BOYS' SWIMMING SECTIONALS | Delta has a very young, inexperienced group of divers

## Passion of the Pool



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

DELTA DIVING COACH Ray Porter shows his divers proper form. Porter was the diving coach at North Central in Indianapolis for 10 years where he coached one state champion and several top 10 finishers. Porter came to Muncie to live with his girlfriend, now wife and mother of his six month-old twin daughters.

## Delta divers are led by one of Indiana's best spring board coaches

■ Ray Porter is entering his second season as Delta's diving coach with a brand new group of boys.

By GREG FALLON

UNCIE - Ray Porter leaves Delta High School around 4:10 p.m. each day and travels to Indianapolis to work for UPS. He gets back to his Muncie home at 5:30 a.m. the next morning.

It's not the standard routine of a high school coach, but Porter is no usual coach.

A former North Central diving coach for

10 years, Porter moved to Muncie to pursue a relationship with his now wife and mother of his six-month-old twin daughters.

When he moved to the south side of Muncie to be with her, Porter had been out of coaching for two years.

"It was absolutely relaxing," Porter said of his time off. "The time consumption of coaching is more than a job almost. I had less responsibility for sure. At the same time, to tes though, I figured I would get back into coaching. At what level, I never knew."

The level would be high school and it would come at Delta, a school he was already somewhat familiar with. The diving coach before Porter was Nick Gayes, a Ball State

Porter knew Gayes because he was his program as well. coach in a U.S. diving program in Indianapolis called Ray's Rippers. After their time to

#### Boys' swim sectionals

Preliminaries for all swim events begin at 5:30 p.m. at respective sites. On Saturday, diving will begin at 9 a.m., and consolations and finals are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Local schools and their corresponding sites:

Hamilton Southeastern: Delta, Central, Southside,

Homestead: Blackford, Jay County New Palestine: New Castle

gether on that club team, they stayed close enough that Porter developed some knowledge of Delta's program.

When Gayes graduated from Ball State and moved on, Porter pursued the job at

"It was one hell of a limb for Delta to go out on when they hired me, considering the lack of time that I can spend," said Porter, a 13-year employee of UPS. It was a limb Delta coach Tim Brannock

and athletic director Steve Reed were willing to test. After all, this wasn't just some UPS

In his 10 years at North Central in Indi-anapolis, Porter coached one state champion in Sara Gonso in 2001. The number of top-10 state finishers during Porter's time are too many to list. Not only did he have the high school success, he was known for his USD



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS **DELTA DIVING COACH Ray Porter watches senior** 

> See PORTER, 4B Mike Reno take a dive on Monday.

### Porter has diving history

Continued from 1B

"The biggest thing that Ray brings to his coaching is a passion for the sport and a passion for personal excellence from each of his athletes," said Mark Hesse, North Central's head coach, "It was great to be able to work with him because of that. I think he has an excellent eve for detail with the divers to make sure that they put all the little things together to have a great dive."

Kokomo High School in 1989 form during practice this week. and placed sixth in diving at from him a day. He isn't able to Saturday. attend dual meets during the In this year's Hoosier Heritage point," Scott said. "He doesn't week, either,

perienced group, 40 minutes a in the top 12. Because of that, they then he tries to work it out with day seems to be helping.

divers," Brannock



Brannock

of progress since they started this year, and it is obviously because of Ray's coaching. They know him, and they trust

him. He's taken them from uncoordinated young

wouldn't be entirely surprised if his critiquing. And his divers aptwo of his divers place in the top preciate what their coach is able fallon at 213-5876.



DANIEL JOHNSON / THE STAR PRESS

Porter, who graduated from DELTA DIVING COACH Ray Porter (right) talks to diver Jeff Grant about his

state his senior year, explained 12 during sectionals this week. to get done in a short time. his four divers at Delta don't Preliminaries begin tonight with "He expects a lot." Penn said, cause of his work schedule. In Southeastern Sectional. Diving He is a great coach." fact, they get about 40 minutes does not begin until about 9 a.m.

got to experience what it takes to us.

weekend.

said.

So graceful that Brannock minutes a day are where he does strive to be the best."

Scott

get much time from him be- Delta competing in the Hamilton "but he knows what he is doing.

