

Bearcats looking for second straight girls swimming title

By **JESSE TEMPLE**
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MUNCIE — Ask members of Central's girls swimming team what it was like to win the first team sectional championship in school history last year, and they'll beam with pride, saying no better feeling exists.

Well, that's not entirely true, they say. Winning again might feel even better.

That's the goal this year for Central as the Bearcats prepare to defend their championship, beginning today at 5:30 p.m. at the Jay County sectional.

"Once we get to where we're an elite team, we'd like to hold on to that and get even better," Central coach Steve Spradlin says.

A year ago, Central out-pointed Jay County 255-212 for the sectional title. Norwell finished third with 205 points, and Spradlin anticipates this year's first-place finisher being decided between those three teams.

The Bearcats likely will need to do most of their damage in the short-distance races, where they possess a few of the better racers in the sectional.

Senior Heidi Bryant appears to be the odds-on favorite to take the 50 freestyle title this year. Last year, she finished second in the 50 free, swimming a 25.82 in the finals. That time trailed only teammate Kristina Kerrigan, who won the sectional in 24.64 seconds.

Kerrigan has since graduated, leaving first place up for grabs.

"I haven't gone to state individually yet, so that's my goal this year is to win and go to state," Bryant says. The state time is a 24.5. I went a 24.8 at conference. I'm getting there."

Also in the running for first in the 50 free is Central sophomore Anne Tinder.

"I think Heidi's got me this year," Tinder says. "She's a senior and she's really fighting for it. I just think it would be awesome for us to go 1-2."

While Bryant and Tinder race against each other for the top spot in the 50 free, they'll be swimming together as part of Central's most successful team in recent years - the 200 free relay squad.

Last year's team won the sectional in 1:41.23, destroying the field by more than six seconds. The Bearcats then went on to a 20th-place finish at the state finals, swimming a 1:41.53.

"It was a great feeling," Tinder says. "I was a freshman last year, so I guess I've never not won, so I definitely don't want to lose."

Tinder, Bryant, senior Brittany Sheffield and freshman Kaitlin Kerrigan will make up the four swimmers in the

Sectional Girls Swimming Tournament At Jay County

When: 5:30 p.m. today and 9 a.m. Saturday

Teams: 11-team sectional includes Adams Central, Belmont, Blackford, Bluffton, Delta, Eastbrook, Jay County, Central, Southside, Norwell and South Adams

Admission: \$5 per session; \$8 both sessions

Advancement: *Swimming events:* 1) First place sectional winners in each event qualify for the state meet plus 2) Any contestant who equals or betters the state time standard in their respective event in the consolation finals or championship finals of the sectional qualifies for the state plus. The state standard may not be achieved by a swimmer who is competing as the first leg of a relay. 3) The next fastest number of contestants in the state that would bring the total number of state meet entrants to thirty-two (32) in each event. In the event that a tie exists for the 32nd position, the state qualifier shall be determined by the fastest preliminary time of both swimmers. If preliminary times are identical, both swimmers shall advance.

Diving: First through fourth place participants will qualify for the diving regional.

relay this year.

Interestingly enough, Kaitlin Kerrigan fills the spot this year formerly occupied by her older sister, Kristina. All three other swimmers were a part of last season's state-qualifying team.

"It's hard replacing her," says Kaitlin Kerrigan, who still receives swimming advice regularly from her sister. "I know she was a very good swimmer, but I'm going to try my best as a freshman to step it up and go in and give it my all."

The state meet qualifying time in the 200 free relay this year is 1:40.87, although the Bearcats remain a few seconds off that pace. They swam their best time of the season at a dual meet against Yorktown last week, finishing in 1:44.06 - meaning they'll have to beat the field at the sectional rather than rely on meeting the state cut.

Sheffield also has her sights set on returning to state as an individual in the 200 free. She won the sectional last year, swimming a 2:02.53.

The fact that she's already been to state both individually and as part of Central's relay team has not deterred her - much like the rest of her teammates - from wanting to experience that state feeling all over this year.

"It just gives us the drive that we know we want to repeat that and we know we want to get it again," Sheffield says.

Contact prep sports reporter Jesse Temple at 213-5007.

