



PHOTOS BY JERI REICHMANADYER / THE STAR PRESS

ABOVE: Central High School senior Dan Proctor poses for a portrait Tuesday. BELOW: Proctor leads the pack as he turns around during the 100 butterfly against Jay County on Jan. 18.

'READY TO GO FAST'

Central swimmer Dan Proctor focused on the big stage

By JESSE TEMPLE
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Ask Dan Proctor to discuss the copious amount of success he's experienced at sectionals during a stellar swimming career at Central, and he'll immediately point out what he hasn't accomplished.

Although Proctor has never lost a sectional event in three years for Central — he's a perfect 12-for-12 — the only thing on his mind these days is finally producing a strong showing on the biggest stage: in the state finals.

"I want to keep it going, but at the same time, winning a sectional title but never really doing much at state has been the biggest thing with me," Proctor says. "I really don't think of it as much of an achievement."

"Maybe Proctor sees it that way, but it's

difficult for most to ignore his incredible accomplishments in the pool during his time at Central.

Today, Proctor begins his journey to make it a perfect 16-for-16 for his varsity career when the Central senior swims in four more events at the Jay County Sectional preliminaries beginning at 5 p.m.

Among Proctor's other swimming achievements at Central are: Winning 12 North Central Conference championships (2nd-best in school history), winning the 100 breaststroke at the NCC championships four consecutive years and being the school record holder in the 200 medley relay and 200 individual medley. Proctor also helped lead the Bearcats to a 44-3 dual meet record in four years.

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Sectional swim prelims

All meets 5:30 p.m. today*

Jay County Sectional ECJ teams: Blackford, Delta, Jay County, Central, Southside

New Palestine Sectional ECJ teams: New Castle, Shenandoah

Fishers Sectional ECJ team: Yorktown

Admission: \$5 at each sectional, \$8 for both sessions

* Diving, swimming consolations and finals at 9 a.m. Saturday



"Dan likes swimming. That's his No. 1 thing. We have a lot of kids that swim in Delaware County, but swimming may not be one of their No. 1 priorities. And it is for him."

Central swimming coach Steve Spradlin



JERI REICHMADTER / THE STAR PRESS
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR Dan Proctor turns during practice Tuesday.

SWIM

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Still, Proctor says he'd trade those records for a solid performance at state.

Proctor swam in the "A" finals at state just once, during his sophomore year in the 200 medley relay. That season, the Bearcats placed sixth. Proctor added a 14th-place showing in the 100 breaststroke.

But last year, his state performance fell off the mark. Although he qualified in four events once more, he didn't place higher than

18th in any event. His 200 medley relay team that took 18th and the 400 free relay placed 26th. He took 20th in the 200 IM and 21st in the 100 breaststroke.

"Last year was kind of an off-year for me," Proctor says. "Really just going into the season, my mind wasn't right. It's just something about that state meet that's just different. I went on two weeks later to senior state with club and still swam my best times of the season, but it's just something about that state meet."

Central swimming coach Steve Spradlin says he's seen

how much pressure Proctor puts on himself to perform well.

"It's much more than just winning sectional," Spradlin says. "He's got other goals. He wants to swim in college next year and he wants to do well at state. Dan likes swimming. That's his No. 1 thing. We have a lot of kids that swim in Delaware County, but swimming may not be one of their No. 1 priorities. And it is for him."

"He puts a lot of pressure on himself because he likes to swim and he takes everything to heart when he swims."

Proctor's super swims have drawn the attention of those outside of Muncie, too. Proctor already has committed to swim next season at Eastern Michigan University. EMU's men's swimming and diving team has won 16 consecutive Mid-American Conference championships and 29 overall in the program's history.

"I signed with them last month and that really lightened the load," Proctor says. "Usually, I'm a mental case with things. I'm in a lot better place right now. I've gotten over that and am ready to go fast."

Central, Yorktown sending swimmers to state

THE STAR PRESS

With eight first-place finishes in 12 events, Central dominated the Jay County boys swimming sectional on Saturday, winning the meet as a team by 103 points over second-place Belmont.

All eight first-place finishes advance to the state finals, which begin on Friday with prelims at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Among the impressive individual performances on Saturday, Bearcat senior Dan Proctor capped off a perfect career at sectional meets.

