

Big Red, Crusaders win OVAC

• Ferry boys, Linsly girls finish runners-up

By BRIAN COOK
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a time when you got wet or just get out of the pool Saturday afternoon as the best swimmers in the valley met in competition at the Steubenville High School Natatorium for the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Swimming Championships.

The hometown favorites -- Steubenville and Steubenville Central Catholic -- made it known that the rest of the valley was coming into their water as both teams were able to use their depth to win the team title. Wheeling Park finished second in boys and girls Big School competition. Linsly snagged second for the girls Small School, while Martins Ferry was runner-up in boys competition.

The Crusaders' lone champion for the meet was Horacio Gonzalez in the boys 100 yard butterfly. Central Catholic also was able to pick up a relay championship in the 200 freestyle relay as Gonzalez, Jonathan Albarano, Shane Myers, and Brandon Albarano clocked in a time of 1:40.02.

The Big Reds ended the afternoon bringing home no individual or relay champions.

"Steubenville kids are resilient kids," Steubenville coach Gus DiMarzio said. "We had kids that we didn't think would score, but they did and every little bit helps."

"It goes to show you we might not have the fastest swimmers, but we've got good quality swimmers. Every kid on our team gives us a great effort. In return it pays off because we're scoring. Almost all of our kids have scored a point. In swimming, depth means as much as anything."

The Purple Riders might not have

won the team title, but had arguably the best swimmer as German foreign exchange student Markus Sievers shattered two individual OVAC records in the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley.

"He is very determined and did very well in this meet," Rider coach Rhonda Wilson commented about Sievers. "The whole team has become closer because the winning attitude the he has is very contagious."

The sibling duo of Andrew and Tyler Chesonis also made a big splash for the Riders. Tyler finished the day with two championships coming in the 200 and 500 freestyle. The 500 freestyle was a repeat win for Tyler from last year's OVAC championship. Andrew also finished in 1:09 to take home first-place

honors in the 100 breaststroke.

On the women's side, St. Clairsville's Ali Myers and Wheeling Park's Sarah Hoof stood atop of the podium the most.

Myers finished the meet with top honors in the 500 and 200 freestyle. She was also apart of a championship 200 freestyle relay team that included Ashley Mick, Sukhmani Sandhu and Alison Garbash. This last OVAC accolade gives Myers six individual gold medals for her high school career.

"I have been swimming for a really long time and OVAC's is the big meet I look forward to every year. I knew this was my senior year and last year swimming so I wanted to go out with bang,"