"He is really fun to work with and he just gets right to the Conference meet, freshmen Ethan dilly-dally around. He is there But even with a young, inex- Penn and Matt Scott both qualified for us, and if we have problems,

"We have four first-year dive ll times rather than six as they Whether Scott, Penn or any of do in a dual meet the other Delta divers make of an - experience that impact on this weekend's secmight pay off this tional outcome remains to be seen. For Porter however, places But meets aren't and points aren't necessarily the where Porter usu- reason for his passion.

ally does his work. "I am a teacher first," Porter "It doesn't both- said of his divers. "I am a teacher er me if I can't go of the sport of diving and a to dual meets," he teacher of how to compete. We go back to basics, back to the The second-year Eagle coach ideas of being a good person and kids to pretty graceful athletes." explained that those crucial 40 being a person that is willing to

### Yorktown, Delta solid in prelims

# Hamilton Southeastern favored to win the swimming sectional.

By GREG FALLON

MUNCIE The Hamilton
Southeastern sectional can best
be summed up with the following
statistic: In the 100 butterfly
alone on Thursday,





put the preliminaries.

By the time Sateria widay's finals roll around, Delta coach Tim Brannock wouldn't be surprised if seven boys earn themselves tickets straight to the state standard. That yets tells would be supposed to the state standard with the state standard with the state standard with the state standard. That yets tells would be supposed to the meet, but Yorktown and Delta both turned in impressive prelim performances in Fishers.

The Tigers were led mostly by Brenden Butler who was two seconds shy of the 500 free sectional record with a first place time of 448.88.

"Brenden swam really strong.

record with a first place time of 448.88.

"Brenden swam really strong, let ook it out and wanted to set a good pace and then he kind of put if in cruise control." Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said. "The utilitized goal is to get a win and to move on to state, but he isn't afraid to shoot for the record. It would definitely be nice."

Butler was also part of a second place 200 medley relay team for the Tigers in addition to placing second as an individual in the 200 IM with a time of 1593.6 But the IM is usually one of Delta's Sam Pelkey's best events.

In fact, with times from this season, he has ranked as high as third in the state in the event. He finished the race third on Thursday, but Brannock thinks his swimmer is playing things just right.
"Sam did pretty much what he

swimmer is playing things just right.

"Sam did pretty much what he needed to do tonight," Brannock said. "He needed to get ready for Saturday. He knows qualifying first doesn't mean you are going first on Saturday. He just needed to come out and competes of that he can give it all he's got on Saturday."

He competed in more than just the 200 IM.

The Delta swimmer won the

He competed in more than just the 200 liM.

The Delia swimmer won the 100 breastsroke by more than a second and he also swam on belta's third place 200 medley relay team and third place 200 medley relay team and third place 200 free relay team.

Brannock expects Yorktown might finish Saturday's finals in second, behind the heavily as the second, behind the heavily as the second, behind the heavily single second behind the second second

Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

Hamilton Southeastern Sociologia Professional Professiona

## **Yorktown** swimmers second in sectional

BV BRIAN SAPARNIS

FISHERS, Ind. - Unranked Yorktown came close to a Royal upset in a Hamilton Southeastern

boys' swimming sectional that saw blistering and record times. Entering the 12th and final event, Yorktown trailed the host school by one point. Whichever team finished faster in the 400-

team innisned faster in the 400-yard freestyle relay would win Saturday's sectional. Through 350 yards, Yorktown had a lead of 0.22 seconds, but Hamilton Southeastern's Joe Hamilton Southeastern's Joe Retrum overtook Jordan Extine-down the stretch and beat the Tiger to the finish. The Royals' relay finished in a sectional- and pool-record 3:12.95, 0.64 seconds faster than Yorktown's school-record time.

"When Retrum was getting

ready to get into the water, I thought he was the best 100 freestyler in the meet, so I thought we had a pretty good shot," said Hamilton Southeast-

ern coach Andy Pedersen, whose team won its 13th consecutive sec-tional title while denying York-town its first, "But I wish this meet could have ended in a tie. I've never seen a taper like



The Tigers set six school records, including records, including sectional records in the 200 IM relay to start the day and Brenden Butler's siz-zling 500 freestyle time of 4:42.28, more than for seconds faster than the previous sectional record.

"I have never been to a more fun meet in my life," said Butler, who also won the 200 IM, "Both teams raced incredibly, and I've probably never been more proud of second place in my entire life. or second place in my entire life. I'm not sure any experience will ever be able to top that, having a one-point difference going to the final relay."

Hamilton Southeastern fin-Hamilton Southeastern this ished with 328 points, seven more than Yorktown. Last year, Yorktown finished 48 points be-hind the Royals in another run-ner-up effort.

Delta was a distant third with

161. Central was seventh, and Southside was last in the nine-

team sectional.

