualifying performances on its way to a second-place finish.

Hamilton Southeastern won the team title, edging the Tigers 327-279.

"We had a lot of guys move on to the state meet," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "We will represent down there. We are going to go and race our hearts out."

Delta's Sam Pelkey claimed two victories, and the Eagles will send four others who finished below the state cut time.

Pelkey, a sophomore, won the 100 breaststroke and 200 individual medley. He was also a member of the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay teams that qualified for the state meet.

"It was awesome to win an individual event this year," Pelkey said. "I have been before on relay teams, but never won an event. I am gonna be a lot faster this year because I will be rested. I am just going to try and have fun."

"For the most part, we are moving up," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "We have guys like Sam (Pelkey) out-swimming their seeds. Overall we are seeing some fast swimming."



Pelkey

Central coach was happy

Continued from 1C

Delta finished fourth as a team with 147 points.

Central also had a solid day, with many personal best performances.

"We did pretty good today," Central coach Steve Spradlin said. "We had some solid swims. These big meets are so mental. We had some individuals with personal bests because they were pumped up, but also lost some time in relays for the same reason. We have improved on the past and that is positive."

Yorktown senior Eric Mattingly is no stranger to the state meet, having qualified each of the last three years.

This year was no different, as he swept his events and set two sectional records.

"I am just going to make the best of state this year," Mattingly said. "Kyle Ruth, my old teammate, is gone now. He has always been in the spotlight, and I have always been under him. Him being gone gives me a real chance."

"The state meet is so tough, so we won't take anything for granted," Agnew said. "He (Mattingly) has as good a chance as anyone to bring home a state title."

Yorktown's Nick Reising was a first-time individual winner at the sectional as he took the top spot in the 200 free.

"It's exciting to make state," Reising said. "It feels good to help the team. We are doing pretty good as a team."

Yorktown's overall score was bolstered by its dominance in the relay events. The Tigers swept all three relays and set a sectional record in the 200 yard medley.

At Jay County

Jay County placed sixth and Blackford was ninth in the Jay County Sectional.

Jay County's Derrick Lee placed second in the 100 butterfly, and Daniel Fisher was third in the 100 breaststroke.

Sean Fischer had Blackford's best finish with a fifth-place effort in the 100 backstroke.

Hamilton SE Sectional

Team scores
1. Hamilton Southeastern 371; 2. Yorktown 279; 3. Bendleton Heights 164; 4. Delta 147; 5. Ander-

son 142; 6. New Palestine 84; 7. Mount Vernon 70; 8. Central 67; 9. Anderson Highland 54; 10. Greenfield-Central 26; 11. Elwood 35; 12. Southside 7

Individual results

Winners and ECI placers

200 medley relay: 1. Yorktown (Mattingly, Butler, Arwood, Clark), 1:36.61; 3. Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Seidner, Brannock), 1:39.30.
200 free: 1. Reising (Yorktown), 1:46.07.
200 IM: 1. Pelkey (Delta), 1:54.09; 4. Butler (Y), 1:58.01.
50 free: 1. Mattingly (Yorktown), 20.67; 2. Clark (Y), 21.63.
Diving: 1. Dunnehy (Elwood), 505.25.
100 butterfly: 1. Godfrey (Anderson), 51.01; 2. Arwood (Y), 53.10.
100 free: 1. Mattingly (Y), 46.80.
500 free: 1. Ballentine (Pendleton Heights), 4:49.66.
200 free relay: 1. Yorktown (Clark, Routh, Reising, Mattingly), 1:27.56.
100 backstroke: 1. Retrum (Hamilton Southeastern), 52.61; 3. Richter (D), 54.65.
100 breaststroke: 1. Pelkey (D), 58.68.
400 free relay: 1. Yorktown (Reising, Arwood, Lytine, Brubb), 3:16.02; 3. Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Brannock, Seidner), 3:17.01.