Liger soph sets sectional record, secures All-American status

■ Yorktown's Larah Beaver wins the 100-yard backstroke in 56.68 seconds.

THE STAR PRESS

From now on, please refer to Larah Beaver as All-American.

The Yorktown sophomore won the 100-yard backstroke in 56.68 seconds for automatic All-American status. Oh yeah, and she broke the Fishers Sectional record in the process.

Beaver and three other Tigers qualified for the state finals to be held Friday and Saturday at the IUPUI Natatorium. Beaver

advances in three events. She swam under the cut time in the 100 freestyle where she placed third (52.9), and she paired up with Kersea Gable, Jess Extine and Caroline Grasso to qualify in the 200-medley relay. The quartet finished third in 1:51.26. Extine qualified under the cut time in a second event with a sixth-place finish in the 50 freestyle (24.49).

Yorktown finished third with 141 points. No. 2 Hamilton Southeastern won with 416 points. No. 8 Fishers followed in second with 358.

Jay County Sectional

Norwell scored 262 points to hold off three East

Central Indiana programs. Central finished second with 206, Delta third with 166 and Jay County fourth at 164.

Four Central swimmers advanced to the state finals. Heidi Bryant, Brittany Sheffield, Anne Tinder and Kaitlin Kerrigan qualified by winning the 200-free-style relay (1:42.34). Bryant qualified for state in two events by winning the 50 free (25.26).

Delta divers Kenna Gibson and Kaitlyn Kennedy secured spots in the Hamilton Southeastern diving regional on Thursday. Gibson won with a score of 316.99, Kennedy placed fourth with a 308.10.

Girls swimming

Jay County Sectional

Norwell 262, Central 206, Delta 166, Jay County 164, Bluffton 156, South Adams 150, Belmont 107, Adams Central 96, Blackford 26, Southside 7

At Portland

Top Central and Delta finishers

200 medley relay — 2. Central (Bryant, Kerrigan, Dale, A. Tinder) 1:57.91, 7. Delta (Zorn, Kirby, Pelkey, O'Bryant) 2:05.58; **200 free** — 3. Sheffield (C) 2:04.74; 5. Tomlin (D) 2:09.54; **200 IM** — 2. Kirby (D) 2:19.66; 8. E. Tinder (C) 2:35.46; **50 free** — 1. Bryant (C) 25.26, 6. Lewis (D) 26.46; **Diving** — 1. Kenna Gibson (D) 316.99, 4. Kaitlyn Kennedy (D) 308.10, 5. Mercer (D) 304.55; **100 fly** — 4. Lewis (D) 1:07.42; **100 free** — 1. Bryant (C) 55.60; **500 free** — 5. Tomlin (D) 5:45.45, 6. Rawson 5:51.23; **200 free relay** — 1. Central (Kerrigan, Sheffield, A. Tinder, Bryant) 1:42.34, 5. Delta (Lewis, O'Bryant, Tomlin, Kirby) 1:48.78; **100 backstroke** — 6. Koontz (C) 1:10.69; **100 breaststroke** — 4. Kirby (D) 1:11.64, 5. Kerrigan (C) 1:12.03; **400 free relay** — 4. Delta (Lewis, Pelkey, O'Bryant, Tomlin) 4:04.30.

Girls swimming

Fishers Sectional

Hamilton Southeastern 416, Fishers 358, Yorktown 341, Oak Hill 173, Pendleton Heights 109, Anderson Highland 87, Marion 61, Anderson 45

At Fishers

Top Yorktown finishers

200 medley relay — 3. Yorktown (Beaver, Gable, Extine, Grasso) 1:51.26; **200 free** — 17.2 (13.75); **200 IM** — 8. Bailey 2:27.61; **50 free** — 6. Extine 24.49; **Diving** — 8. Mahon 308.06; **100 butterfly** — 5. Extine 1:00.30; **100 free** — 3. Beaver 52.90; **500 free** — 8. Bailey 5:53.21; **200 free relay** — 3. Yorktown (Beaver, Grasso, LaVoe, Extine) 1:41.70; **100 backstroke** — 1. Beaver 56.68; **400 free relay** — 6. Yorktown (LaVoe, Chelsea Waters, Gable, Heather Elston) 4:04.99.

