

Central to do more than watch at swim sectionals

■ Memories of watching Yorktown, Hamilton Southeastern drive 'Cats.

By TROY MEZERA
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MUNCIE — About three years ago to the day, Central senior swimmer Luke Beasley watched in awe as Yorktown and Hamilton Southeastern displayed their dominance at the sectional race.

Today, when the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional gets off the starting block, Beasley and the rest of the Bearcat swimmers don't plan on watching, but on winning.

"It's kind of a revival of Central Swimming, or at least that's what we like to call it," said Beasley, who helped lead Central to an 11-1 regular season. "We used to be considered the ugly step-sister of the sectional, so it's really nice to be able to compete."

Beasley, who was a freshman when he watched the Tigers and Royals dominate, has the help of a freshman this year as the Bearcats have risen to No. 19 in the single-class statewide poll.

Devon Hill, the lone freshman on Central's 200-yard and 400 freestyle relay teams, has solidified a spot that was a revolving door last season.

With the help of the fast freshman, Beasley, Rob Coombes and Kyle Kerrigan have grabbed the No. 1 seed in the 200 free relay and the No. 2 seed in the 400 free relay.

Hill's ability to adapt to high school swimming has improved Central's team scores and has given the four guys a chance to qualify for state, something not often accomplished in the Central boys' swimming program.

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► Find out where ECJ teams are competing | 3B.

► See FRESHMAN 3B

Freshman a big help in relays

Continued from 1B

"I thought I'd fit in and thought we'd be fast," said Hill, who will also compete in the 50 and 100 free races at the sectional. "But it's pretty cool (to be the No. 1 seed)."

Hill, who came into high school with age-group swimming experience including state meets, credits Kerrigan with improving his times.

Kerrigan, who will be the opening leg in both relays, is the No. 1 seed in the 50 freestyle and the No. 3 seed in the 100 free.

He, like every other swimmer on the Central team, is looking for his first trip to the state finals, and his leadership has helped Hill fill a void in the relays.

"It's been a great feeling," said Kerrigan, whose 200 relay team has already swam a state cut time, but needs to repeat the performance in sectionals to secure a spot at state. "At a school where football, basketball and volleyball are always in the state's top five, it's cool to be doing something in swimming."

While none of the swimmers

Boys' sectionals

When: Today and Saturday, time determined by host school

Where and Who: **Homestead sectional:** Adams Central,

Bellmont, Bluffton, Blackford, Homestead, Huntington North, Jay County, Marion, Norwell, Oak Hill, South Adams

Hamilton Southeastern sectional: Anderson, Anderson Highland, Delta, Elwood, Hamilton Southeastern, Liberty Christian, Central, Southside, Pendleton Heights, Yorktown.

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

Cost: \$4 for one session, \$7 for all sessions

said they were thinking about a team title because of Yorktown and Hamilton Southeastern's depth, Coombes said he thinks this year's team is the beginning of better things for Central swimming.

"With our group of freshman now, and some really good swimmers at Northside, this could be a really good thing — the first of many good years," Coombes said.

ECI high school boys' swimmers advance to finals

THE STAR PRESS

FISHERS, Ind. — Yorktown's boys swim team had qualifiers for the finals in nine of 11 events Thursday during sectional preliminaries at Hamilton Southeastern.

The top six finishers in each event move on to Saturday's sectional finals, while swimmers finishing in places 7-12 will swim in the consolation finals Saturday.

Yorktown led the way among East Central Indiana teams, qualifying 13 swimmers for the finals. Central and Delta qualified nine each.

The Tigers Brenden Butler finished first in the 200-yard IM and the 500 free swimming

the 1M in 2:00.45 and the 500 4:54.52. Butler teamed up with Matt Routh, Wells Arwood and Dan Farrell to win the 200 medley relay in 1:40.60.

Other Yorktown swimmers to qualify for the finals were Routh in the 200 free and 100 butterfly, Dark Hall in the 200 IM and 500 free, Wells Arwood in the 100 fly and 100 back, Kenny Brown in the 500 free and Zach Williams in the 100 breaststroke.