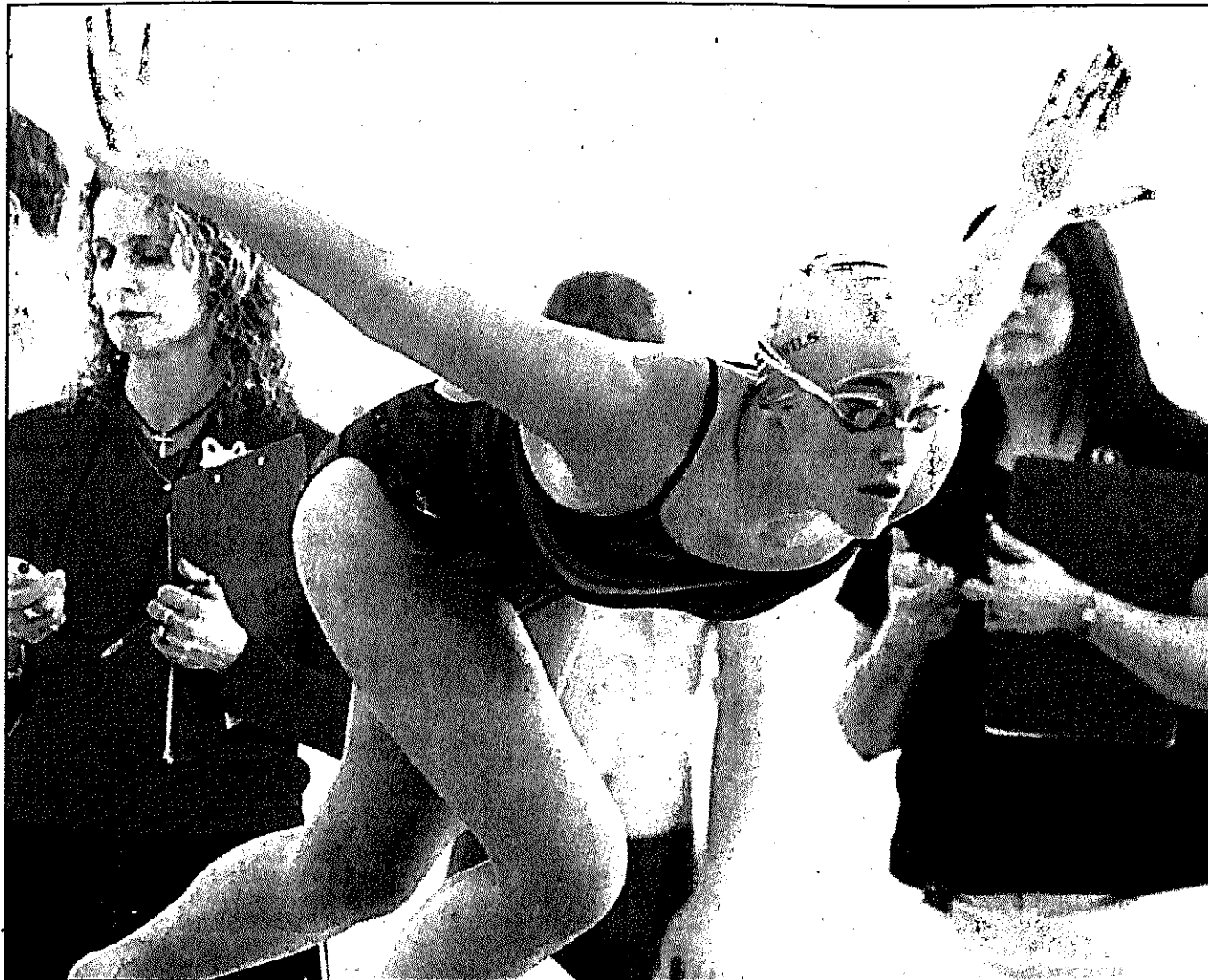


TOP: St. Clairville senior Ali Myers dives into the pool during the OVAC Swimming Championships at the Steubenville Natatorium Saturday. Myers won two individual titles, bringing her career total to six.

ABOVE: Martins Ferry's Tyler Chesonis competes in the 200 Freestyle during Saturday's OVAC Championships. Chesonis won the 200 Freestyle, as well as the 500 Free.



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH



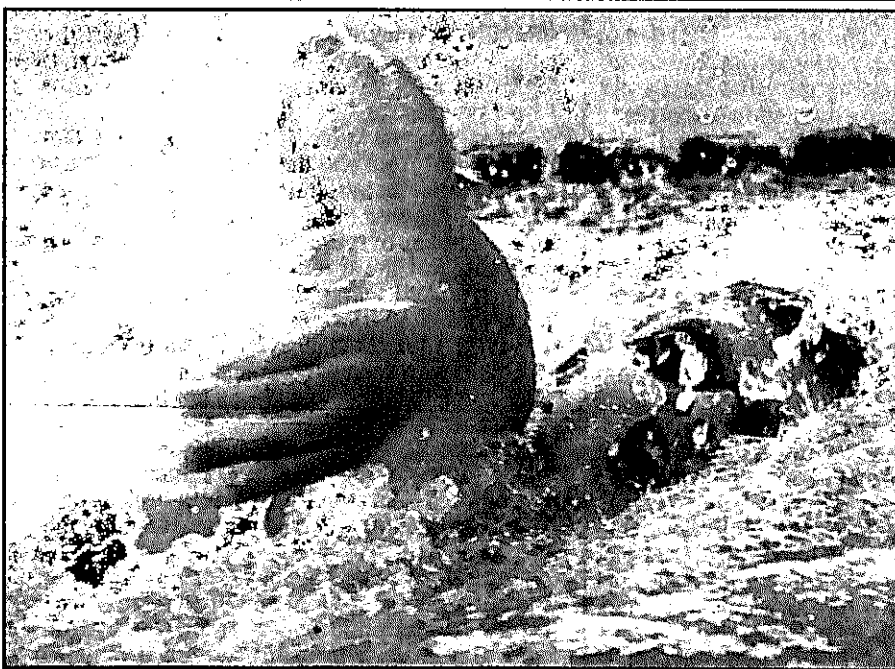
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TOP: St. Clairsville senior All Myers dives into the pool during the OVAC Swimming Championships at the Steubenville Natatorium Saturday. Myers won two individual titles, bringing her career total to six.