Shenandoah diver ready for state finals

By JESSE TEMPLE
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Without Kate Hillman, it's entirely possible that Shenandoah High School never would have developed a swimming and diving team in the first place three years ago.

Now, with Hillman in her senior season, she figures it's high time she tries to repay her school's kindness.

Hillman on Saturday is set to compete in the girls 1-meter diving state finals as part of the



Hillman

30th annual IHSAA state tournament, which begins with swimming preliminaries today at JUPUI. She's already earned fourth and seventh place state finishes in the diving event the previous two years, but this year she has a real opportunity to become the first Raider to stand on the state podium as a first-place winner.

"It's taken a lot of time," said Hillman, who spends between

three and five hours at the pool per day when she trains. "I've sacrificed many, many things. It would be a good end to my high school career. I would be very excited."

Hillman's diving coach, Kevin Rockhill, said Shenandoah didn't even have a swimming and diving program until the 2006-2007 school year when Hillman and classmate Amanda Thise approached the administration about participating for their school.

► See HILLMAN, 4B

IHSAA swimming and diving state finals

When: Today, 6 p.m. (swimming prelims); Saturday, 9 a.m. (diving prelims and semis), 1 p.m. (consolation and finals for all events)

Admission: \$8 per session or \$12 for both days

Site: Indiana University natatorium, IUPUI, 901 W. New York St., Indianapolis

Local swimming and diving state qualifiers:

200 medley relay - Yorktown (Larah Beaver, Kersea Gable, Jessica Extine, Carolina Grasso)

50 freestyle - Central (Heidi Bryant); Yorktown (Extine)

100 freestyle - Central (Heidi Bryant); Yorktown (Beaver)

200 freestyle relay - Central (Kaitlin Kerrigan, Brittany Sheffield, Anne Tinder, Bryant); Yorktown (Beaver, Caroline Grasso, Gabby LaVoie, Extine)

100 backstroke - Yorktown (Beaver)

100 breaststroke - Jay County (Mary Hudson)

Diving - Shenandoah (Kate Hillman)

Diver caps prep career with disputed 2nd-place state finish

By JESSE TEMPLE
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Kate Hillman didn't end her high school diving career on top, but she came pretty darned close Saturday at the IHSAA state diving finals.

The Shenandoah senior earned second place in the 1-meter diving event held at JUPUI, the best finish at state of her sparkling prep career.

But Hillman and her coach, Kevin Rockhill, came away convinced that her performance was worthy of first, citing inconsistent and shoddy judging.

In particular, the two were at odds with the judges' scoring of Hillman's fifth dive during the 11-dive finals. Hillman, who will dive next season for Indiana University, performed a reverse 1st pike dive that Rockhill described



Hillman

as "absolutely amazing," a dive worthy of an eight from the judging panel.

"The crowd goes crazy,"

Rockhill said in a phone interview on Saturday night. "Everybody is waiting for the scores to post. And when they did, I think you could hear a pin drop at the Natatorium. Everyone was stunned when fives and sixes came up."

After the dive, Hillman stood in fourth place with a 199.45 to end the preliminary round. At the time, she trailed Noblesville's Meghan Potee (210.70), Fishers' Gail Susdorf (206.65) and Noblesville's Katie Bittner (200.65).

► See DIVER, 2B

DIVER

Continued from 1B

Had Hillman been credited with the roughly 20-point difference that Rockhill believes she earned, it would have been enough to put her into first,

likely for good.

She came back to overtake both Susdorf and Bittner in the finals, scoring a total of 457.70. Only Potee outpointed her with a 467.50.

"There was some really bad scoring at the meet, which is not unusual for the state meet," Hillman

said by phone. "Because we have officials that don't know what they're doing."

Rockhill said that, while he was proud of Hillman's performance, the biggest issue he had was that the IHSAA put swimming officials in charge of the judging for diving — meaning those judges could not tell

the most basic nuances between a five-point dive and an eight-point dive.

"That would be the equivalent of having a veterinarian perform brain surgery on a human," Rockhill said. "They understand it's surgery. They understand it's medicine. But I'm not going to a vet to have my brain operated on.