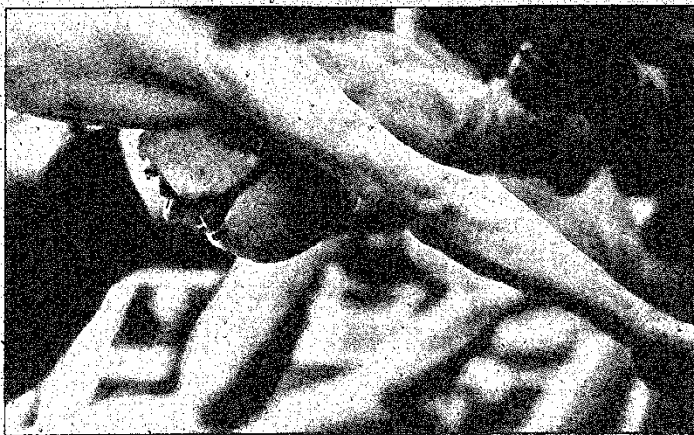
He won the 200 IM by nearly 11 seconds, the 100 breaststroke and was on winning 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams.

He teamed with Tim Miller, Zach Haller and Carter McClure in the 200 medley relay and with John Dowdle, Haller and Miller in the 400 freestyle.

In four years at Central, Proctor has won a sectional title in four events every year.

In addition to his contributions on two winning relay teams, Miller also won the 50 free and 100 backstroke.

In the backstrokes, he dropped nearly two seconds from his prelim time, swimming the event on Saturday in 52.86, good enough to



PHOTOS BY HURT HOSTETLER / THE STAR PRESS
CENTRAL SWIMMER ANDREW DOWDLE starts off the blocks for the 200 IM. The 2011 IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving Sectional Finals were held Saturday at Jay County High School.

break both the sectional and pool record in the event.

"Timmy has always had the ability," Central coach Steve Spradlin said. "He's not necessarily had those fast times this year, but he dropped something like two seconds today on his backstroke. When he gets motivated, he's good."

Central took the top two spots in diving. Zane Parker won the event and advances to state as a result. Kevin Robertson was second.

Dowdle won the 500 freestyle and was followed by teammate Mason Jones in

second.

While winners automatically advance, there is the chance that at least one more Bearcat swimmer could get invited to swim at state on Friday.

Haller was just one-hundredth of a second shy of meeting the state cut in the 100 backstroke. Spradlin said Saturday night, as he monitored times from other sectionals, that it appeared Haller would get a "call back" to swim at state.

Of the four events not won by Central on Saturday at Jay County, only in one



SOUTHSIDE DIVER JACOB DRUMMER performs one of his three dives.

hundredth of a second over Bluffton's Sam Walburn.

Fishers Sectional

Yorktown broke four school records, with swimmers qualifying for state in six events overall.

Among the most successful Tigers on the day were Hunter Hoffman and Adam Voss, who advanced to state in four events. Michael Heavilon advanced in three events.

The 200 medley relay team of Voss, Hoffman, Heavilon and Wes Gustin finished second but made the state-cut time and set a new school record in 1:36.27.

The 400 free relay team featuring Hoffman, Michael Heavilon, Scott Heavilon and Voss took first by swimming a school-record time of 3:16.72.

Voss placed third in the 100 back in 52.86 seconds, making the state cut of 53.92 and setting another school record. He also advanced in the 100 fly with a time of 51.78 seconds.

Michael Heavilon finished fourth in the 100 fly in 52.69 seconds but made the state cut of 52.81.

Hoffman won two individual events: the 50 free (2:10.8 seconds) and the 100 free (46.25 seconds). His 100 free time set another Yorktown record.



DELTA'S BENAMIN FITZWATER smiles after winning the consolation heat of the 50 free.

did a fellow East Central Jay County's Neal Fenning Indiana swimmer take a took first in the 200 freestyle; winning by just one

Tiger swimmer makes mark in one season

Senior Hunter Hoffman broke the school record in the 100 free at sectionals last week.

By JESSE TEMPLE
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Hoffman

YORKTOWN — Yorktown senior Hunter Hoffman hadn't swam competitively in months, so he admittedly had no idea what to expect upon hitting the water for his first high school practice with a new team last November.

