

PREP BOYS SWIMMING

Relay delay

STATE MEET QUALIFYING TIME
IN 200 MEDLEY RELAY ON HOLD
AS CENTRAL'S BOYS SWIMMERS
SEARCH FOR 50 FREESTYLER

By JESSE TEMPLE
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J.P. Dowdle makes no bones about it. There's an opening for a freestyle swimmer on Central's highly successful 200 medley relay team, and he wants the job.

"I would like to be on that relay a lot," Dowdle said. "I'd try to get my sprinting better."

There's just one catch.

"I'm not really that good of a sprinter because I swim distance."

And therein lies one of the central problems for Central coach Steve Spradlin as the Bearcats begin the 2009-2010 boys swimming season.

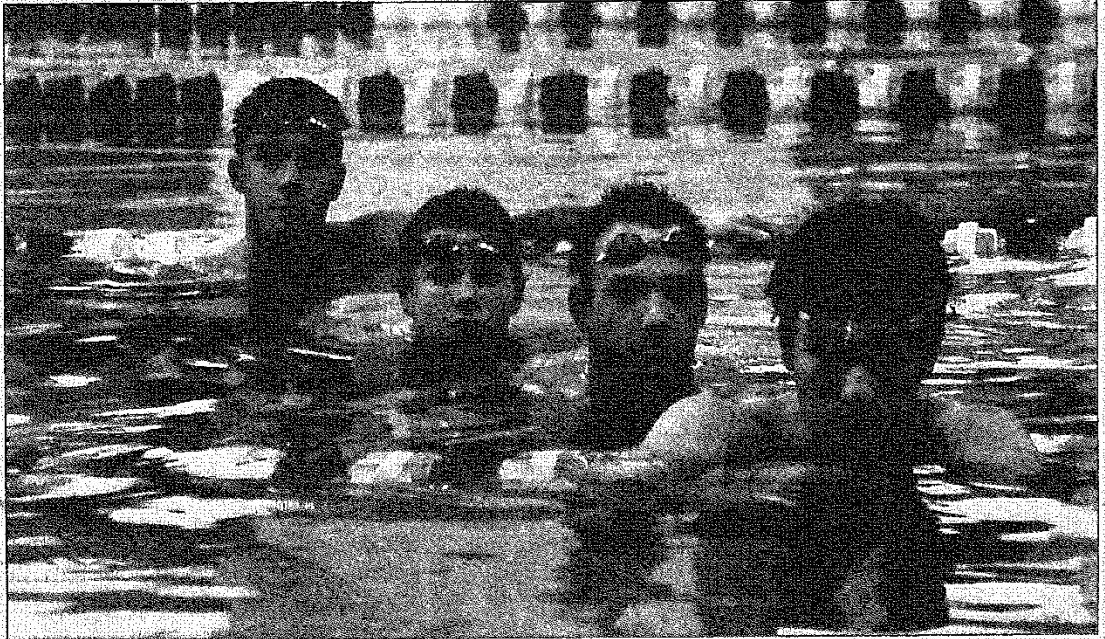
He's got a wealth of talent in the speed department for three of the four legs on what could be another record-setting 200 medley relay squad.

The fourth spot, however, is up for grabs.

"The guy we're replacing was actually the school record holder in the 50 free, so you don't really replace that," Spradlin said. "You hope that those other guys can pick up their times, or we can find someone who can start dropping times and make the relay get down to a state time again."

The school record holder, Devon Hill, finished fourth at state in the 50 free last season and now swims for Ball State.

A year ago, the 200 medley relay team of Timmy



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMERS (front to back) J.P. Dowdle, Dan Proctor, Zach Haller, and Tim Miller at the Central pool Wednesday afternoon. CHRIS BERGIN / THE STAR PRESS

Miller, Daniel Proctor, Mitch Parmerlee and Hill finished sixth at the state meet in a time of 136.41, breaking the old school record set in 1998.

Miller and Proctor return as juniors to swim the backstroke and breaststroke legs, respectively. And sophomore Zach Haller has stepped in to fill the 50 fly

portion of the relay without a drop-off, leaving only the 50 freestyle anchor leg in question.