... In the end, the right eight people were on the medal podium. I don't believe for a minute that those people were lined up right, and not just from the 1-2 spots. And that is wrong."

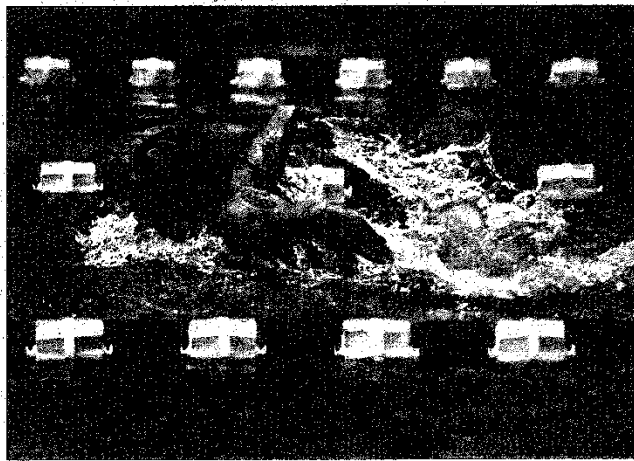
Hillman's second-place result improved on her fourth-place effort last year as a junior. She finished

seventh at state her sophomore year.

Beaver takes 11th

In other local action at the state tournament, Yorktown sophomore Larah Beaver swam her way up to an 11th-place finish in the 100 backstroke, finishing in 57.73 seconds.

GIRLS SWIMMING



DELTA'S EMILEE KIRBY pushes ahead of the Central opponents in the 200-yard IM during a meet in December.

Sectional prelims begin

Yorktown junior Larah Beaver leads group of ECI swimmers eyeing return to state finals.

By JESSE TEMPLE
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Girls swimming sectional preliminaries begin today, and if things go according to plan, several East Central Indiana swimmers should put themselves in position to fare quite well in Saturday's finals.

Among the top ECI swimmers looking for a strong postseason is Yorktown's Larah Beaver. The junior finished in 10th place in the 100 backstroke at last year's state tournament with a time of 5:73 seconds.

"The whole thing I've been shooting for this year is making it to the top eight in the 100 back because I've come really close," Beaver said.

In total, Beaver made state in all four events in which she competed last season, including two individual and two relay events. Beaver took 30th in the 100 freestyle. Also a threat to advance to state from Yorktown is sophomore Jessica Extine, who reached state as a freshman in the 50 free.

Yorktown coach Matt Routh said he expected Beaver and Extine to produce yet another strong showing at the sectional meet. He also said the Tigers have a realistic shot at advancing both their 200 medley relay and 200 free relay teams to state out of the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional.

Beaver, Extine, Korsea Gable and Caroline Grasso swim the 200 medley relay. The Tigers' 200 free relay team consists of Beaver, Extine, Brooke Sigler and Grasso.

"In general, my impression is they've done an amazing job this year through the dual meet season and

Today's girls swimming sectional preliminaries

Jay County Sectional, 5:30 p.m.*
ECI teams: Blackford, Delta, Jay County, Central, Southside
New Palestine Sectional, 5:30 p.m.*
ECI teams: New Castle, Hamilton Southeastern Sectional, 5:30 p.m.*
ECI team: Yorktown
Admission: \$5 at each sectional, \$8 for both sessions
* Diving, swimming consolations and finals take place Saturday at 9 a.m.
** Diving, swimming consolations and finals take place Saturday at 1 p.m.

put in some incredible work," Routh said. "We're in an excellent position to have some excellent, rested swimmers. I'm really excited about it."

► See SWIMMING, 28

SWIMMING

Continued from B1

Yorktown's girls recently defeated Central 98-89 in a battle of the two top ECI girls teams.

At the Jay County Sectional, Central is out for some revenge this season. The Beatoons lost out on a sectional title to Norwell in 2010, finishing with 206 points to Norwell's 262. The winning team at each sectional advances to state.

Beatoons' junior Anne Zinder took third in last year's 50 free and 200 free, but the two swimmers who placed ahead of her in both events have since graduated.