Chris Routh, Farrell, Hall, and Carson Slater qualified in the 200 free relay, while Hall, Slater, Butler and Alex Keller qualified in the 400 free relay.

► See 'CATS, 68

'Cats dominate 50 free

Continued from 1B

Central finished in three of the top four places in the 50 free, led by the first-place time of Rob Coombes in 21.90. Teammates Kyle Kerrigan and Devon Hill finished second and fourth, respectively.

Bearcat relay teams comprised of Coombes, Hill, Kerrigan and Luke Beasley won the 200 and 400 free relays. Coombes, Hill, and Kerrigan also qualified for the 100 free. Central's Sam Hi-

att, James Carnes, Derek Richard and Beasley qualified for the 200 medley relay.

Delta's Sam Pelkey finished second in the 100 breast with a time of 1:00.29, and fellow Eagle Conrad Richter took second in the 100 fly.

Pelkey and Richter joined Evan Richter and Scott Carruthers for a runner-up finish in the 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay.

Pelkey also qualified for the 200 IM and Richter the 50 free.

Evan Richter qualified for the 100 back and the 400 free relay team of Erik Ringo, Neal Faulkner, Jarrod Walls and Jason Morris qualified.

Yorktown, Delta, Central go 2, 3, 4 at swim sectional

By TROY MEZERA
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FISHERS, Ind. — With four Hamilton Southeastern Pool records entering Saturday's swimming sectional finals, Yorktown's boys swimmers have proven in the past that they can swim with the big boys.

And after the Royals reclaimed one of the four records with a dominating performance in the 200-yard medley relay to begin the meet, Tigers coach Jay Agnew was able to put his team's second-place finish in perspective.

"We are right in the transition stage," Agnew said. "We are really close to being a big-time state contender but are still very green in some areas."

The Tigers finished with 247 points, 123.5 points behind Hamilton Southeastern.

It was the Royals' 14th consecutive team title.

Central finished a distant third, and Delta was fourth. Southside finished eighth with 52 points.

Yorktown qualified for next week's state finals in five events, while Delta qualified in six events.

Brenden Butler's first-place finishes in the 200 IM and 500 freestyle led the Tigers. He won the same two events at last year's sectional and was part of this year's state-qualifying 200 medley relay team.

"I love it (winning)," Butler said. "There are a lot of us that know we should make a state cut time, so everyone at the sectional is usually trying to have fun, swim well enough to get to state and see what happens."

► See 'CATS, 3C

'Cats cut time off of seed time

Continued from 1C

Joining Butler on the 200 medley team were Matt Routh, Zach Williams, and Wells Arwood. Arwood also qualified for two individual events, placing third in the 100 butterfly and fourth in the 100 backstroke. He made the state cut time in both events.

Yorktown sophomore diver Kurt Bartrum finished third in the diving competition to advance to Tuesday's regional.

The Eagles were led by Ohio State-bound Sam Pelkey, who qualified in four events. Pelkey finished third in the 200 individual medley and won the 100 breaststroke, an event he finished second in at last year's

state finals.

"I think I've got a realistic shot at winning (the 100 breaststroke) at state," said Pelkey who was also on the 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay teams that made state cut times.

Joining Pelkey in the 200 medley relay were Evan Richter, Conrad Richter and Scott Carruthers. The 200 freestyle relay was the same team.

Conrad Richter will also swim the 50 free and 100 butterfly at state. He tied Arwood in the 100 butterfly and won the 50 free, just ahead of Central freshman Devon Hill.

Hill did make the state cut time, but teammates Kyle Kerrigan and Rob Coombes failed to qualify in both the 50 and 100 free despite low seed times.

But a disappointing individual day for the Central sprinters finished with state qualifying times in the 200 and 400 free relays.

Hill, Coombes, Kerrigan and Luke Beasley finished second to the host Royals both times but will be swimming next Saturday. "To bounce back the way they (Coombes and Kerrigan) did after their individual days, that's awesome," said Beasley, the self-described weak link who swam some of his strongest times of the year on Saturday. "I know it's tough for them to not make it as individuals, but at least we will be there next week."