ABOVE: Martins Ferry's Tyler Chesonis competes in the 200 Freestyle during Saturday's

OVAC Swimming Championship Results

GIRLS BIG SCHOOL TEAM RESULTS

1. Steubenville 312; 2. Wheeling Park 258; 3. Weir 197; 4. Brooke 140; 4. John Marshall 140; 6. Edison 85; 7. Beaver Local 82; 8. East Liverpool 36; 9. Zanesville 13; 10. Cambridge 11

GIRLS SMALL SCHOOL TEAM RESULTS

1. Steubenville Central Catholic 261; 2. Linsly 194; 3. St. Clairsville 164; 4. Barnesville 118; 5. Martins Ferry 79; 6. Mount de Chantal 40; 7. Bellaire 26; 8. Wheeling Central Catholic 10; 9. Wellsville 4

BOYS BIG SCHOOL TEAM RESULTS

1. Steubenville 304; 2. Wheeling Park 200; 3. John Marshall 162; 4. Cambridge 151; 5. Brooke 146; 6. Edison 78; 7. Weir 34; 8. Zanesville 29; 9. Beaver Local 2

BOYS BIG SCHOOL TEAM RESULTS

1. Steubenville Catholic Central 322; 2. Martins Ferry 250; 3. Barnesville 168; 4. Linsly 113; 5. Wheeling Central Catholic 100; 6. St. Clairsville 84; 7. Bellaire 26

BOYS

100 Freestyle -- 1. Eric Schwartz (BARN), 0:53; 2. Ricky Harvey (CAMB), 53.54; 3. Tyler Jones (WP), 45.64; 4. Jonathan Novick (WC), 54.66; 5. Aaron Ackerman (BARN), 55.51; 6. Gregory Ashmead (STEUB CC), 52.52

100 Butterfly -- Horacio Gonzalez (STEUB CC), 1:01.59; 2. John Allen Zumpetta (STEUB), 1:02.24; 3. Rich Brandt (STEUB), 1:02.57; 4. Joey Healey (LIN), 1:03.45; 5. Frank LaRue (STEUB), 1:03.45; 6. Jonathan Albarano (STEUB CC)

50 Freestyle -- 1. Justin Kangisser (WP), 24.20; 2. Aaron Ackerman (BARN), 24.23; 3. Tyler Steele (JM), 24.24; 4. Ricky Harvey (CAMB), 24.26; 5. Drew Powley (ED), 24.58; 6. Bryan Meeks (STC), 24.61

200 IM -- 1. Markus Sievers (MF), 1:55.89; 2. Taylor Allen (CAMB), 2:21.49; 3. Ted Henry (JM), 2:25.59; 4. Shane Warner (BARN), 2:26.93; 5. Jason Bennett (WEIR), 2:29.79; 6. Vaughn Taylor-Lehman (ZANE), 2:29.93

200 Freestyle -- 1. Tyler Chesonis (MF), 1:57.07; 2. Eric Schwartz (BARN), 2:00.22; 3. Tyler Steele (JM), 2:02.78; 4. Ryan Smogonovich (STEUB), 2:05.18; 5. Andrew Chesonis (MF), 2:06.55; 6. Justin Blanton (STEUB), 2:07.90

200 Medley Relay -- 1. Martins Ferry (Markus Sievers, Andrew Chesonis, Tyler Chesonis, Ryan Longenette), 1:47.62; 2. Cambridge (Taylor Allen, Ricky Harvey, Aaron Fahy, Justin Ady), 1:52.55; 3. Wheeling Park (Travis McKinley, Jordan Laird, Tyler Jones, Justin Kangisser), 1:56.18; 4. Steubenville (Jake Lucas, Justin Sofio, Jonathan Albarano, Gregory Ashmead), 1:57.09; 5. Barnesville (Danny Schwartz, Shane Warner, Eric Schwartz, Aaron Ackerman), 1:58.91; 6. Brooke (Anthony Viola, Craig Riccetti, John Allen Zumpetta, Nathan Cipoletti), 2:00.31