Jay County Sectional

Team scores

1. Norwell 350; 2. Oak Hill 263; 3. Bluffton 125; 4. South Adams 122; 4. Adams Central 122; 6. Jay County 121; 7. Belmont 116; 8. Marion 87; 9. Blackford 57

Individual results

Winners and ECI placers

200 medley relay: 1. Norwell (Triux, Confer, Troxel, Towne), 1:44.80; 3. Jay County (Peterson, Fisher, Lee, Miller), 1:50.84.
200 free: 1. Triux (N), 1:54.38.
200 IM: 1. Troxel (N), 2:08.37.
50 free: 1. Towne (N), 27.26; 6. Miller (JC), 24.11.
Diving: 1. Oliver (M), 393.60; 7. Osborn (B), 261.58.
100 butterfly: 1. Hodge (OJ), 57.11; 2. Lee (JC), 59.97.
100 free: 1. Towne (N), 49.22; 4. Miller (JC), 51.93.
500 free: 1. Pell (OH), 5:20.88.
200 free relay: 1. Norwell (Triux, Middletown, Thiele, Towne), 1:35.19; 6. Jay County (Miller, Johnston, Fisher, Vormohr), 1:42.16.
100 backstroke: 1. Triux (N), 56.92; 4. Peterson (JC), 1:04.99; 5. Fischer (B), 1:07.37.
100 breaststroke: 1. Troxel (N), 1:07.61; 3. Fisher (JC), 1:07.61.
400 free relay: 1. Norwell (Bucher, Jones, Shatto, Troxel), 1:39.63; 6. Jay County (Lee, Vormohr, Hawn, Peterson), 1:47.05.

Eagles, Tigers head to state

■ In a tally of the times, things look promising for the Yorktown and Delta swim teams.

By GREG FALLON
Sports@thestarpress.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Number crunching and swimming don't usually coincide.

For the Yorktown and Delta swimming teams, a little number crunching might bring some smiles to the faces of a few hopeful athletes.

First for Delta. Sam Pelkey enters tonight's competition with some promising times from sectional competition. In the 200 IM, only one other state qualified swimmer finished with a quicker time — a mere five one-hundredths faster — in sectional competition.

"I have a very good chance at making a lot of noise," Pelkey said. "There are a lot of fast guys, so it will be really tough. I will give it my best and hope that it comes out."

In the 100 breaststroke, Pelkey's other individual event, only three swimmers had quicker times than the Delta sophomore in their sectional swims.

The catch for Pelkey is that Delta coach Tim Brannock expects his sophomore swimmer may be quicker at the state finals than he was at sectional.

"We tried to delay his taper so that he would feel his best at state," Brannock said. "He swam awfully well at sectional. If he can at least replicate that, then he will be in pretty good shape."

Pelkey seemed excited to try what was a new way of tapering to him.

"I feel better now," Pelkey said. "I am more rested for this part of the season. My taper was delayed a week for state instead of sectional. I've never done that before, but I think this is going to work a lot better."

ECI state finalists

200 MEDLEY RELAY: Yorktown (Eric Mattingly, Brenden Butler, Wells Arwood, Alex Clark); Delta (Conrad Richter, Sam Pelkey, Nathan Seidner, Bob Brannock)

200 FREESTYLE: Nick Reising (Y)

200 IM: Pelkey (D); Butler (Y)

50 FREESTYLE: Mattingly (Y); Clark (Y)

100 BUTTERFLY: Arwood (Y)

100 FREESTYLE: Mattingly (Y)

200 FREESTYLE RELAY: Yorktown (Clark, Reising, Matt Routh, Mattingly)

100 BACKSTROKE: Richter (D)

100 BREASTSTROKE: Pelkey (D)

400 FREESTYLE RELAY: Yorktown (Reising, Jordan Exline, Arwood, Routh); Delta (Richter, Pelkey, Seidner, Brannock)

Mattingly leads Tigers

Continued from 1B

Yorktown is advancing more all-around swimmers than Delta. Like the Eagles, the Tigers have one swimmer in particular who is at the top of his events.

Eric Mattingly topped the state in sectional times for the 50 free — a time of 20.67 seconds that will send him to tonight's preliminaries as the guy to beat. That time matches the time of Yorktown's Kyle Ruth, who finished as the state champion in the 50 free last season.

As far as being the favorite, Mattingly said he can handle the expectations.

"I'm not one to break under pressure," he said. "I don't get nervous. My chances of winning aren't 100 percent, but it is high enough that I am quite comfortable."

In Mattingly's other individual event, the 100 free, only one swimmer in the state swam it quicker in sectionals — Carmel's Grant Wieczorek. Wieczorek is the defending state champion in the 200 free.