Kaitlyn Kerrigan has performed well in the 50 free and 200 breaststroke. Last season, Kerrigan took fourth at sectional in the 50 free and fifth in the 200 breaststroke.

Emmy Rawson also has emerged as one of the top swimmers in the area. In the first month of her freshman season, Rawson broke three school records: in the 500 free, the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly. On Dec. 24, she smashed the 200 individual medley record by more than eight seconds, finishing in 2:44.

Central coach Steve Spradlin said his goal was for the Beatoons to win the 200 medley relay, 200 free relay and 400 free relay, which would send more swimmers to state.

There are three or four teams that will compete for the top spot," Spradlin said of the sectional. "We've got to step up. It's not going to be a cakewalk by any means."

Other ECI teams at the Jay County Sectional include Blackford, Delta, Jay County and Southside. For Delta, three swimmers have emerged as leaders, consistently winning multiple individual events at each meet. Emilee Kirby has excelled in the 100 breaststroke and 200 IM. Kate Twinn in the 200 free and 500 free and Maja Lewis in the 200 backstroke and 200 butterfly.

Kirby missed out on going to state in the 200

IM by just over one second, finishing in second place of last year's sectional final in 2:19.06. Norwell's Stephanie Bussey won in 2:18.20.

Tomlin took fifth in the 200 free last year. Lewis placed sixth in the 50 free and eighth in the 100 butterfly.

"I think their best asset is they're really team leaders and have a really good work ethic," Delta coach Kelly Zimmerman said. "They're good kids all-around. I think they'll do well at sectional. I'm proud that they have improved their time consistently this year."

In diving, Delta sophomore Kenna Gibson is the defending Jay County Sectional champion. She and teammate Kaitlyn Kennedy each advanced as sectional champions.

year's regional, as did Jay County's Meghan Taylor. Southside's best performer for a swimmer reaching sectional was senior Jennifer Lewis. The senior free by more than six seconds, finishing in 6:12.31.

and is a threat to reach sectional final in both the 200 free and 500 free. Mo recently, she broke her own school record in the 200 free by more than six seconds, finishing in 6:12.31.

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Locals fare well in swim prelims

THE STAR PRESS

The main purpose of swimming preliminaries is to seed participants for the finals. If Friday's first round was any indication, there are some first-place finishes to be had for East Central Indiana girls swimmers today.

At the Jay County Sectional prelims — delayed from Thursday to Friday because of weather — Central had a strong showing as Emmy Rawson, Victoria Haller and Sydney Clasby took the top three seeds, in order respectively, in the 200 IM.

Rawson also took first by more than a second in the 100 butterfly, and she teamed with Haller, Clasby and Anne Tinder in the 400 free relay and teamed with Clasby, Kaitlin Kerrigan and Kendall Bryant in the 200 medley relay for two more No. 1 seeds.

Kerrigan and Tinder took the top two seeds, respectively, in the 500 free. And Tinder was second in the 100 free.

Delta's top performance came from Kathleen Tomlin. She finished second in the 200 free.

Jay County's 200 free relay team of Mary Hudson, Eme Miller, Caitlin Mark and Charlotte Becot took the No. 1 seed. Hudson took second in the 100 breaststroke, followed by Central's Kerrigan and Haller.

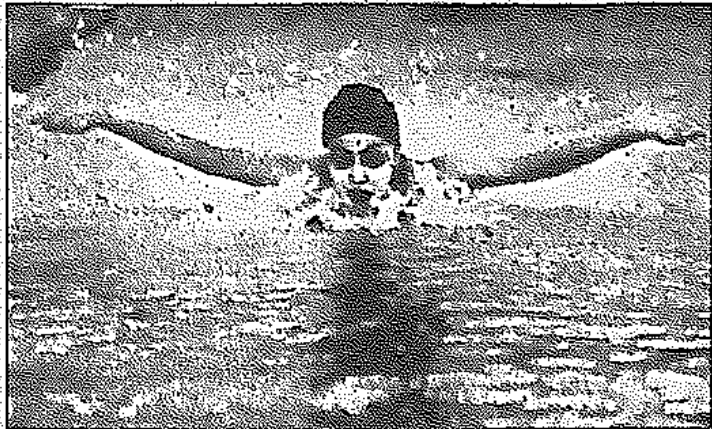
Hamilton Southeastern Sectional

Yorktown found some similar success at the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional, earning four No. 1 seeds and three No. 2 seeds for today's finals.