The Bearcats cut nearly nine seconds off their seed time in the 400 finals.

Several East Central Indiana athletes were close to state cut times, and if the allotted 32 spots aren't filled from across the state, the fastest times will fill in. Check www.ihsa.org today to find out the complete state qualifier list.

Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5816.

Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

All Fishers, Ind. Team scores:
1. Hamilton Southeastern 371, 2. Yorktown 247.5, 3. Central 175, 4. Delta 161.5, 5. Anderson High-

land 114, 6. Anderson 107, 7. Pendleton Heights 71, 8. Southside 52, 9. Elwood 44, 10. Liberty Christian 6.

Winners and top local finishers

200 medley relay: 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Osborne, Paul, Mudd, Robinson) 1:36.29 (pool record) #; 2. Delta (E. Richter, Pelkey, C. Richter, Carruthers) 1:36.94 #; 3. Yorktown (Routh, Williams, Arwood, Butler) #; 4. Central (Carnes, Richard, Matt, Beasley), 8. Southside (Craycraft, Woolton, Brown, May) 1:54.81; 200 freestyle: 1. Beyer (HSE) 1:48.25, 5. South (Y) 1:54.83, 7. Slater (Y) 1:52.56, 8. Brown (Y) 1:54.85; 200 IM: 1. Butler (Y) 1:55.77 #; 3. Pelkey (D) 1:58.04 #; 4. Hill (Y) 2:00.40; 8. Hornsby (Y) 2:07.56; 50 free: 1. C. Richter (D) 21.80 #; 2. Hill (C) 21.92 #; 3. Coombes (C) 22.10; 4. Kerrigan (C) 22.13; 7. Williams (Y) 22.27; Diving: 1. Duncchay (E) 516.00, 3. Bartrum (Y), 6. May (S) 274.95, 8. Fisk (Y) 271.65; 100 butterfly: 1. Mudd (HSE) 51.70 #; 1. Arwood (Y) 52.41 #; 3. C. Richter (D) 52.41 #; 6. Routh (Y) 55.55; 7. Parmelee (C) 58.05; 8. Hornsby (Y) 58.97; 100 freestyle: 1. Robinson (HSE) 47.85 #; 3. Hill (C) 48.95, 4. Kerrigan (C) 49.22, 6. Coombes (C) 49.64; 500 freestyle: 1. Butler (Y) 4:50.07; 2. Hill (Y) 4:54.48; 6. Brown (Y) 5:06.43; 200 freestyle relay: 1. Hamilton Southeastern (Beyer, Robinson, record) #; 2. Delta (E. Richter, Pelkey, C. Richter, Carruthers) 1:28.02 #; 3. Central (Kerrigan, Beasley, Hill, Coombes) 1:28.52 #; 3. Delta (Carruthers, E. Richter, Pelkey, C. Richter) 1:28.71 #; 4. Yorktown (Routh, Slater, Routh, Robin) 1:29.98; 7. Southside (Woolton, May, Lacy, Lamoke) 1:42.17; 100 backstroke: 1. Mudd (HSE) #; 4. Arwood (Y) #; 5. E. Richter (D) 56.26, 7. Carnes (C) 58.39; 100 breaststroke: 1. Pelkey (D) 58.13 #; 3. Carruthers (D) 1:00.45; 6. Williams (Y) 1:03.55; 7. Woolton (S) 1:05.36; 400 freestyle relay: 1. Ham-

ilton Southeastern (Osborne, Beyer, Hughes, Robinson) 3:13.78 #; 2. Central (Kerrigan, Beasley, Hill, Coombes) 3:16.31 #; 3. Yorktown (Butler, Arwood, Hill, Routh) 3:17.96; 6. Delta (Ringo, Walls, Faulkner, Patterson) 3:43.71; 8. Southside (Lampke, Townsend, Lacy, Balint) 4:15.42; # = state cut



Pelkey



C. Richter



Coombes



E. Richter



Beasley

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All Fishers, Ind. Team scores:
1. Hamilton Southeastern 371, 2. Yorktown 247.5, 3. Central 175, 4. Delta 161.5, 5. Anderson High-

Swimmer knows when to joke, when to stroke

By TROY MEZERA
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MUNCIE — A couple of years ago at a Delta fundraiser, Eagle swimmer Conrad Richter was helping his mother work the event.