500 Freestyle -- 1. Tyler Chesonis (MF), 5:14.87; 2. Jake Lucas (STEUB CC), 5:34.40; 3. Ryan Smogonovich (STEUB), 5:34.41; 4. Mike Mehrbas (STEUB), 5:38.44; 5. Ted Henry (JM), 5:38.76; 6. Shane Warner (BARN), 5:40.05

200 Freestyle Relay -- 1. Steubenville Central Catholic (Horacio Gonzalez, Jonathan Albarano, Shane Myers, Brandon Albarano), 1:40.02; 2. Barnesville (Eric Schwartz, Danny Schwartz, Shane Warner, Aaron Ackerman), 1:40.38; 3. Steubenville (Alan D Anniballe, Justin Blanton, Steve Ross, Derrick Gullen), 1:42.39; 4. Wheeling Park (Travis McKinley, Brandon McKinley, Ben Hodgkiss, Justin Kangisser), 1:43.02; 5. John Marshall (Ted Henry, Jared Patrick, Sean Cutright, Tyler Steele), 1:43.02; 6. Steubenville Catholic Central (Brendan Lee, Justin Sofio, Horacio Gonzalez, Nathan Hughes), 1:45.99

100 Backstroke -- 1. Markus Sievers (MF), 53.66; 2. Tyler Jones (WP), 1:00.50; 3. Taylor Allen (CAMB), 1:01.21; 4. Rich Brandt (STEUB), 1:03.95; 5. Joey DePalma (STC), 1:06.57; 6. Anthony Viola (BRK), 1:08.58

100 Breaststroke -- 1. Andrew Chesonis (MF), 1:09.18; 2. Alan D Anniballe (STEUB), 1:12.41; 3. Jason Bennett (WEIR), 1:12.83; 4. Kyle Brehm (BELL), 1:13.90; 5. Justin Sofio (STEUB CC), 1:15.86; 6. Elliot Chiu (LIN), 1:15.93

400 Freestyle Relay -- 1. Martins Ferry (Markus Sievers, Ryan Longenette, Andrew Chesonis, Tyler, Chesonis), 3:37.55; 2. Wheeling Park (Brandon McKinley, Jordan Lair, Tyler Jones, Justin Kangisser), 3:45.22; 3. Cambridge (Taylor Allen, Brad Edwards, Aaron Fahy, Ricky Harvey), 3:39.31; 4. Steubenville (Steve Rose, Ryan Smogonovich, Mike Mehrbas, Rich Brandt), 3:50.57; 5. John Marshall (Ted Henry, Jared Patrick, Sean Cutright, Tyler Steele), 3:58.18; 6. Brooke Bruins (John Allen Zumpetta, Craig Riccetti, Michael Bonaventura, Anthony Viola), 3:58.18

GIRLS

100 Freestyle -- 1. Rachael Mounihan (MD), 56.96; 2. Alison Garbash (STC), 58.26; 3. Megan Barries (MF), 58.95; 4. Alexis Colangelo (WEIR), 1:02.46; 5. Alison Prager (JM), 1:02.73; 6. Ashley Firm (STEUB), 1:03.08

100 Butterfly -- 1. Rachel Williams (STEUB CC), 1:06.14; 2. Christina DiBartolomeo (BRK), 1:08.49; 3. Abby Kaczor (WP), 1:10.01; 4. Natalie Bohn (WEIR), 1:10.33; 5. Morgan Drotos (LIN), 1:12.22; 6. Caitlin Criss (STEUB), 1:15.47

50 Freestyle -- 1. Morgan Drotos (LIN), 25.81; 2. Abby Kaczor (WP), 26.44; 3. Alison Garbash (STC), 26.48; 4. Erin Lucas (STEUB CC), 26.62; 5. Megan Barries (MF), 27.16; 6. Chirilina DiBartolomeo (BRK), 27.21

200 IM -- 1. Sarah Hooff (WP), 2:22.35; 2. Rachel Williams (STEUB CC), 2:28.67; 3. Alexis Colangelo (WEIR), 2:36.08; 4. Joanna Veronezi (MF),

