

CG swimmers advance to state finals

McKeehan breaks pair of records during preliminaries; White has third-fastest time in 200 freestyle

By GREG DODDRIDGE
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS
Michelle McKeehan didn't wait for today's state swimming finals to break state records.

The Center Grove junior broke them during Friday night's preliminaries at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Giving a preview of what's to come for today's state finals, McKeehan broke state records in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 breaststroke, events she has won at state each of the past two years.



McKEEHAN

WHITE

She swam the 200 IM in a season-best 1:59.61, beating the previous record by 0.72 seconds, and she swam a 1:00.90 100 breaststroke, beating the 1:01.98 by Center Grove's Laura Swander in 1999-2000.

McKeehan wasn't the only Center Grove swimmer who qualified for the finals.

Senior Melody White advanced in the 200 freestyle with the third-fastest time. She also swam the second-fastest time in the 500 freestyle, finishing in 5:04.51 to advance to the finals. The Trojans also advanced their 200 and 400 free relay teams.

McKeehan will have a chance to break state records again today in the state finals, which start at 1 p.m. at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUPUI.

"I had no idea I was going that fast," McKeehan said. "I was try-

ing to go as fast as I could. Hopefully, I will have some in the tank for (today)."

Center Grove coach Jim Todd thinks she will.

"Michelle has to want to go faster," Todd said. "I'm not going to make her. She has to want it more than me."

While McKeehan's time in the 200 IM was a season best, she finished the 100 breaststroke in a faster time earlier this season.

"Hopefully (today) there is more energy in the air, and I'll be able to feed off of that," McKeehan said.

There is sure to be plenty of

energy in the 500 freestyle. White was about two seconds slower than the fastest swimmer in the 500 freestyle, Carmel senior Alexandra Young. But Todd is optimistic.

"Melody looked strong," Todd said. "She was comfortable, which is good at the end. I think she has more in her tank in the 500 (free). It's an awfully close race now."

The top eight swimmers from Friday's preliminaries will race for the state championship today, while those finishing ninth through 16th will race in the consolation round and are still able

to earn points for their team.

Center Grove sophomore Katie Loscar finished in the 23rd spot in the 500 freestyle, while freshman Lindsey Gasiorowski won her heat in the 100 freestyle but placed in the 20th spot.

Franklin's 200 medley relay team finished in the 21st spot with a time of 1:53.73, while Grizzly Cubs freshman Sarah Dannemiller finished second in her heat in the 50 freestyle, 0.19 seconds off of 16th place, finishing in 24.92.

Indian Creek sophomore Catie Reese swam a 1:01.54 in the 100 backstroke for the 26th spot.

Lancers one and done after loss to Hauser

First-year coach: 'I'm proud of them'

By KEN SEVERSON
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SHELBYVILLE

Turnovers and missed shots and free throws summed up the Edinburgh girls basketball team's final game of the season.

Hauser was there to capitalize on the Lancers' misfires and came away with a 61-41 win in the semifinal round of the Class A sectional at Southwestern (Shelby) on Friday.

While the Jets advance to tonight's championship game against defending sectional champ Waldron, Edinburgh's season ends at 4-17.

But Lancers coach Delena White was smiling through it all.

"This was probably the best game they have played all year," White said. "If we had hit the shots early, it would have been closer, but the girls did everything I asked them to do."

"I'm proud of them."

Clearly Edinburgh had improved from its first meeting with Hauser in early January, when the Jets downed the Lancers 83-45.

Unlike that game, when Hauser made 36 field-goal attempts, the Jets struggled early against Edinburgh on Friday, producing more turnovers and missing more shots.

"We did the right things on defense," White said. "We did get out of position a few times, but that happens. It happened less

than the first time we played them."

The first half had the makings of a blowout, but the Lancers were scrappy in the second half, fighting for the ball and at times frustrating the Jets with their defense.

In the end, though, Hauser's balance and height wore down Edinburgh.

The Lancers were led by freshman Courtney Dragoo's 11 points. Fellow freshman Emilee Owens added 10.

Hauser (11-10) was led by Michelle Siebert's 18 points. Kenan Brod added 17, while Elise Stephens had 14.

White said she enjoyed her first year of coaching at the high school level, though at times it left her flustered.

"It's different than the college level," White said. "You want to have high expectations, but you have to be reasonable."

"I loved it, and I'm looking forward to next year when we have some girls returning and a good eighth-grade class coming in."

Edinburgh will lose starters Heather Dowell, Chelsea Montgomery and Hilary Stinson to graduation. But with Owens and Dragoo back, White is optimistic about next season.

"We're going to play this summer," White said. "We'll be all right."