As usual with Richter, he was more interested in having a good time and sneaking into the basketball game than putting too much effort into the event he was there for.

"He'll do things like that (try to sneak into the basketball game), and you want to get on him," Delta swimming coach Tim Brannock said. "But then he flashes that grin, and it's too hard to be mad for too long."

► See SENIORS, 5B



Richter



Pelkey

More inside

► State tournament information | 5B

Seniors lead Delta swimmers

Continued from 1B

That grin is something his coaches and teammates know well, and his attitude is something that keeps practices upbeat.

"Conrad is great to swim with because he's kind of a goof ball," said Sam Pelkey, who will join teammates Conrad, Evan Richter and Scott Carruthers at the state finals beginning tonight and continuing Saturday. "He just has fun swimming but knows when it's time to get down to business."

And when it's time to get serious, Conrad is the one leading the charge.

Brannock describes practice as "the only time you will find Conrad being serious" and calls all of his senior captains (Pelkey, Conrad, Eric Ringo and Tim Patterson) great leaders.

Conrad is especially hard on his brother, Evan, and says he wants only the best for his younger sibling.

"I do get upset when people don't work hard," said Richter, who will compete in the 100 butterfly, 50 freestyle, 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay at the state finals. "I get on Evan

some, but that's because I want him to see how it's done."

Conrad said he was excited that he and Pelkey will be able to set an example for Evan at the state finals and thinks it will "give him an idea of what it takes."

Conrad should know; he finished fifth last year in the 100 butterfly and is the top returning swimmer in the event. Four seniors finished ahead of him last year.

"Coming back into the year, I knew I had a good shot," Conrad said. "But the added pressure doesn't make me nervous."

Nervousness isn't something Pelkey feels, either — he says he never has.

And while the state finals might be the biggest and brightest stage to most swimmers, Pelkey feels more at home at Indiana University's Natatorium than most other places.

"It's kind of a big reunion for me," said Pelkey, who will be swimming in his fourth high school state finals meet and looking to improve on his second-place 100 breaststroke showing from last season. "I know most people associated with boys' swimming in this state because of camps and stuff, so it's fun to me."

The preliminaries begin at 6 p.m. today.

► Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5816.

Three ECI individuals in boys' swim finals

► The finals for the IHSAA boys' state swimming championships are today in Indianapolis.

THE STAR PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Brenden Butler and Wells Arwood of Yorktown and Sam Pelkey of Delta led the East Central Indiana charge during Friday's preliminaries of the IHSAA boys' swimming state tournament.

Butler advanced to the finals in two individual events at the IU Natatorium on the IUPUI campus.

The junior finished fifth in both the

200 individual medley (1:53.32) and 500 freestyle (4:40.18) to get a shot at two state titles today.

Arwood made the finals in the 100 butterfly, finishing seventh in 51.77 seconds. He also placed 21st in the 100 backstroke in 55.56, missing the consolation finals.

Pelkey swam to third place in the 100 breaststroke in 56.76. He was 1.4 seconds behind the fastest qualifier. Pelkey also placed 12th in the 200 individual medley (1:55.75) to qualify for the consolations.

Central's 200 freestyle relay (Kyle Kerrigan, Luke Beasley, Devon Hill, Rob Coombes) qualified for the finals by placing sixth in 1:28.44.

Yorktown's 200 medley relay (Matt Routh, Zach Williams, Arwood, Butler)



Butler



Pelkey



Arwood

advanced to the finals in 1:37.53.

Delta put two relays in the consolations.

The 200 medley (Evan Richter, Pelkey, Conrad Richter, Scott Carruthers) finished 10th in 1:38.43, and the 200 free (Carruthers, Evan Richter, Pelkey, Conrad Richter) tied for 15th in 1:30.07.