Two Delta swimmers qualified for multiple events in Friday's IH-SAA state finals in Indianapolis.

Conrad Richter qualified in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly. Sam Pelkey — unshaven and not tapered — won the 100 breast-

Sam Peikey — unshaven and not tapered — won the 100 breast-stroke and also advanced in the 200 IM.

Those two joined Evan Richter and Scott Carruthers on the Ea-gles' 200 IM relay team that qual-ified for the state finals.

"It's a gamble not to be tapered or shaved," Delta coach Tim Brannock said of Pelkey, whose time of 158.47 in the 200 1M barely beat the state-qualifying time of 1:58.66. "It was hard for him He's never swam a big meet like this without being shaved or ta-pered."

➤ See TIGER, 40

## Tiger relays reach state

Continued from 1C

Yorktown qualified all three relay teams to the state finals.

Butler advanced in the two individual events that he won. and Wells Arwood advanced in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke.

Other Yorktown individuals to advance include Nick Reising in the 200 free, Alex Clark in the 50 free and Matt Routh, who turned in a statequalifying time in the consolations of the 100 butterfly.

Clark missed much of January with pneumonia, and Reising has battled mono in recent weeks.

"We can't be disappointed at all," said Clark, who fin-ished first in the 50 free in 21.69 seconds. "We swam our tails off. My senior year, I couldn't ask for anymore from my teammates. They didn't think it would be this close. For it to come within one relay is awesome."

Yorktown coach Jay Agnew, who was named sectional coach of the year by his colleagues, said it would be easy to nitpick and come up with ways the Tigers might have been able to make up its seven-point difference.

But I don't want to think about that; it was about as close to perfect as you can 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 time:

YORKTOWN

200 medley relay: 1. Brenden Butler, Zach Williams, Wells Arwood, Alex Clark, 1:36:35 200 freestyle: 2. Nick Reising, 1:45.22

200 IM: 1. Butler, 1:54.94 50 freestyle: 1. Clark, 21.89 100 butterfly: 3. Arwood, 51.77; 7. Matt Routh, 53.1 500 freestyle: 1. Butler, 4:42.28

200 freestyle relay: 2. Jordan Extine, Reising, Routh, Clark, 1:27 69

100 backstroke: 5. Arwood, 54.89 400 freestyle relay: 2. Reising, Butler, Routh, Extine, 3:13.59

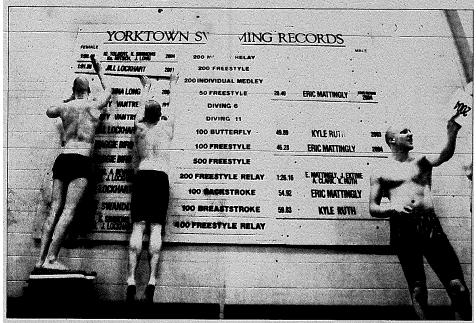
DELTA 200 medley relay: 3. Evan Richter, Scott Carruthers, Conrad Richter, Sam Pelkev, 1:38.98 200 IM: 4. Pelkey, 1:58.47 **50 freestyle**: 2. C. Richter, 21.71 **100 butterfly**: 2. C. Richter, 51.13 100 breaststroke: 1. Pelkev. 58.75 Additional swimmers might be added today if needed to fill 32 spots for the state finals.

get," said Agnew, a Hamilton Southeastern graduate who swam for the Royals. "We want to win, of course. We knew we had an outside chance to win, but more than anything, we wanted to race fast. These kids did that, and you can't be disappointed.'

Contact assistant sports editor Brian Saparnis at 213-5811.

SWIMMING | Yorktown's Matt Routh has recovered from a tumor and will swim at state

# umph over tumor



KURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS

four weeks after the surgery.

His parents were there

ALEX CLARK (left) and Matt Routh take down one board as teammate Jordan Extine hands another off. They were removing old school record signs in prepa ration for the 13 new ones that will be made and added from this year's season. There were five girls' and eight boys' records broken this year.

■ Yorktown's Matt Routh has made the best of a mandatory change from wrestling to swimming.

By TROY MEZERA

d had headaches before, but this one was different. Sitting in his eighth grade health class, he began to lose touch with what was going on around him, began

having trouble seeing, talking, The fearless 14-year-old was suddenly

Imagine coming out of a painstakingly long surgery and worrying about being able to attend the middle school dance. This was Yorktown swimmer Matt Routh's reality three

years ago.