Class A
At Southwestern (Shelby)
Jets 61, Lancers 41



Whiteland senior Amy Orender, left, looks to pass around the defense of Chatard's Ellen Alerding during the Warriors' sectional win Friday.

• Title

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

defense, we felt like if we continued to run our offense, we thought we could get some isolations and mismatches in the post," Hogue said. "We work hard on that stuff, and it was hard against Chatard, but I think we caught them off guard with some of the things we were doing on offense."

Condra gave Whiteland its biggest lead of the half at 21-11 with two free throws. But Chatard added a free throw, and Anne Boese hit a 3-pointer just before the buzzer to pull the Trojans with 21-15. But as Boese's shot went in, Chatard starting point guard Megan Gardner picked up her third foul.

As a result, Gardner sat for the first three minutes of the third quarter, when she was replaced by sophomore Kortney Crawford. Gardner's absence was a key factor in the Warriors' ability to add to their lead in the early minutes of the third quarter.

"She gets them going on

defense," Hogue said. "We've watched Chatard off and on all year. She plays at a high intensity level, and she's going to go for the ball. We knew with her out of the game, it was a bonus for us."

Senior Amy Orender converted a three-point play to give Whiteland its biggest lead of the game at 38-26 with 6:05 left in the fourth quarter.

But in the next 5½ minutes, Chatard outscored Whiteland 20-11. Kathleen Lee scored on a breakaway that got the Trojans within 49-46 with 15 seconds remaining, but Whiteland senior Brittney Wilson hit two free throws to seal the win.

"The past two years, they just out-muscled us," Wilson said. "It means a lot (to beat Chatard)."

"But we have to come out again and play the same way we played, as a team. Hopefully, we can do that and come out on top."

Orender relishes the opportunity to be part of the class that wins the school's first sectional title.

"It would be amazing to be the first team to do it, and it will be something we'll remember for a lifetime," Orender said.

• Wrestlers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Warriors coach Dave Thompson said he believes all four have a legitimate shot at advancing to the state finals, and he calls this group as good as any he's ever taken to Evansville.

Over the past two years, Fields has compiled a 76-4 record. Thompson said that, if he continues to perform well this weekend and advances to the state meet, Fields will have a chance to finish his career ranked among the top three in career wins in school history.

Thompson calls Fields' record in the past two years staggering.

But Fields isn't satisfied. "I'd prefer it to be better, but I can't complain too much," he said. "Record doesn't really matter as much as where you end up at the end of the season."

Teammates call Fields "Gumby" because of his flexibility, which he illustrated by easily wrapping his leg around his head from a sitting position.

THE FIELDS FILE

Name: Matthew Fields
Class: Senior
High school: Whiteland
Family: Parents, Jerry and Brenda; sisters, Jessica, 21, Sarah, 20, and Nicole, 10
Nickname: "Gumby"
Hobbies: Hunting and playing video games
Dream car: Porsche Boxster
Favorite TV Show: "Two and a Half Men"
Item he can't live without: Cell phone

"He's just so flexible," Thomas said. "He'll hit moves that I think he makes up sometimes, that I've never even seen. But he also has that driving force that he hates to lose."

Last year, Thomas wrestled in the heavyweight division because Whiteland had two-time state place winner Caleb VanDeman wrestling at Thomas' natural 215-pound division.

With VanDeman's graduation, Thomas dropped from the heavyweight division, where wrestlers can weigh as much as 285 pounds. At times Thomas gave up 60

THE THOMAS FILE

Name: Travis Thomas
Class: Senior
High school: Whiteland
Family: Parents, Brian and Marilissa; stepmom, Julia Thomas; brothers, Coty Thomas, 16, and Joshua Merriman, 11
Nickname: "TNT"
Hobbies: Playing video games, weightlifting and sports
Dream truck: 2007 Dodge Ram
Favorite TV Show: "Two-a-Days"
Item he can't live without: PlayStation 2

pounds to his opponent. He said it was tough to score against the larger and stronger foes.

"There were a lot of things I couldn't do to the bigger guys because I was undersized and I wasn't strong enough," he said. "I couldn't work a lot of my moves, but I just hated to lose, and that's what drove me."

"I hated walking off the mat and not having my hand raised."

After advancing to the state meet, Thomas lost a 2-1 decision in double overtime last year against Andrew Quintana of Mount Vernon (Posey).

Sectionals bring new attitude for Trojans

Most people love the snow. I like snow, but not when it postpones basketball games.

Our sectional was scheduled to begin at Center Grove on Tuesday, but due to the snow, all games were pushed back one day.