Dowdle, a junior, made state last year in both the 500 free and 400 free relay, and given his experience, he seems a good bet for the final slot.

But there are two issues at play. One, as Dowdle said, he's

about a second and a half slower than where he needs to be to help out the 200 medley relay team. And two, if he swims the relay event, he won't have much time to prepare for the 200 free, which is the very next event on the swim meet program.

Dowdle insists he can swing both gigs.

"For sectionals and stuff, it would be more challenging to swim a 50 and then a 200," Dowdle said. "But when we make it to state, there would be around a 30-minute wait between events. It wouldn't make a difference at all."

➤ See CENTRAL, 2B

CENTRAL

Continued from 1B

Miller, Proctor, Haller and Dowdle are the only returning state qualifiers on a Bearcats team that finished 12th at state a season ago. All four were selected to the All-North Central Conference team as well.

In total, nine swimmers return off last year's squad, which captured its second consecutive sectional title. The Bearcats won the sectional by 127 points over second-place Jay County, topping their margin of victory from 2008 by three points.

Aside from qualifying in the 200 medley relay, Miller also made state in the 100

back and the 400 free relay.

Haller was a part of the 400 free relay at state and just missed out on making state in the 100 back, finishing runner-up at sectionals to Miller.

Proctor, meanwhile, qualified in four events — the 200 medley relay, 100 breaststroke, 200 free relay and 200 individual medley.

He isn't sure who'll fill the 200 medley relay void left by Hill. Proctor is hopeful that his split in the breaststroke and Miller's split in the backstroke will provide enough cushion that whoever swims the anchor freestyle leg can cruise to victory.

And qualify for the state meet once more, of course.

"It's going to be kind of hard making up for Devon's free leg with such a state-champion contender," Proctor said. "but I think we can get back to the top eight this year."

Central begins its boys swimming season on Tuesday in a dual meet at home against Pendleton Heights.

Yorktown swimmer Voss trying to best father's mark

Adam Voss's father, Pete, finished third in state in the 100 fly in high school in the 1970s.

By **JESSE TEMPLE**
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YORKTOWN — When Adam Voss hits the pool for the start of the boys high school swimming sectionals today, he'll no doubt have a number of thoughts racing through his

head. Among them will be things like: How to catch the water just right for faster strokes, perfecting the depth of his turns off the wall and qualifying for state in four events for the second straight year. But even he admits he'll be

paying special attention to one aspect of this upcoming post-season run — obtaining bragging rights over his pops in the 100 butterfly.

"I want to do well on every event, but that particular one, I kind of want to one-up my dad," said Voss, a junior at Yorktown.

Voss begins the qualifying round of the Hamilton

Southeastern Sectional today along with his Yorktown teammates at 5:30 p.m., and — if things go as expected — he will continue his journey on to state in four events in the sectional final on Saturday. That includes his journey to best the state placing of his father in the 100 fly.

► See SWIM, A8

INSAA boys state swimming sectionals

When: 5:30 p.m. today (swimming preliminaries)
Where: Jay County Sectional (Blackford, Delta, Jay County, Central, Southside), Hamilton Southeastern Sectional (Yorktown), New Palestine Sectional (New Castle, Shenandoah)
Admission: \$5 per session, \$8 both sessions

SWIM

Continued from B1

Voss' dad, Pete, was an outstanding swimmer during the late 1970s at the now-defunct Northside High School. Pete finished third at state in the 100 fly in both his junior and senior seasons. He also won a state championship on a 400 freestyle relay team his junior year.

Adam, meanwhile, has yet to win a state championship. Last year, he managed a 10th-place result in the 100 fly during his sophomore campaign.

Of course, Adam still has two more cracks at the state tournament. And he likes to point out that Pete's best times in the 100 fly were in the 52-second area — which came in college when Pete swam for Brown University — while Adam's best time is already in the 51-second area.

"It's obviously fun to talk about and compare," Pete said. "The kids are so much faster now than when we swam. We'd have a hard time making it through the sectional at this point."

Adam is gracious when comparing his times to those of his dad.

"You have to think of it as like money inflation," Adam said. "What's back

then isn't the same as it is now."