2:39.26; 5. Caitlin Criss (STEUB), 2:41.00; 6. Sukhmani Sandhu (STC), 2:44.33

200 Freestyle -- 1. Alexandra Myers (STC), 2:05.47; 2. Jessica Steve (BEAV), 2:09.71; 3. Aubrey Bodo (STEUB), 2:10.33; 4. Jayne Henry (JM), 2:12.28; 5. Emily Rockwell (BARN), 2:12.28; 6. Ashley Firm (STEUB), 2:15.66

200 Medley Relay -- 1. Wheeling Park (Kait Eckman, Sarah Hooff, Abby Kaczor, Sarah Voegelin), 2:02.56; 2. Steubenville (Erin Lucas, Christina Homol, Rachel Williams, Mia Ravasio), 2:05.27; 3. Weir (Natalie Bohn, Lindsay Sobotka, Alexis Colangelo, Carly Gregson), 2:07.34; 4. Barnesville (Emily Rockwell, Alyssa Wells, Erica Welch, Jenny MacMillen), 2:08.29; 5. Linsly (Hannah Goas, Richelle DeGuzman, Morgan Drotos, Casey Michalski), 2:08.64; 6. St. Clairsville (Allison Garbash, Brittany Zielinski, Alexandra Meyers, Sukhmani Sandhu), 2:08.64

500 Freestyle -- 1. Alexandra Myers (STC), 5:36.71; 2. Jessica Steve (BEAV), 5:48.11; 3. Aubrey Bodo (STEUB), 5:49.07; 4. Jayne Henry (JM), 5:59.88; 5. Erica Baker (JM), 6:05.00; 6. Kaitlin Pytlak (LIN), 6:15.24

200 Freestyle Relay -- 1. St. Clairsville (Ashley Mick, Sukhmani Sandhu, Alison Garbash, Alexandra Myers), 1:51.40; 2. Brooke (Christina DiBartolomeo, Keacey Mazzella, Brittany Rocchio, Rochell Sperlazzza), 1:54.37; 3. Linsly (Kaitlin Pytlak, Casey Michalski, Sammi Riel, Morgan Drotos), 1:54.42; 3. Steubenville (Whitney Petrela, Anne Ellis, Ashley Firm, Aubrey Bodo), 1:54.42; 5. Barnesville (Erica Welch, Alyssa Jones, Jenny MacMillen, Emily Rockwell), 1:55.16; 6. Weir (Carly Gregson, Lindsay Sobotka, Angela Lamp, Natalie Bohn), 1:55.81

100 Backstroke -- 1. Rachael Moynihan (MD), 1:06.13; 2. Erin Lucas (STEUB CC), 1:06.65; 3. Emily Rockwell (BARN), 1:07.09; 4. Natalie Bohn (WEIR), 1:09.52; 5. Hannah Goas (LIN), 1:11.27; 6. Emily Dawson (EL), 1:12.71

100 Breaststroke -- 1. Sarah Hooff (WP), 1:10.42; 2. Lindsay Sobotka (WEIR), 1:16.87; 3. Kayleigh Cowser (STEUB), 1:18.08; 4. Alyssa Wells (BARN), 1:18.55; 5. Ashley Jablonski (STEUB), 1:18.75; 6. Kara Larsen (ED), 1:22.09

400 Freestyle Relay -- 1. Wheeling Park (Abby Kaczor, Megan Weyrauch, Sarah Voegelin, Sarah Hooff), 4:06.17; 2. Steubenville Catholic Central (Rachel Williams, Jessica Belback, Mia Ravasio, Erin Lucas), 4:09.80; 3. Steubenville (Whitney Petrela, Cassie Vergitz, Ashley Firm, Aubrey Bodo), 4:12.79; 4. Weir (Alexis Colangelo, Lamp Angela, Lindsay Sobotka, Carly Gregson), 4:19.67; 5. Brooke (Keli Schupbach, Keacey Mazzella, Rochell Sperlazzza, Brittany Rocchio), 4:20.30; 6. John Marshall (Alison Prager, Ali Stipetch, Enca Baker, Jayne Henry), 4:21.04

OVAC Swimmers Take to Pool Saturday

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

On paper, it appears the Martins Ferry High School boys' swim team should have no problem bringing home a Small School title at Saturday's OVAC Swimming Championships at the Steubenville High School natatorium.