Still, Hoffman — who had transferred just before his senior year from the now defunct Anderson Highland High School

— took Tigers coach Matt Routh on that first day of his desire to break the school record in the 50 freestyle. That time, a 20.40 set by Eric Mattingly in 2004, also happened to be the state record.

"And I was like, 'OK, OK,'" Routh said. "He busts out a 21.8, I think, after not swimming for forever. It was the first kind of realization of, 'Wow, he might have significant firepower to offer up in that 50.'"

Hoffman hasn't quite broken the 50-free mark yet, but he's been impressing his new teammates with increasingly fast swims while serving as a confident leader ever

since that first day of practice.

Today Hoffman competes in four events at the IHSAA state finals at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis. He'll swim the 50 free, 100 free, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay for the Tigers. The preliminary round begins at 6 p.m. today. Consolations and finals take place at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Although Hoffman still is claiming that 50-free record, he has made his mark with the program in just one season, setting the school record in the 100 free, as well as both relays. He is seeded third at state in the 50 free, swimming a 21.08 at sectional, and fourth in the 100 free.

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HOFFMAN

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Hoffman broke Mattingly's seven-year-old school record of 43.28 seconds in the 100 free just last week at the Jay County Sectional, finishing in 45.25.

What's more, Hoffman did it while competing in his first-ever 100 free event for the Tigers.

"I looked up and saw the actual time, and I kind of freaked out," Hoffman said. "I didn't realize that I had gotten the record. I wasn't expecting to even be close to it, let alone break it."

Routh said he moved

Hoffman into the 100-free spot and away from his customary breaststroke swim in time for the sectional, figuring perhaps he could make more of an impact in the post-season. So far, he's been right.

"I saw a lot of potential in his freestyle," Routh said. "I think the sky's the limit for him."

Hoffman's incredible senior season comes about despite the fact that when he began the school year at Yorktown, he felt quite certain he would not compete for the Tigers.

Hoffman didn't even swim for Anderson a

previous season, instead opting to participate on the Anderson Community Aquatics Club team. And following his junior year, he admitted he felt burned out from the sport, wanting to focus solely on academics at Yorktown.

But that was before he took a physics class with future Tigers teammate Adam Voss in the fall. The two began talking about the upcoming season, and soon, Hoffman decided it might be fun to come out for the Yorktown team.

"I kept telling him that we do a lot of fun stuff as swim for Anderson a

good time, and he'll go fast."

Hoffman said the transition to swimming for a new team this season has been relatively painless.

"I was really nervous at first," Hoffman said. "But they made it really easy to get into it. They had a lot of days where we would just meet people."

Hoffman will be joined at the state finals by Voss, who qualified in four events as well. Voss advanced in the same relays as Hoffman, as well as the 100 backstroke and the 100 butterfly. Michael Heavilon will also compete in the 100 butterfly.

IHSAA boys' swimming state finals

MEET: 6 p.m. today (swimming prelims), 9 a.m. Saturday (diving prelims and semis), 1 p.m. Saturday (consolations and finals for all events).
ADMISSION: \$8 per session or \$32 both days.
SITE: Indiana University Natatorium, 1014 9th W. New York St., Indianapolis.

ADVANCEMENT: The top 16 in each swimming event during today's prelims will return for competition on Saturday. The top eight individuals will compete for state championship honors. All diving takes place on Saturday, with the top 21 of 22 competitors advancing from prelims to the semis after five dives each. The top 16 from the semis advance to the final round.

TOP SWIMMERS (INCLUDING RELAYS): Central: Dan Proctor, Tim Miller, Zach Haller, Carter McClure, John Rowley, Adam Parks, Mason Jones, Andrew Dowdle and Steve Babson; Yorktown: Hunter Hoffman, Adam Voss, Michael Heavilon, Wes Gustin, Tommy Brown, Alec Durant, Joe Esker, Scott Heavilon and Kyle Ryan; Jay County: Neal Fenning, Wes Castle, Tyler Dalton.

Yorktown swimmer earns No. 2 seed in 50 freestyle state final

THE STAR PRESS

If East Central Indiana is going to have an individual champion at the Indiana High School Athletic Association boys swimming and diving state finals, it's likely up to Yorktown's Hunter Hoffman.