Pete said the two used to race when they were younger. But then Adam began winning every race about the time he turned 13, which probably helps explain why Adam owns seven Yorktown Middle School swimming records — he certainly had good competition growing up.

Now, Adam and Pete still find time to swim together during open water 5K events, but they don't swim against each other.

"He wins the younger age group and I win swimming for old people," Pete joked. "We don't directory compete but we've done a lot of things together. He beats me at anything he'd like to."

Adam is hopeful that he can have similar success this postseason for the Tigers. He is attempting to make state in the 100 butterfly, the 200 freestyle, the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay — the same four events in which he qualified for state last year. Adam holds the second-fastest time at the sectional in both the 100 fly and 200 free, and he already owns the school record in the 200 free with a 1:42.67.

And while good genes certainly don't hurt, Adam's

coach, Brad Grieshop, credits Adam's work ethic for his success as well.

"Not only has he worked very hard, he's very intelligent in the water," Grieshop said. "He has a great understanding of his feel in the water with how he catches the water on his strokes and his kicks. Some small things other swimmers might not think about, he completely understands and that makes for a very coachable kid and swimmer."

Adam said that, while he wasn't feeling any outside pressure to perform at a high level, he had set some lofty expectations for himself — beating his dad's finish in the 100 fly included.

"If I don't do better than I did last year, then I haven't improved anything," Adam said. "I haven't worked hard enough."

Contact prep sports reporter Jesse Temple at 213-5807.

One Day.

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Boys swimming Jay County Sectional

Central 280, Belmont 213, Bluffton 193, Delta 161, South Adams 129, Jay County 117, Norwell 94, Adams Central 81, Blackford 68, Southside 41

At Jay County

Top local finishers

200 medley relay — 1. Central (Miller, Proctor, Haller, Dowdle) 1:40.98; 2. Jay County 1:46.05; 4. Delta (A. Zimmerman, S. Zimmerman, Christman, Ivy) 1:50.22; **200 free** — 1. Dowdle (C) 1:50.74; 5. Bodell (D) 1:57.83; **200 IM** — 1. Proctor (C) 1:59.39; 4. A. Zimmerman (D) 2:14.99; **50 free** — 1. Miller (C) 22.45; 4. Ivy 23.05; **Diving** — 2. Parker (C) 343.25; 8. Carpenter (D) 250.5; **100 butterfly** — 1. Haller (C) 55.45; 2. Hudson (J) 55.52; 4. Ivy (D) 58.58; **100 free** — 2. Fennig (J) 51.17; 5. McClure (C) 52.79; 7. R. Bolka (D) 53.05; **300 free** — 1. Dowdle (C) 4:59.52; 5. Prince (D) 5:33.81; **200 free relay** — 4. Blackford (Ford, Millholland, Coleman, Shoup) 1:38.5; 5. Delta (R. Bolka, N. Bolka, Fitzwater, Ivy) 1:38.53; 7. Jay County 1:40.36; **100 backstroke** — 1. Haller (C) 54.59; 2. Miller (C) 54.6; 3. Fennig (J) 1:00.04; 4. Gossett (Southside) 1:01.16; 7. A. Zimmerman (D) 1:02.49; **100 breaststroke** — 1. Proctor (C) 1:00.87; 3. Hudson (J) 1:01.49; 10. Kimble (D) 1:12.53; **400 free relay** — 1. Central (Dowdle, Haller, Miller, Proctor) 3:24.36; 4. Delta (A. Zimmerman, Andy Christman, Alex Fitzwater, Rob Bolka) 3:39.87.

Winners advance to state finals

Central boys win swim sectional title

Yorktown finishes third in sectional, advances four individuals to state

THE STAR PRESS

Central lived up to its seeding Saturday, winning the Jay County Sectional by a comfortable margin. The Bearcats scored 280 points to easily outdistance second-place Belmont (213), Delta placed fourth with 161 points. Jay County finished sixth with 117, Blackford scored 68 points for ninth and Southside rounded out the field with 41.

The Bearcats won nine of the 12 events. Sectional winners automatically advance to the state finals at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis. The preliminaries start at 6 p.m. Friday.