Mattingly pointed out that Eddie Kenney from Westfield also will be difficult to get past. Kenney swam just a tick slower in the 100 free during sectionals than Mattingly.

On top of the Yorktown senior's chances, the Tigers are also advancing a 200 medley relay, a 200 freestyle relay and a 400 freestyle relay team to tonight's preliminaries.

"It is fantastic," Mattingly said. "I didn't think at the beginning of the year that we would even be close to having three relays at state. I think we are going to do really well. We should be top four or three as a team."

Swimmer shaves head, state record

By TROY MEZERA
sports@thestarpress.com

INDIANAPOLIS — One week ago, Yorktown senior swimmer Eric Mattingly sported a blond mohawk that sharply contrasted his bald-headed sectional opponents.

At the IHSAA boys' swimming



state finals Saturday at the IUPUI Natatorium, the mohawk was gone, and so was the 50-yard freestyle state record.

Mattingly shattered the old record of 20.46 seconds by swimming 20.40 en route to his first

state championship, giving the Tigers a state champion for the second consecutive year. Kyle Ruth won a state title last year.

"(I shaved off the hair) for every reason you can think of," Mattingly said. "This was kind of the plan. I actually thought I could go a little bit faster, but I will take what I got. I can't be-

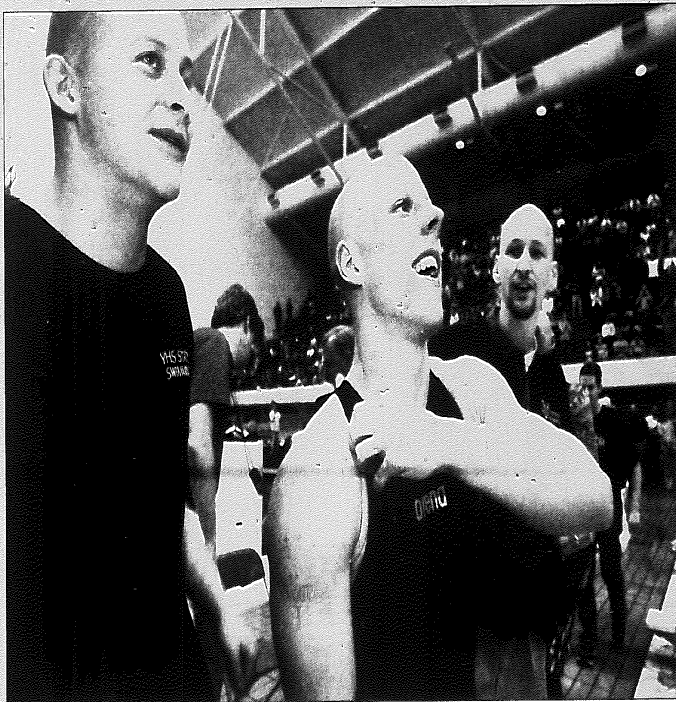
lieve I actually broke the record."

"It doesn't get much better than that," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "The goal was to swim under the state record (time), but that is like a dream goal. You just put it out there and work real hard. I couldn't be more proud of him."

Complete coverage, 1C

BOYS' SWIMMING | Yorktown places seventh in the state meet; Delta finishes 24th

Tiger tames the field



MICHAEL HICKEY / FOR THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S ERIC MATTINGLY (center) looks up at the scoreboard after winning the state championship in the 50 freestyle on Saturday.

Yorktown's Eric Mattingly set a state record in the 50 freestyle

Delta's Sam Pelkey was eighth in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke.

By TROY MEZERA
sports@thestarpress.com

INDIANAPOLIS — Eric Mattingly's state record in the 50-yard freestyle and strong showings from six other Tigers helped Yorktown to a seventh-place finish at the IHSAA boys' swimming state finals on Saturday.

Carmel easily won its fourth consecutive team championship, scoring 352 points, while Yorktown scored 109.

"It's amazing to see what we

can do as a small school," Yorktown's Alex Clark said. "It's awesome coming down here and competing with what (coach Jay Agnew) calls the big dogs."

Yorktown competed in five events and was led by a first, two seconds and a fourth.

Mattingly won the 50 free in 20.4 seconds, lowering the state record of 20.46.