Routh, who had been plagued with migraines during his middle school days, that he will be a suited by the same between the same be knew something was different about the pain he felt the day he was airlifted to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

He was diagnosed with an Astrocytoma, a said he needed help with daily tasks for about

IHSAA boys' swimming state finals WHEN: Preliminaries 6 p.m. Friday, diving 9 a.m. Saturday, swim finals 1 p.m. Saturday WHERE: IU Natatorium, Indianapolis
ECI REPRESENTATION: Twelve swimmers from Yorktown and Delta will compete (full list on 4B).

brain tumor that had formed at the back of his brain.

"The headache from that day scared me," the Tiger junior said.

"I had migraines before that, but the pain was incredible that day. It was weird. Everything from going to the nurse, to going to Ball (Memorial) to being flown to Indy went by in a flash to me. I just remember right after the operation being worried about going to that ever-important middle school dance."

But there was much more to worry about for Routh. Doctors told him he might lose movement in the left side of his body, and things as simple as reading or walking up the stairs required help from his parents. Routh never lost control of his left side but



every step of the way.
"I think they had to pry my mom off the helicopter base

when they were flying me out of here," said Routh, who is one of seven Tiger swimmers Routh competing in this weekend's IHSAA state finals. "She was burning rubber down to Indy, while my dad saw me off. My whole family was around dur-ing the four days I was at Riley."

Today, the only lingering results of the surgery are a 4-5 inch vertical scar located on the back left of his head and his lost love of wrestling.

Routh began wresting at the age of four. Working with Yorktown coach Trent Mc-Cormick, Routh said he learned about work ethic and seemed to have a bright future in the Tiger wrestling program.

He won age group state titles twice and was looking forward to a successful high school career.

➤ See ROUTH, 4B

#### State qualifiers

East Central Indiana swim-mers who qualified for Friday's

YORKTOWN
200 mediey relay: Brenden But-ier, Zach Williams, Wells Arwood, Alex Clark 200 fees

200 freestyle: Nick Reising 200 IM: Butler

100 freestyle: Reising 50 freestyle: Clark, Williams 100 butterfly: Arwood, Matt

Routh 100 breaststroke: Jordan Ex

500 freestyle: Butler 200 freestyle relay: Extine, Reising, Routh, Clark 100 backstroke: Arwood 400 freestyle relay: Reising; Butler, Routh, Extine

Butler, Routh, Extine
DELTA
200 medley relay: Evan Richter,
Scott Carruthers, Conrad Richter,
Sam Pelkey
200 IM: Pelkey

50 freestyle: C. Richter 100 butterfly: C. Richter 100 breaststroke: Pelkey 200 freestyle relay: Pelkey, E. Richter, C. Richter, Ben Thomas.















Carruthers













### Routh qualified as individual

Continued from 1B

"Of course, his twin brother, "Of course, his twin brotner, Chris, still wrestles for me," McCormick said. "And it was kind of a family affair. Our club would go to a tournament, and you'd see both Routh boys out

would go to a tournament, and you'd see both Routh boys out on the mat and their mom working the tournament. He probably wrestled 7-8 years and did an outstanding job for us."

The tumor forced doctors to tell Routh that contact sports of any kind were out the question. The news was devastating to the adolescent, but he began to condition with the team even though he knew he would not compete. Routh quickly realized that sitting on the sidelines was not for him and that swimming might be the answer he was looking for. Joining the rest of the Tigers in the pool has proved to be a perfect fit.

"He's got a wrestler's mentality," fellow junior and swimmer Zach Williams said. "When it happened, I never knew it was so bad. But he has bounced back, and we love him on the team. We always just wanted to help him with his strokes and starting and stuff, and it comes to him since he works so hard."

Yorktown swim coach Jay Agnew has seen the hard work since day one.

"This kid (Routh) came in

since day one.

"This kid (Routh) came in

and swam some times around 56 seconds in the 100 free," said Agnew, who has coached an individual state champion three straight years. "He made phenomenal time drops and was at a 50-point after a few weeks.

Unbelievable drops."

Routh has been to the state meet as an alternate and a memmeet as an alternate and a member of relay teams the previous two seasons, but this year he will be involsed in his first individual event, the 100 butterfly. In addition, he will anchor the 400 free relay and will swim the third leg in the 200 free relay.

"He's an athlete and a competitor," Agnew said. "He just wants to race. No matter who else is in the pool around him, he's going to throw it down. It's great to have a 'kid like that on your team."

Routh, also an avid clarinet player, said he has no problem

player, said he has no problem playing the instrument, despite

a slow process into regaining full control.