Tim Miller, Zach Haller, Dan Proctor and Adam Parks won the 200 medley relay (1:40.98). Miller, Haller, Proctor and John Dowdle paired up to win the 400 freestyle relay. Dowdle notched victories in the 200 free (1:59.74) and 500 free (4:59.52). Proctor paired his relay victories with wins in the 200 individual medley (1:59.39) and the 100 breast-

stroke (3:24.36). Haller matched Proctor with four victories. He won the 100 butterfly (55.45) and 100 backstroke (54.59). Miller won the 50 free (22.45) and finished second to Haller in the 100 backstroke.

Delta freshman Garland Ivy placed fourth in the 50, setting the freshman school record with a time of 23.05. Ivy notched two other fourth-place finishes. He placed fourth in the 100 butterfly and swam with Alex Zimmerman, Sam Zimmerman and Andy Christman on the fourth-place 200 medley relay.

Southside junior Kalob Gossett

set a school record in the 100 backstroke. He finished fourth in a time of 1:01.16, clipping the previous record of 1:01.32.

Hamilton SE Sectional

Yorktown scored 151 points and placed third in the sectional behind host Hamilton Southeastern (373) and Fishers (310).

The Tigers advanced four swimmers to the state finals: Adam Voss notched the lone Yorktown victory in the 100 butterfly (51.10). Voss advanced in all four of his events. He placed third and swam under the state cut in

the 200 free (1:43.7). He paired with Cameron Watters, Austin Dunn and Michael Heavilon to advance in the 200 medley relay (1:39.82) and the 400 free relay (3:15.76). The Tigers finished second in the 200 medley and third in the 400 free relay.

Dunn and Watters each advanced in one individual event. Dunn finished just short of the state cut in the 50 free (22.05), but his time stands as one of the 32 best and thus he moves on to complete the state field. Watters broke the school record and swam under the state cut in the 100 backstroke (54.09).

Clean, shaven, ready to swim

■ Central sends five boys — including formerly bearded Dan Proctor — to state finals.

By JESSE TEMPLE
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MUNCIE — Seven weeks without shaving led Dan Proctor to this conclusion: The impressive forest that is his face likely will never be a match for manly man Paul Bunyan.

"I think Paul's got me by a couple of years," Proctor joked of the fictional lumberjack character.

Unfortunately, we'll never truly know how the two stack up against one another. For one, Bunyan is not real. For two, as of today, Proctor is scruffy no more.

There are more important things on which Proctor must focus his attention. Like trying to medal at the state swimming tournament — which is why the Central junior plans on ditching his facial hair today in preparation for the meet.

Looking like a logger may be fun and all, but the extra fur won't help take seconds off his swims.

"It should feel nice jumping in the water without a beard," Proctor said.

Proctor is one of five Central swimmers heading to the IHSAA swimming meet today at IUPUI, along with Timmy Miller, Zach Haller, J.P. Dowdle and Adam Parks. The preliminary round begins at 6 p.m., with the consolation and finals set for 1 p.m. Saturday.

It has become somewhat of a tradition for swimmers not to shave in the weeks leading up to a big meet. Proctor had been growing his beard out since the conference meet before opting to get rid of it in an effort to drop precious hundredths of a second at state.

➤ See SWIMMING, 2B

Boys swim state finals

■ **Where:** Indiana University Natatorium, IUPUI, 901 W. New York St., Indianapolis

■ **When:** Today, 6 p.m. (swimming prelims); Gates open at 4 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. (diving prelims and semis); Saturday 1 p.m. (consolations and finals for all events)

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

■ **Local participants:** 200 medley relay — Central (Timmy Miller, Dan Proctor, Zach Haller, Adam Parks), Yorktown (Cameron Walters, Austin Dunn, Adam Voss, Michael Heavilon); 200 freestyle — Central (J.P. Dowdle), Yorktown (Voss); 200 IM — New Castle (William Kelsik), Central (Proctor); 50 freestyle — Yorktown (Dunn), Central (Miller); 100 butterfly — Central (Haller), Yorktown (Voss); 500 freestyle — New Castle (Kyle Durham), Central (Dowdle); 100 backstroke — Central (Haller), Yorktown (Walters); 100 breaststroke — Central (Proctor), New Castle (Kelsik); 400 freestyle relay — Central (Dowdle, Haller, Miller, Proctor), Yorktown (Dunn, Walters, Heavilon, Voss)

SWIMMING

Continued from 1B

So while Bunyan's substantial lead in the facial hair department remains safe, other swimmers should probably feel less at ease with a clean-shaven Proctor roaming the water.