Conrad Richter of Delta made the consolation finals by placing 16th in the 100 butterfly in 52.72. He was 26th in the 50 freestyle in 22.42.

Results weren't available for Yorktown and Central in the 400 freestyle relay.

Individuals and relays who failed to advance to today's finals or consolations:

• Yorktown's Darik Hall was 30th in the 200 individual medley (2:04.69).

• Delta's Carruthers was 28th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:02.32.

• Central's Hill was 24th in the 100 freestyle (49.02) and 28th in the 50 free (22.57).

• Yorktown's 200 free relay (Chris Routh, Hall, Carson Slater, Williams) was 17th in 1:30.11.

Mental approach weighs down athletes

By TROY MEZERA
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INDIANAPOLIS — You've heard numerous coaches and players say that their sport is 90 percent mental and only 10 percent physical.

That adage may hold even more true in swimming than other sports, and the state finals might be the biggest test of what's between an athlete's ears.

Take Central's 200-yard freestyle relay team, for example.

The Bearcat team of Kyle Kerrigan, Devon Hill, Luke Beasley and Rob Coombes qualified for the weekend's state finals and qualified for a top eight spot after Friday's preliminaries.

But all four individuals failed to advance in their individual events — all but Hill didn't advance out of sectionals — so the group had almost four hours to sit and think about their relay at the IU Natatorium.

Entering the final, the team was seeded sixth and finished what they collectively called a "disappointing" eighth.

"Yeah, it was pretty different waiting the whole time and not having other events," Kerrigan said.

"That's the time we swam, and there aren't any excuses," Coombes added. "We came here to get a medal, and we did."

The group also said that they originally hoped to reach state, and after qualifying for the top eight, might have put too much pressure on themselves to perform on Saturday.

► See YORKTOWN, 3C

Yorktown finishes seventh

Continued from 1C

Those same four Central swimmers finished 13th in the 100 free relay.

Yorktown's swimmers might have handled the pressure a little better, and experience surely played a role.

The Tigers gave their second-best showing in school history with 90 points and a seventh-place finish.

"We are pretty hyped," Yorktown coach Jay Agnew said of his team's placing.

Yorktown entered the finals or consolations in five swimming events and matched their seed in four of the five events.

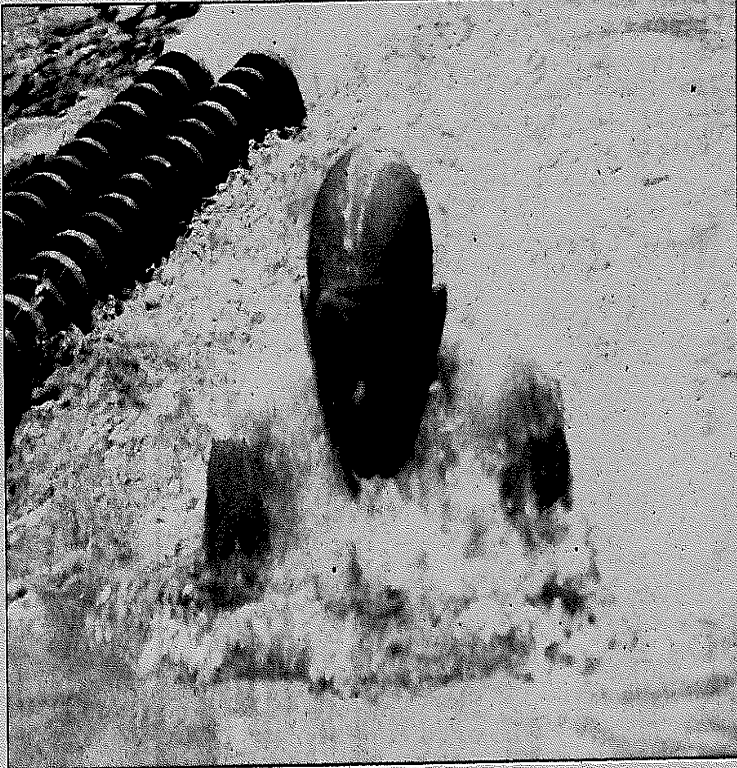
Tiger junior Brenden Butler entered the 200 IM and 500 free seeded fifth and finished fifth in both races.