Our first-round sectional victory against Franklin Central on Thursday night was a big win. The Flashes are a great opponent and always have a lot of talent. After losing to them the previous two years in the sectional, we finally had a chance to beat them, and we came up with an important victory. The one win is just a start.

Because of the snow delay, there is a possibility for us to play two games today. Southport is our next opponent, and we will play at noon. Southport beat a good Franklin team, so we know we need to be focused. If we pull out another victory, we will play again at 8 p.m.

Sectional week means that the parents spoil the players.

A delicious spaghetti dinner was prepared for us one day after practice. We received new T-shirts, which is special for sectional week.

Basketball signs with our name and number line the telephone



Lydia Feldman

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

poles along Morgantown Road as you drive toward the school.

The lovely boys' varsity basketball team so kindly delivered each girl on the team two red roses and wished us luck this week.

The parents pitched in and made us huge treat bags full of candy and gifts.

The surprises have been nice, but the focus has been on our games. The postseason is a completely new season where the regular-season record does not matter. It's do or die for every team. One loss and you are out.

I have taken a new approach to the postseason, knowing every game could be my last in high school.

Lydia Feldman is a senior on the Center Grove High School girls basketball team. Her Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

FRIDAY'S STATE SCORES

The Associated Press

Girls sectionals All semifinals	Class 4A	Class 1A	Class 2A	Class 3A	Class 4A
South Bend Washington 71, Michigan City 62	LaPorte 54, S. Bend Riley 53	Concord	Penn 67, Elkhart Central 39	Elkhart Memorial 55, Concord 35	Warsaw
Carroll (Allen) 48, Warsaw 34	Columbia City 42, DeKalb 39, 2OT	Fort Wayne Northrop	Fl. Wayne South 78, Homestead 52	Fl. Wayne Northrop vs. Fl. Wayne North	Lafayette Harrison
Kokomo 39, McCutcheon 37	Lafayette Harrison vs. Logansport	Richmond	Anderson 67, Richmond 55	Muncie Central 54, Greenfield 49	Westfield
N. Central vs. Hamilton Southeastern, ppd. to today	Fishers vs. Noblesville, ppd. to today	Lawrence Central	Warren Central vs. Cathedral, ppd. to today	Arlington vs. Lawrence North, ppd. to today	Center Grove
Perry Meridian vs. Decatur Central, ppd. to today	Southport at Center Grove, ppd. to today	Zionsville	Wednesday winner 1 vs. Wednesday winner 2	Ben Davis vs. Zionsville	Martinsville
Martinsville 70, Terre Haute South 66, OT	Terre Haute North 71, Northview 65	Shelbyville	Columbus East 53, Bloomington North 51	Shelbyville 68, E. Central 41	Mississinewa
Jay Co. 59, Tipton 58	Elwood 60, Mississinewa 30	Beech Grove	Whiteland 51, Chatard 46	Roncalli 81, Howe 16	Hamilton Heights
New Castle 51, Pendleton Hts. 46	Mt. Vernon (Hancock) 62, Yorktown 30	Rushville	Rushville 45, Greensburg 43	Connersville 61, S. Dearborn 47	West Vigo
Owen Valley 65, Sullivan 47	Edgewood 49, W. Vigo 17	Scottsboro	Corydon 62, Salem 38	Madison 56, N. Harrison 43	Vincennes
Tuesday winner 1 vs. Tuesday winner 2	Washington vs. Gibson Southern	Class 2A	Wednesday winner 1 vs. Wednesday winner 2	Southwood vs. Wabash	Oak Hill
Winchester 66, Centerville 27	Cambridge City 56, Northeastern 42	Speedway	Park Tudor 55, Scecina 40	Heritage Christian 69, Speedway 52	Milan
Southwestern (Jefferson) 54, Ripley 39	Lawrenceburg vs. Switzerland Co.	Providence	Charlestown 45, Austin 40	Brownstown 68, Clarksville 65, OT	Fort Wayne Blackhawk
Elkhart Christian 37, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 27	Ft. Wayne Canterbury 63, Bethany Christian 34	West Central	W. Central 29, Caston 22	Pioneer 38, N. White 36	TH-Central
Southern Wells 54, Lakeview Christian 38	Tri-Central 52, Wes-Del 39	Randolph Southern	Union (Modoc) vs. Wednesday winner	Randolph Southern 71, Union City 65	Eminence
Wednesday winner 1 vs. Wednesday winner 2	Thursday winner 1 vs. Thursday winner 2	Southwestern (Shelby)	Waldron 69, Morristown 31	Hauser 61, Edinburgh 44	Jac-Cen-Del
Jac-Cen-Del 69, Madison Shawe 35	S. Decatur 62, Rising Sun 59				

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