Jessica Extine won the 50 free and was second in the 100 fly. Larah Beaver earned the No. 1 seed in the 100 free and 100 backstroke. Caroline Grasso was second in the backstroke, giving the Tigers the top two seeds in the event.

Yorktown's 200 medley relay team swam the state cut time Friday night, earning a No. 1 seed for today.

The state cut time in preliminaries does not advance a swimmer or team to the state finals. If a swimmer or team achieves that feat today, it does.



PHOTOS BY KELLY DAY / THE STAR PRESS

TOP: Central's Sydney Clasby swims in the 200 medley relay during the Jay County Sectional. BOTTOM: Delta's Emilee Kirby swims in the 200 yard IM on Saturday.

SWIM

Continued from 1B

The freshman won the 200 IM by nearly three seconds, won the 100 butterfly by more than a second and swam on both of Central's advancing relay teams -- the 400 freestyle and the 200 medley.

Joining her on the 400 freestyle relay will be Sydney Clasby, Anne Tinder and Victoria Haller. On the 200 medley relay team is Kaitlin Kerrigan, Clasby and Tinder.

Tinder also had a strong meet. She advanced in the 100 and 50 freestyles. She just edged her teammate Kerrigan in the 50, beating her by five-tenths of a second.



Beaver

Central won the sectional title as a team, beating Jay County by nearly 100 points.

Jay County is sending a few representatives to the state finals, as well.

The 200 freestyle relay team of Mary Hudson, Eme Miller, Caitlin Mark and Charlotte Becot won the event in 1:44.67 to advance. Hudson also took first in the 100 breaststroke by nearly four seconds.

At Hamilton Southeastern, Yorktown finished third as a team. Fishers won the meet, and the host school took second.

The Tigers qualified participants for five events at state finals.

Larah Beaver, who advanced to state last year, advanced in two individual events -- the 100 free, which she won in 52.46, and the 100 backstroke, which she won in 57.09.

Jessica Extine, also an individual state qualifier last season, advanced in the 50 free, winning the race in 24.21.

Yorktown's 200 medley relay team of Caroline Grasso, Kersea Gable, Beaver and Extine finished second overall but advanced by achieving a state-cut time of 1:49.91. Those same four swimmers teamed last season to finish 25th in the 200 medley relay at state.

The Tigers' 200 free relay team of Gabby LaVoie, Extine, Grasso and Beaver finished second but also met the state-cut time in 1:39.82.

Extine also advanced in the 100 butterfly. Grasso also advanced in the 100 backstroke. Both swam state-cut times and finished second in those events.



KELLY DAY / THE STAR PRESS

CENTRAL'S 200 YARD medley relay team receives blue ribbons at the girls swimming and diving sectional at Jay County on Saturday.

Several ECI swimmers splash their way to state

THE STAR PRESS

There will be a strong representation of not only East Central Indiana swimmers but Delaware County swimmers at the girls state finals starting Friday at the IUPUI Natatorium.

From the Jay County Sectional, Central is sending representatives in six events, including two relays. And from the Hamilton

Southeastern Sectional, Yorktown advanced participants in five events, including two relays.

The state finals consists of two days of competition. Preliminaries begin at 6 p.m. Friday. The swim finals begin at 1 p.m. Saturday.

At Jay County, it was Central's Emmy Rawson who turned one of the better performances.

▶ See SWIM, 4B

ECI swimmers ready for state prelims

THE STAR PRESS

State girls swimming preliminaries begin today, and East Central Indiana swimmers will have plenty of opportunities to reach Saturday's final round across multiple events.

Swimmers from Central, Yorktown, Jay County and New Castle represent ECI at the prelims, which start at 6 p.m. today at the IUPUI Natatorium.

Central is led by freshman Emmy Rawson, who won the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly at last week's Jay County Sectional. She also swam on Central's 400 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams, which advanced to state as well.