"It was tough at first," he said, almost laughing at the thought. "You know, reading the music and moving your fin-gers at the same time, it just all

gers at the same time, it just an took time to come back to me."

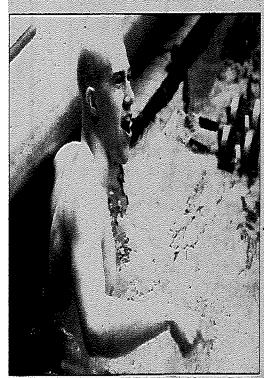
Now that the bone plate has healed and thoughts about the surgery are distant, Routh has more time to reflect on how his if the surgery are distant, and the surgery are surgery as the surgery life has changed. He said that he was happy to learn that people were there for him and that it makes him want to be there for them, whether in the pool or in life. He said that little things peo-ple did made a lasting impres-

ple did made a lasting impression.

"I couldn't go back to school that year (eighth grade)," Routh said. "But they did let me go to graduation, and when I walked across the stage, I got a stand-

across the stage, I got a stand-ing ovation."

Routh and the rest of the Tigers are hoping for a standing ovation of another sort when the state finals get off the blocks Friday night.



CHRIS WEDDLE / THE STAR PRESS

SAM PELKEY shows his approval after seeing his second-place time in the 100 breaststroke Saturday at the IU Natatorium.

## Delta's Pelkey takes second in breaststroke

By GREG FALLON gfallon@muncie.gannett.com

didn't result in any state champi- when he saw his placing, "I was onships for local swimmers or proud of myself and happy that I their teams, but it came darn close had swam as well as I had." 43 of a second away, actually.

Pelkey missed by when it came to would have rather lost to than winning a state title in the 100- Taylor. The two have been good vard breaststroke. He finished friends and swimming compansecond behind Warsaw's Nate ions since they were 10 years old. Taylor, Pelkev's second-place time of 57.23 was quick enough to

stand as a personal best and as a school record.

"I was amazed. I was so excit-INDIANAPOLIS - Saturday ed," Pelkey said of his reaction

Pelkey also pointed out that That's the amount Delta's Sam there was no other competitor he

> See PELKEY, 3C



YORKTOWN'S BRENDEN BUTLER competes in the 500-yard freestyle at the state finals in Indianapolis. Butler placed

### Pelkey helps Delta finish 16th

Continued from 1C

Going into the race, Pelkey was confident, Delta coach Tim Brannock said.

'I think he felt like one of (the first three seeds) was going to win it," Brannock said. "He went The breaststroke is a different kind of race. Half is your swim and half of it is your pullout (on the start and turns). Sam was out-swimming the kid that won it, but the other guy was out-

Pelkey turned in a second strong performance in the 200 strong seriormance in the 200 strong beautiful to a simple suggestion by Brannock.

The coach said he noticed that his swimmer tried too hard during the first leg of the IM, the butterfly, during the preliminary race on Friday. In that race, Pelkey finished seventh.

On Saturday, Brannock asked Pelkey to take it easier on the

First leg of the race.

He did so, and it paid off. He finished fourth with a time of 1:54.87, a second and a half quick-

er than he swam it on Friday.
"I think that helped a lot,"
Pelkey said. "Because I had taken
it easier on that first 50, I felt a lot

better when I was going into the last lengths. I was able to drop a lot more time.

Delta's Conrad Richter was the only other East Central Indiana swimmer to compete in the finals on Saturday. The junior finished fifth in the 100 butterfly.

"It is hard to complain about that at all," Brannock said of Richter. "He absolutely went out to win that race, and he led about the first 25-50 yards, but he just couldn't quite hold that pace. That was a fun race

The Eagles finished 16th as a team, four places better than they were ranked for the second half of the season.

Yorktown finished 20th in the meet, and all of the Tigers' points came from action in the consola-

The Tigers' best finished was a third-place time in the 200

freestyle consolation relay. That team was made up of Jordan Extine, Nick Reising, Matt Routh and Alex Clark. The relay team's time was one second slower than it was on Friday when it failed to qualify for the finals.

"The whole weekend was a lot like that," Agnew said about the slower time. "This was coming off of probably the best perfor-mance I have ever been a part of at sectional. Our kids were drained from that, and we strug-gled to recover from it all week.

They put their hearts out there, and I'm still proud of them." In the 400 free relay, Yorktown (Extine, Reising, Routh and Bren-den Butler) finished fourth in the consolation race and 12th overall.

Butler was the only individual to score points for Yorktown. He placed fifth in both the 200 IM and 500 freestyle consolation races.



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