

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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CARMEL EXTENDS RECORD RUN, CHESTERTON SWIMMERS WIN FOUR EVENTS

Though no state records were set, the 32nd Annual IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals at the Indiana University Natatorium at IUPUI certainly wasn't short on storylines including a first place tie in one event.

Carmel completed its second decade of dominance as the Greyhounds extended their record string of girls swimming state championships to 20 straight years. Coached by third year leader Tom Burchill, Carmel had one winning relay team and totaled 291.5 points to outdistance first-time runner-up Yorktown with 217.5 points. It continues to be the longest title streak in IHSAA sports history, is tied for the nations seventh longest all-time in any sport and is the longest active run. The nations longest girls swimming streak is 22 consecutive years.

North Central of Indianapolis finished third with 210 points, Hamilton Southeastern was fourth (187) and Columbus North fifth overall (170.5).

Carmel opened the meet by winning the 200 medley relay as Jessie Hammes, Emily DiBenigno, Alyssa Rosinko and Megan Sparks combined for a time of 1:46.48. It was the 18th time in the last 20 years the Greyhounds opened the state meet with the victory including the fourth time in the last five.

Brittney Feldman proved to be the class of this years one meter diving competition winning the event for the second time in three years. The Indianapolis Broad Ripple senior, who finished as the state runner-up in 2005, tallied 482.25 points in her 11 dives outdistancing her nearest competitor by 48 points.

Following the diving competition, Chesterton proceeded to claim four of the final seven events of the meet, including two relays. Christy Grcevich returned to the top spot on the awards podium in the 100 butterfly winning the event for the second time in three seasons. The junior, who settled for sixth last year, turned in a winning time of 56.28 for her third state title overall. She also was part of the Trojans winning 200 freestyle relay team last year. Another part of that same relay was junior Talor Whitaker, who won the 100 freestyle in 51.34, her first individual state championship. The pair teamed up once again this year in the 200 free relay along with Taylor Lipniskis and Sarah Kehe with the same combination and sequence of swimmers posting a winning time of 1:35.63. The same foursome also clocked the fastest time in the 400 free relay in 3:29.49.

Michelle McKeehan of Center Grove and Maggie Bird of Yorktown both won two individual events a piece.

By winning both the 200 individual medley (2:00.99) and 100 breaststroke (1:02.07), McKeehan became just the fourth girls swimmer to win the same two individual events as a freshman and sophomore joining

Buffy Horlander of Ben Davis (1979, 1980), Debbie Daniel of Anderson (1981, 1982) and Lindsay Benko of Elkhart Central (1991, 1992).

Bird was successful in defending her state title in the 200 freestyle. With a time of 1:50.02, the senior became the first back-to-back winner in the event since Lindsay Benko won four straight from 1991-94. She added a second crown to her day winning the 500 freestyle in 4:55.09.

For the first time in the 32 year history of the state finals, a tie for first place occurred in an event. Yorktown sophomore Kelsi Hall and Jeffersonville junior Ariel Martin touched the wall in an identical 23.54 in the 50 freestyle. Last year, Martin had finished as the runner-up in the event while Hall was the 16th place finisher.

Harrison (West Lafayette) sophomore Jenny Connolly touched first in the 100 backstroke in 56.97 for her first state title. Martin, the defending champion placed fifth in the event.

Top 10 Teams

1.	Carmel	291.5
2.	Yorktown	217.5
3.	North Central (Indianapolis)	210
4.	Hamilton Southeastern	187
5.	Columbus North	170.5
6.	Chesterton	163
7.	Center Grove	140
8.	Homestead	117
9.	Fort Wayne Snider	113
10.	Munster	94

State Champions

200 Medley Relay Carmel (Jessie Hammes 9, Emily DiBenigno 10, Alyssa Rosinko 12, Megan Sparks 11), 1:46.48.

200 Freestyle Maggie Bird, 12, Yorktown, 1:50.02.

200 Individual Medley Michelle McKeehan, 10, Center Grove, 2:00.99.

50 Freestyle (Tie) Kelsi Hall, 10, Yorktown; Ariel Martin, 11, Jeffersonville, 23.54.

One Meter Diving Brittney Feldman, 12, Indianapolis Broad Ripple, 482.25.

100 Butterfly Christy Grcevich, 11, Chesterton, 56.28.

100 Freestyle Talor Whitaker, 11, Chesterton, 51.34.

500 Freestyle Maggie Bird, 12, Yorktown, 4:55.09.

200 Freestyle Relay Chesterton (Talor Whitaker 11, Taylor Lipniskis 10, Sarah Kehe 12, Christy Grcevich 11), 1:35.63.

100 Backstroke Jenny Connolly, 10, Harrison (West Lafayette), 56.97.

100 Breaststroke Michelle McKeehan, 10, Center Grove, 1:02.07.

400 Freestyle Relay Chesterton (Talor Whitaker 11, Taylor Lipniskis 10, Sarah Kehe 12, Christy Grcevich 11), 3:29.49.

BRITNEY FELDMAN HONORED AS MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Two-time IHSAA diving state champion Brittney Feldman of Indianapolis Broad Ripple High School is the 2005-06 Mental Attitude Award winner for girls swimming. Feldman becomes the first female and the third Broad Ripple student-athlete overall to earn that distinction.

Feldman earned her second state title with a dominating performance in the one-meter event. She amassed 482.25 points to prevail by 48 points. Feldman earned runner-up honors in the 2005 State Finals with a score of 497.60--the second highest in state finals history.

Feldman won the 2004 state championship as a sophomore with a 431.00 total.

She was a national champion in both the one-meter and three-meter events in 2005. She also earned a bronze medal at the 2005 Pan American Games.

In the classroom, Feldman ranks fourth in a class of 289 seniors with a 3.857 cumulative grade point average. She plans to study medicine at Indiana University.

"Brittney is an excellent student who has the respect of all of her teachers and constantly demonstrates strong leadership and teamwork qualities," said Broad Ripple Vice Principal Teresa Knox. "I know of no one more self-disciplined or industrious as she is."

Feldman has been a member of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and she has volunteered with the Indianapolis Humane Society, the Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge, and the Warren Tree Fest Winter Program.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate partner, presented Indianapolis Broad Ripple High School with a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of Feldman.

VSN MEANS ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Visit our friends at Visual Sports Network, the IHSAA's official photographer for all state championship events and one of the leading action photographers in the Midwest. VSN, which was on site on Saturday, has captured hundreds of images from this year's State Finals and will have them ready for viewing and purchase beginning Monday.

CHAMPIONSHIP MERCHANDISE STILL AVAILABLE

For t-shirts and other merchandise commemorating this year's tournament or for any of our events, visit our friends at Morris, Inc.

STATE FINALS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Couldn't be there for the state finals? You can still purchase a copy of the official souvenir program while supplies last! Programs are \$3.00 if you purchase in person at the IHSAA Office (9150 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis) or \$5.00 by mail (postage included). To order, have your Visa or MasterCard ready and call us at 317-846-6601 during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. EST).