Inside

Cheerleaders
take stage

Page 20

After all, the Purple Riders have secured top seeds in seven of 11 events.

But events aren't won on paper. And second-year Martins Ferry head coach Rhonda Wilson knows it's going to take a strong effort by her club to cap-

ture the crown.

Standing in her team's way, she believes, is a Steubenville Catholic Central squad that possesses loads of depth. And it is overcoming the Crusaders' depth that Wilson believes will be her team's biggest hurdle in winning a championship.

"I think we have a good chance," Wilson said of her boys' team's chances at a title. "But if (our swimmers who aren't top seeds) do really well, we'll have an even better chance."

Martins Ferry and Steubenville Catholic previously met Dec. 1 of last year with the Purple Riders coming out on top by a 51-42 count. But the

Crusaders were missing six swimmers because of the school's participation in the Ohio Division VI championship football game.

Leading the way for the Purple Riders is senior Markus Sievers, an exchange student from Germany. During his short time at the Belmont County school, Sievers has proceeded to rewrite the valley's record book.

"He has surprised me a lot," said Wilson, a 1998 Martins Ferry graduate. "He is a very talented swimmer and he is such a hard worker."

Sievers is the top seed in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke, as well as the 400 freestyle and 200 medley relays

with teammates Ryan Longenette, Andrew Chesonis and Tyler Chesonis.

But it's the 200 IM and 100 backstroke where Sievers has made the most waves this season.

"He has the Ohio Valley record in both events," Wilson noted, adding Sievers has set pool records at Wheeling Jesuit University and Dover and John Marshall High School this year.

His seeding time of 52.96 in the 100 backstroke is nearly four seconds better than the OVAC meet and pool records, while his standard of 2:00.06 in the 200 IM is nearly three seconds better than the OVAC marks.

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OVAC

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The Crusaders just edged out a dangerous Barnesville squad by three-tenths of a second.

That victory was particularly satisfying to Lucas, as it was made possible by the late-season addition of Ashmead and both Albaranos.

Like four other Central football players who advanced to the Ohio Division VI title game the first weekend in December, Ashmead and Jonathan Albarano were completely unavailable until after a few weeks into the swimming season.

Being a band member, Brandon Albarano, was also wrapped up in the football frenzy and was only sparingly available.

Lucas is obviously relieved to have all four of the swimmers together now.

"Martins Ferry beat us during the regular season because we were missing six boys who played football. We had them all back today, and they made a big difference, and we won," she said.

"Our 200 freestyle team was amazing today. That event shows just how valuable those kids (involved with football)

are to this swim team."

Staubenville Big Red's highest place finisher was Alan D'Anniballe, who was second in the 100 breast stroke. His time was 1:12.41, while Martins Ferry's Andrew Chesonis won the event.

Big Red's Aubrey Bodo finished third in both the 500 and 200 freestyles, while Kayleigh Cowser was third in the 100 breast stroke. A pair of the girls' relay teams - the 400 and 200 freestyle relays - and the boys' 200 freestyle team also won bronze.

Even more than Catholic Central, Big Red's key to overall victory was multiple place finishers in just about every event.

"We don't have any superstars on this team. We have a lot of good swimmers who believe in each other and work their butts off," DiMarzio said.

"Early in the season the kids were fatigued from all the practicing we were doing, but this is when it starts to pay off.

"They responded today in just the same way that any other Big Red athlete that walks the halls responds when it's time to step up."

OVAC SWIMMING

(at Staubenville High School)

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OVAC Meet Belongs to Steubenville

By PATRICK MEYERS
For the News-Register

There are two kinds of depth — quantity and quality: Numbers alone don't always translate into a championship. But if the swimmers in question are good all through the lineup, then that's an entirely different matter.

When push came to shove Saturday, Steubenville Big Red and Catholic Central just had too many well-rounded swimmers for the rest of the field to keep pace. It was a clean sweep at the OVAC meet, as Big Red carried the large school division and Central won both small school titles.

Big Red's accomplishment was made even more impressive because not a single individual gold medal was won by one of its swimmers.

"We had a team meeting right before the first event today and we told our kids that you have to be about the team today. Anything you have to in a relay event or individually to help the team win, you do it. Be a good teammate," said a soaking wet Gus DiMarzio. The coach was a victim of his own team, in a way, as he received swimming's version of the water cooler dump when he was given a hard push into the pool. Caught up in the joy of the moment, DiMarzio then climbed onto the diving board, bounced a few times to work his swimmers into a small roar and spun head first into the soft, aqua blue water.

