

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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RECORDS APLENTY AT GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Five state meet records were set, a national record went down and another tied during an entertaining afternoon in the 34th annual IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals on Saturday in Indianapolis.

Carmel won a relay and two individual events to score 387 points and outdistance runner-up Hamilton Southeastern with 317.5. HSE finished second for the third time in four years. Homestead (216), Center Grove (165) and North Central of Indianapolis (129) rounded out the top five.

It was the 22nd consecutive state championship in girls swimming and diving for the Greyhounds tying a girls national high school record now shared with Punahou High School of Honolulu, HI which won 22 girls swimming titles from 1974-95. Carmels run is the second longest active streak in the country regardless of sport or gender. Second year coach Chris Plumb is the fifth Carmel mentor since the streak began in the fall of 1986.

Carmels cause was helped by Trish Regan, the 200 freestyle winner, Samantha Partridge who won the 500 freestyle, and the 200 freestyle relay team. The 500 free was the only remaining individual swimming event a Greyhound had never won.

Center Groves Michelle McKeehan won her fourth consecutive state title in two different events during the afternoon. She set a national record in the 200 individual medley and set a state meet record in the 100 breaststroke joining Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Benko of Elkhart Central as the only girls in state history to sweep two events all four years. Benko won the 100 and 200 freestyles from 1991-94.

In the IM, McKeehan touched the wall in 1:56.87 and set a national high school record in the event for the second straight year. She received a standing ovation from the Natatorium crowd at the end of the race and later on the awards stand. Last year, her national mark of 1:58.06 stood six days before Mary Beck of Westlake High School in Austin, Tex. swam a 1:57.74 and 1:57.41 on consecutive days at the Texas state meet.

Later in the afternoon, McKeehan, a University of Georgia recruit, broke her own state record in the 100 breaststroke turning in a 1:00.12. She swam a 1:00.23 in last years championship heat.

Her eighth blue ribbon medal also tied her with three other Indiana swimmers (Benko, Logansports Heidi Hendricks; Lafayette Jeffersons Allison Bock) with a state record eight individual crowns.

Harrisons Jenny Connolly also won a pair of individual crowns on the afternoon. Connolly won her third consecutive state championship in the 100 backstroke (54.00) and repeated as 100 butterfly winner

(53.91) setting a state meet record in the process. The University of Tennessee pledge had set state meet records in both events during Fridays prelims going 53.53 in the back and 54.14 in the fly. She finishes her prep career with five individual crowns.

Hamilton Southeastern's Carly Mercer had quite a day as well for the Royals. She won the 100 freestyle in 50.95 and was part of two state record-setting relay teams.

The 200 medley relay team repeated as Maegan O'Connor, Christina Jacobs and Lindsay Rogers joined Mercer to set the meet record in 1:43.39, lowering their own mark of 1:44.44 set Friday. It was the fourth consecutive state finals swim that the foursome had set the standard. Last year, they tied the previous mark on Friday and returned to break it during their state title performance the next day.

Paige Copeland and Aubrey Hertzler teamed with Rogers and Mercer in the 400 free relay, the days last event, touching in 3:26.61 and breaking a 14-year old state record set by Carmel (3:26.92). Copeland, Hertzler and Mercer had won the same event last year.

Yorktown's Kelsi Hall finished her prep career with a third consecutive state championship in the 50 freestyle. Hall outdueled the field in 23.13.

In the one meter diving competition, Gabriella Agostino of South Bend St. Josephs earned the championship with an 11-dive score of 428.50.

The 34th Annual IHSAA Girls Swimming & Diving State Finals

Indiana University Natatorium, IUPUI, Indianapolis

February 8-9, 2008

Top 10 Teams

1.	Carmel	387
2.	Hamilton Southeastern	317.5
3.	Homestead	216
4.	Center Grove	165
5.	North Central (Indianapolis)	129
6.	Columbus North	123
7.	Chesterton	92.5
8.	Fort Wayne Snider	74
9.	Lafayette Jefferson	56
10.	Harrison (West Lafayette)	54

State Champions

200 Medley Relay Hamilton Southeastern (Maegan OConnor 11, Christina Jacobs 12, Lindsay Rogers 12, Carly Mercer 10), 1:43.39, **State Meet Record.**

200 Freestyle Trish Regan, 10, Carmel, 1:49.78.

200 Individual Medley Michelle McKeehan, 12, Center Grove, 1:56.87, **National Record.**

50 Freestyle Kelsi Hall, 12, Yorktown, 23.13.

One Meter Diving Gabriella Agostino, 12, South Bend St. Josephs, 428.50.

100 Butterfly Jenny Connolly, 12, Harrison (West Lafayette), 53.91, **State Meet Record.**

100 Freestyle Carly Mercer, 10, Hamilton Southeastern, 50.95.

500 Freestyle Samantha Partridge, 12, Carmel, 5:01.45.

200 Freestyle Relay Carmel (Megan Detro 11, Devon Mason 9, Trish Regan 10, Emily Dibenigno 12), 1:35.28.

100 Backstroke Jenny Connolly, 12, Harrison (West Lafayette), 54.00.

100 Breaststroke Michelle McKeehan, 12, Center Grove, 1:00.12, **State Meet Record**.

400 Freestyle Relay Hamilton Southeastern (Paige Copeland 10, Lindsay Rogers 12, Aubrey Hertzler 10, Carly Mercer 10) 3:26.61, **State Meet Record**.

State Championship Record Streaks

Longest streaks of consecutive state championships, all sports, all states

29 Honolulu Punahou, Hawaii, boys swimming, 1958-86.

26 Woonsocket Mt. St. Charles Academy, R.I., boys hockey, 1978-2003.

27 Pickford, Mich., boys track and field, 1952-78.

25 Paulsboro, NJ, wrestling, 1983-2007.*

24 Tacoma Wilson, Wash., boys swimming, 1960-84.

22 Carmel, Ind., girls swimming, 1986-2008.*

22 Honolulu Punahou, Hawaii, girls swimming, 1974-95.

21 Fort Lauderdale Pine Crest, Fla., girls swimming, 1956-76.

*Active streak.

(Source: National Federation of State High School Associations)

HSES EMILY SCHROEDER NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD RECIPIENT

Following the meet, members of the IHSAA Executive Committee selected Emily Schroeder of Hamilton Southeastern High School as this years winner of the Mental Attitude Award in girls swimming and diving.

The award is presented annually to a senior, nominated by her principal and coach, who demonstrates excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

She served as team captain of this seasons state runner-up team and has qualified for the state finals in 100 backstroke, 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle during her four seasons.

Schroeder ranks 17th in her class of 460 students and plans to study biology at Denison University.

She is the daughter of Rich and Angie Schroeder of Fishers.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate partner, presented Hamilton Southeastern High School with a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of Schroeder.

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 years 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 years 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 am-4 pm ET).