"These kids swim with such courage," Agnew said. "Yorktown is the underdog. No matter where we go, we are the underdog. These guys wear that man-

tle well. They come to swim."

"Jay (Agnew) came into Yorktown and made us work hard," Clark said. "He deserves all the credit in the world."

Homestead's Chad Englehart was named coach of the year.

"Just to be on the deck with these coaches is great," Agnew said. "The coaching at this level is great, and it's exciting to be a young coach with a young team. We just need to learn from this one and move on. We plan on being back next year."

Yorktown's 200 freestyle relay team pushed Carmel and finished second with a time of 1:26.30. Mattingly hit the water with his team in fifth and swam his leg in a blistering 20.27 sec-

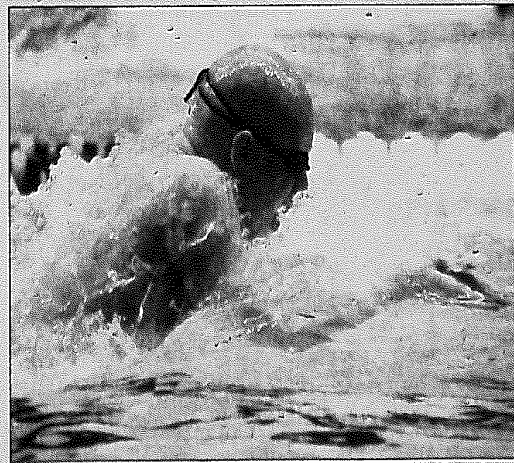
onds, pulling his team to second. The relay time was over a half-second faster than their preliminary time.

Other than Mattingly, Yorktown had one other swimmer competing individually. Junior Alex Clark was third in the consolation heat (11th overall) of the 50 free.

Delta finished with 24 points, tied with Brownsburg for 24th place.

Sophomore Sam Pelkey qualified for the finals in both of his individual events, and earned eighth-place finishes in the 200 individual medley and 100 yard backstroke.

► See EAGLES, 3C



MICHAEL HICKEY / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S BRENDON BUTLER swims the breaststroke portion of the 200 medley relay at the swimming state finals in Indianapolis on Saturday.

Eagle 15th in backstroke

Continued from 1C

100 yard backstroke.

IHSAA boys' state finals

Team scores
1. Carmel 352; 2. Homestead 206; 3. Northridge 145; 4. North Central (Indianapolis) 144; 5. Penn 126; 6. Center Grove 125; 7. Yorktown 109; 24. Brownsburg and Delta (tie) 24.

Individual results
200 medley relay: 1. Carmel (Wieczorek, Johnson, Bartels, Cousins); 1:33.40; 7. Yorktown (Mattingly, Butler, Arwood, Clark); 1:37.70.
200 free: 1. Wieczorek (Carmel); 1:38.93.
200 IM: 1. Christy (North Central, Indianapolis); 1:50.69; 8. Pelkey (D.); 1:57.16.
50 free: 1. Mattingly (Yorktown); 20.40; 11. Clark (Yorktown); 21.88.
Diving: 1. Dunlichay (Elwood); 495.75.
100 butterfly: 1. Hesen (Jeffersonville); 49.36.
100 free: Wieczorek (Carmel); 45.27; 4. Mattingly (Yorktown); 46.38.
500 free: 1. Cousins (Carmel); 4:36.02.
200 free relay: 1. Carmel (Cousins, Stegger, Cousins, Belcher); 1:24.92; 2. Yorktown (Clark, Reising, Routh, Mattingly); 1:26.30.
100 backstroke: 1. Hesen (Jeffersonville); 49.12; 15. Richter (Delta); 55.23.
100 backstroke: 1. Wray (South Bend Riley); 57.48; 8. Pelkey (Delta); 59.46.
400 free relay: 1. Carmel (Bartels, Wieczorek, Stegger, Belcher); 3:03.43; 12. Yorktown (Reising, Exline, Arwood, Routh); 3:17.53.
* State record

"I went a little slower today than last night," Pelkey said. "But it was a lot of fun to be here."

"A sophomore with two state finals swims, not much more you could ask for," Delta coach Tim Brannock said. "He is a great kid and a hard worker. There is plenty of competition his age here, but he will just have to rise to the occasion. We expect big things from this kid."

Delta's Conrad Richter also gained points for the Eagles with his 15th-place finish in the