He swam slightly slower than his seed time in the 200 IM but rebounded with a school-record performance of 4:39.25 in the 500.

Butler was in seventh with 50 meters to go but finished strong to match his seed.

"That's usually my race — I come out fast and try to bring it home with everything I've got," said Butler, who led after the first 50 in the 500. "It's sort of a goal for me to at least match my seed or go better, so it's been a pretty good day."

Yorktown's Wells Arwood finished eighth in the 100 butterfly, while the Tigers' 200 IM relay team of Arwood, Butler, Matt Routh and Zach Williams fin-



ELIZABETH BAILEY / THE STAR PRESS

YORKTOWN'S BRENDEN BUTLER takes part in the IHSAA boys' swimming state finals Saturday afternoon.

ished seventh.

Kurt Bartrum, Yorktown's first diver to qualify for state, finished ninth, but knows he can get better.

"I saw how some of the top guys focused, and I can learn from that," the sophomore said.

Delta's Conrad Richter admittedly let the mental aspect of the sport slow his weekend, as the top returning swimmer in the 100 butterfly failed to make the finals and finished 11th overall.

Richter also struggled in the 50 free, failing to advance through Friday's preliminaries.

"It was a snowball effect,"

the senior said. "I had one bad swim and then another. I was just down and wasn't mentally ready for it."

His teammate and fellow senior, Sam Pelkey, held his seed and finished third in the 100 breaststroke, one spot lower than last season. He also finished 13th in the 200 IM.

Pelkey, Conrad Richter, Evan Richter and Scott Carruthers finished 11th in the 200 medley relay.

Delta finished 14th overall with 40 points, while the Bearcats placed 25th with 26 points.

North Central won seven of the 12 events to capture its second-straight team title on the

campus of IUPUI.

■ Contact sports reporter Troy Mezera at 213-5816.

State finals

(Top 10 and local)

1. North Central 295, 2. Homestead 209, 3. Chesterton 182, 4. Hamilton Southeastern 174, 5. Munster 157, 6. South Bend Riley 136, 7. Yorktown 90, 8. Terre Haute North Vigo, 9. Northridge 72, 10. Crown Point 70, 14. Delta 40, 25 (1). Central 26

At Indianapolis

Winners and top 16 local finishers

200 medley relay — 1. North Central (Christy, Boulder, Jameson, White) 1:32.95, 7. Yorktown (M. Routh, Williams, Arwood, Butler) 1:37.77, 11. Delta (E. Richter, Pelkey, C. Richter, Carruthers) 1:39.06; 200 free — 1. Peter Jameson (NC) 1:37.11; 300 IM — 1. Christy (NC) 4:49.13, 5. Butler (Y) 4:53.46, 13. Pelkey (D) 4:56.87; 50 free — 1. Chovanec (Mun.) 20.81; 100 butterfly — 1. Pierry (Hom.) 52:20, 3. Bartrum (Y) 40:77.5; 100 butterfly — 1. Morin (CP) 50:47, 8. Arwood (Y) 52:55, 11. C. Richter (D) 52:31; 100 free — 1. Jameson (NC) 44:59; 500 free — 1. Sease (NC) 4:30:47, 5. Butler (Y) 4:39:25; 200 free relay — 1. Homestead (Lil, Frebel, Jones, Hoffman) 1:26:24, 8. Central (Kerrigan, Beasley, Hill, Coombes) 1:29:97, 16. Delta (C. Richter, E. Richter, Carruthers, Riggio) 1:33:25; 100 backstroke — 1. Christy (NC) 49:06; 100 breaststroke — 1. Koyser (Rich.) 56:09, 3. Pelkey (D) 56:69; 400 free relay — 1. North Central (Sease, Mirtum, Christy, Jameson) 3:04:24.