Sydney Clasby, Anne Tinder and Victoria Haller are on the 400 free relay team with Rawson. The 200 medley relay team consists of Rawson, Kaitlin Kerrigan, Clasby and Tinder.

Tinder will compete at state in the 100 and 50 freestyles.

Jay County fared well at its sectional,

with Mary Hudson taking first in the 100 breaststroke to reach state. Hudson advanced on a 200 freestyle relay team that also features Eme Miller, Caitlin Mark and Charlotte Becot.

Yorktown has two swimmers returning to state for a second straight year. Larah Beaver will compete in the 100 free and the 100 backstroke, while Jessica Extine will participate in the 50 free and 100 butterfly. Both won their events at the Hamilton Southeastern Sectional.

The Tigers' 200 medley relay and 200 free relay teams are also competing at state. The 200 medley relay team of Caroline Grasso, Kersea Gable, Beaver and Extine made the state-cut time of 1:41.91. The 200 free relay team of Gabby LaVoie, Extine, Grasso and Beaver advanced with a state-cut time of 1:39.82.

Grasso will swim in the 100 backstroke as well.

New Castle's Andrea Hausell advanced to state out of the New Palestine Sectional in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle.

ECI has one shot at swim state title

THE STAR PRESS

East Central Indiana has one shot at a girls swimming state title this year, and that rests with Yorktown's Larah Beaver.



Beaver

The junior earned the No. 7 seed for today's championship flight of the 100 backstroke after Friday evening's state finals preliminaries at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis.

She is the only local swimmer who advanced to the championship flight.

Beaver's prelim time in the event, 56.16, was nearly one second faster than her seed time, but it was about

a second and a half slower than the best time on Friday, 54.65.

Yorktown had others do well, just not good enough to contend today for a blue ribbon.

The Yorktown 200 medley relay team of Caroline Grasso, Kersea Gable, Larah Beaver and Jessica Extine advanced to swim in the consolation flight. The Tigers had the 16th-best swim on Friday in 1:50.68.

Extine also advanced to compete in a consolation final in the 50 free, finishing 16th. She was 26th in the 100 butterfly.

Beaver had the 13th-best swim in the 100 free, also advancing to today's consolation flight.

Yorktown's 200 free relay team of Beaver, Extine,

Grasso and Gabby LaVoie was 18th.

Grasso was 25th fastest in the 100 backstroke.

Central's 200 medley relay team of Emmy Rawson, Kaitlin Kerrigan, Sydney Clasby and Anne Tinder finished Friday's prelims in 30th.

Rawson was 28th in the 200 IM and 22nd in the 100 butterfly. Tinder was 31st in the 50 free and 31st in the 100 freestyle.

Central's 400 free relay team of Rawson, Tinder, Clasby and Victoria Haller finished 29th.

Jay County's Mary Hudson was 26th in the 100 breaststroke.

The Patriots' 200 free relay team of Hudson, Brie McGhee, Caitlin Mark and Charlotte Becot finished 31st.

Tiger swimmer 4th at state in 100 backstroke

THE STAR PRESS

Yorktown junior Larah Beaver earned a fourth-place finish in the 100 backstroke during Saturday's girls swimming state final, marking the best state result of her illustrious career.

Beaver, who entered the day as the No. 7 seed, swam in a time of 56.49 seconds.

That time was slightly slower than her preliminary result of 56.66 seconds but was still good enough to boost her three spots at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Carmel's Lacey Locke won the 100 back in 54.26 seconds, defending her state

title in the event from a year ago.

Last year, Beaver took 11th in the "B" 100 backstroke event at state, finishing in 57.73 seconds.

Beaver also placed 10th this year in the consolation finals of 100 free in 52.52 seconds.

Yorktown's 200 medley relay team of Caroline Grasso, Kersea Gable, Beaver and Jessica Extine placed 15th on Saturday in 1:52.99.

Extine tied for 19th in the 50 free with a time of 24.44 seconds.

For the meet, Carmel won eight events overall, including three relays, to run away with its 25th consecutive state title in girls swimming. Carmel scored 381 points. Homestead finished second with 230 points.



Beaver