As a sophomore a year ago, Proctor finished 14th in the state in the 100 breaststroke, swimming a 59.52 in the finals. He also formed part of a formidable 200 medley relay team along with Miller that set a school record and medaled at state with a sixth-place finish.

Now he's back for more in his junior campaign, as he heads to state in four events — the 200 medley relay, the 400 free relay, the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM.

"Dan Proctor is always an X factor," Central coach Steve Spradlin said. "You

"After about the one-week mark, my mom was about to kill me. I'll be happy. She'll be happy, and hopefully my coach will be happy."

Central's Dan Proctor on shaving his beard

never know with Dan. Dan likes big meets. Since he was 14th last year (in the 100 breaststroke), we're hoping he can come up on that, either faster in that heat or move up to the next heat. He definitely has the physical ability to medal that. No question."

Spradlin said his team's strategy for the state meet differed from many other teams in Indiana. Most swimmers taper — or lessen their rigorous practice schedule — in an effort to record their best times at sectionals. For the Bearcats, however, they've trained all season with an emphasis on tapering at the state meet.

"I think we have a lot

of room to get faster at state here," Proctor said. "A lot of the teams there are probably going to add, and we might be one of the only teams to drop. I think we're going to do some damage again this year."

Central will be looking to do its most damage in the 200 medley relay once more. The Bearcats' team consists of Miller (backstroke), Proctor (breaststroke), Haller (butterfly) and either Dowdle or Parks (freestyle), depending on who Spradlin chooses. During the season, Central won the event in 13 of 14 meets, finishing second just once, to Terre Haute South at the Zionville Invite.

"That's our favorite

swim," Haller said. "That's what we're looking forward to: this coming meet. We want to place top eight at state again. We're looking to drop more time since we're going to be tapered. We're going to try to go for that record that we got last year and re-break it."

Haller also will be participating at state in four events — the two relays and both the 100 fly and 100 back. In total, the five Central swimmers will take part in nine events.

And each Bearcat will be fully tapered, clean-shaven and ready to go. Including Proctor, who can't wait to see how he'll fare with a fresh-scrubbed mug.

"After about the one-week mark, my mom was about to kill me," Proctor said of his beard. "I'll be happy. She'll be happy, and hopefully my coach will be happy."

■ Contact prep sports reporter Jesse Temple at 213-5807.

Yorktown's Voss to swim in consolations

THE STAR PRESS

After the preliminary round of the IHSAA boys swimming and diving state finals, there will be no state champions from East Central Indiana.

Only one area athlete will participate in consolation flights today at IUPUI's Natatorium.

Yorktown's Adam Voss will swim in the consolation flight of the 100 butterfly after finishing 11th in 52.00. His finish was the best of any area swimmer during Friday's preliminary action.

Voss will also swim in the consolation flight of the 200 free after finishing 13th on Friday, posting a time of 1:44.07.

Others who participated on Friday but failed to advance were:

Central's 200 medley relay team of Timothy Miller, Dan Proctor, Zach Haller and John Dowdle finished 18th. Yorktown's foursome of Cameron Watters, Austin Dunn, Adam Voss and Michael Heavilon in the same event took 26th.

Dowdle was 29th in the 200 free.

Proctor was 20th in the 200 IM, and New Castle's William Kelsik was 27th.

In the 50 free, Dunn was 29th and Miller was 22nd in 22.26.

Central's Zach Haller was 30th in the 100 butterfly.

Dowdle was 30th in the 500 free, and New Castle's Kyle Durham was 28th in the same event.

In the 100 backstroke, Haller took 18th. Watters was 25th.

In the 100 breaststroke, Proctor was 21st, and Kelsik was 31st.

Yorktown's 400 free relay team was 20th and Central's was 26th.