Though, it's not entirely up to him.

Hoffman posted an impressive time of 21.10 in the 50 freestyle. It was good enough for the No. 2 seed in today's finals.

"The 50 went well," Yorktown coach Matt Routh said. "It's a huge meet and very competitive so there is some getting acclimated to it, but the race went really well and it set him up for a great race (today). I think we can improve on his time."

Hoffman was bettered



Hoffman

Friday night Brebeuf's Harrison Wagner, who swam the event in 20.11, good enough to break the state record (20.40) set in 2004 by Yorktown's Eric Mattingly.

Hoffman is not alone, not even from his own school, when it comes to representing ECI in the championship slights today at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Fellow Tiger Adam Voss, a senior, qualified for the 100 butterfly championship with a 51.25. The No. 1 seed, Homestead's Blake Johnson, swam the event in 49.48 on Friday.

Hoffman and Voss are, however, the only hope

of a local swimmer bringing home a blue ribbon at today's state finals.

But they are not the only ones competing.

There will be two local relay teams competing in the consolation final of the 200 medley relay. Yorktown's team of Voss, Hoffman, Michael Heavilon and Wes Gustin and Central's team of Tim Miller, Dan Proctor, Zach Haller and Carter McClure both advanced.

Heavilon will swim in the consolation of the 100 butterfly, and both Miller and Voss advanced to swim in the consolation flight of the 100 backstroke.

Hoffman also advanced to compete in today's 100 freestyle with the second-fastest time among the eight consolation flight qualifiers.

Two Yorktown swimmers earn medalist honors at state finals

THE STAR PRESS

Just before Hunter Hoffman was to compete in the biggest 50 freestyle race of his swimming career on Saturday, a wave of nervous energy rushed over the Yorktown senior.

"I could feel my heart pounding and just jitters," Hoffman said. "It sucked while it was going on, but when I got in the water, I felt like I could use it."

His final time certainly indicated he used that energy to his advantage.

Hoffman finished his 50 free race in 20.90 seconds to finish in third place on Saturday at the IHSAA boys swimming and diving state finals at IUPUI's Natatorium in Indianapolis. He broke the 21-second barrier for the first time this season.

Chesterton's Tyler Fuzkos placed second in 20.87, and Brebeuf's Harrison Wagner won the event in 20.25 seconds. Wagner already had broken the



Hunter Hoffman

took third place in Saturday's swimming and diving state finals in Indianapolis. He finished the 50 free in 20.90 seconds.

state record one day earlier in the prelims, swimming a 20.11. Eric Mattingly of Yorktown set the previous-best mark of 20.40 seconds in 2004.

"I'm really excited about it," Hoffman said. "I went into finals seeded second, but the two guys ahead of me were both just really insanely fast. I'm not as disappointed seeing that I was that close to two guys. I was just really excited because I went under 21 seconds."

Hoffman was one of two Tigers to earn medalist honors at the state meet. Teammate Adam Voss, a senior, took seventh in the 100 butterfly, swimming a 51.28.

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SWIMMERS

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No. 1 seed Blake Johnson of Homestead won the event in 49.80 seconds.

Voss actually entered state seeded 11th but worked his way into the top eight for the first time in his career. His previous best came when he took 10th in the 100 butterfly as a sophomore. He was 11th last season at-state.

"It's a big relief," Voss said. "The past few years, I went in seeded to get a medal but then ended up not getting a medal. This year I ended up not seeded to get a medal and got one. So it's really nice."

Both Yorktown and Central qualified 200

medley relay teams for the "B" final on Saturday. Yorktown's team of Voss, Hoffman, Michael Heavilon and Wes Gustin finished 12th in 1:37.21. Central's unit of Tim Miller, Dan Proctor, Zach Haller and Carter McClure took 15th in 1:38.47.

Hoffman also placed 11th in the 100 butterfly in 46.89 seconds. Voss took 13th in the 100 backstroke, finishing in 52.60 seconds. Miller was right behind Voss, taking 14th (52.68 seconds) in the 100 back.

Heavilon added a 14th-place showing in the 100 butterfly (52.43 seconds) for the Tigers.

As a team, Yorktown finished with 51 points, the 13th-best total out of 56 teams that received points.