The Big Red boys finished with 312 points, as Wheeling Park came in second with 258 points. Weir was third with 197 points, followed by Brooke (140), John Marshall (140), Edison (85), Beaver Local (82), East Liverpool

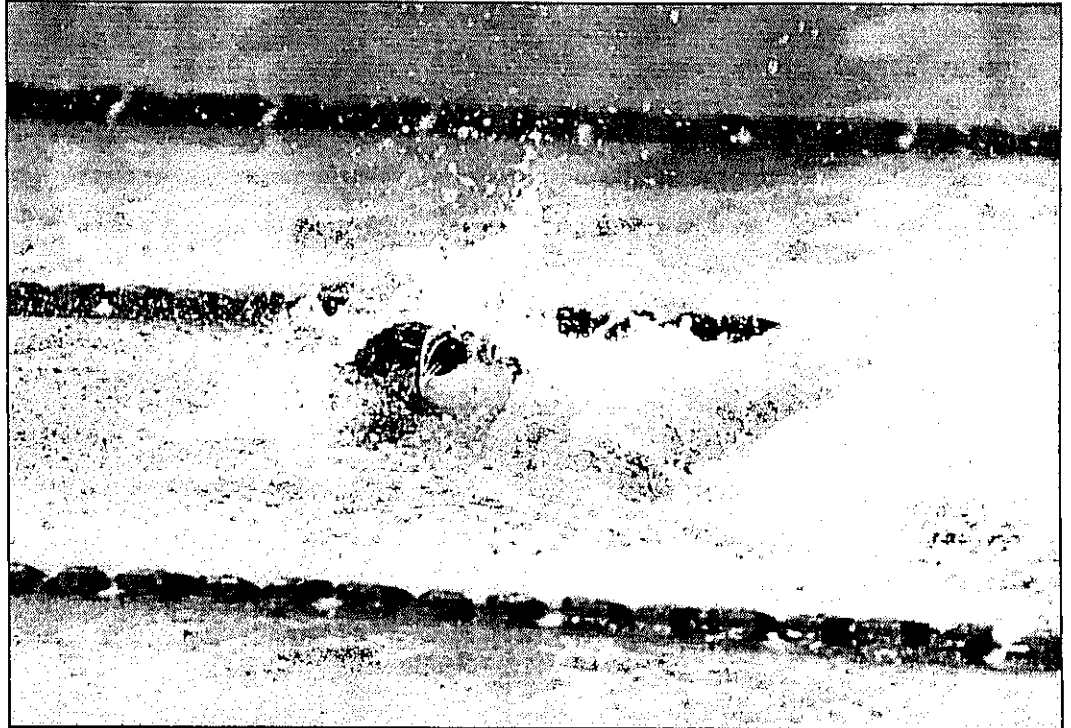


Photo by Joel Joseph

Martins Ferry's Markus Sievers swims in the 100 meter backstroke Saturday at the OVAC Championships at Steubenville High School. Sievers won the event with a time of 53.66.

(36) Zanesville (13) and Cambridge 11. The Steubenville girls team finished with 304 points. Wheeling Park was a distant second with 200 points, while John Marshall was third with 162 points. Cambridge (151) was fourth, followed by Brooke (146), Edison (76), Weir (34), Zanesville (29) and Beaver Local (2).

The small school division was also a lop-sided affair. The Catholic Central boys avenged its only loss of the season by cruising past Martins Ferry, 322-250. Barnesville came in third with 168 points, followed by Linsly (113), Wheeling Central (100), St. Clairsville (84) and Bellaire (26). The Central girls finished first with

261 points. Linsly (194) was second, followed by St. Clairsville (164), Barnesville (118), Martins Ferry (79), Mount De Chantal (40), Bellaire (26), Wheeling Central (10) and Wellsville (4).

"Someone said this to me, and I think it's very true. This meet brings out the best in everyone. Everyone stepped up. We had two disqualifications (in the boys 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle relay) and we still did very well. What is depth? Real depth is having a lot of quality swimmers," said Central coach Judith Lucas.

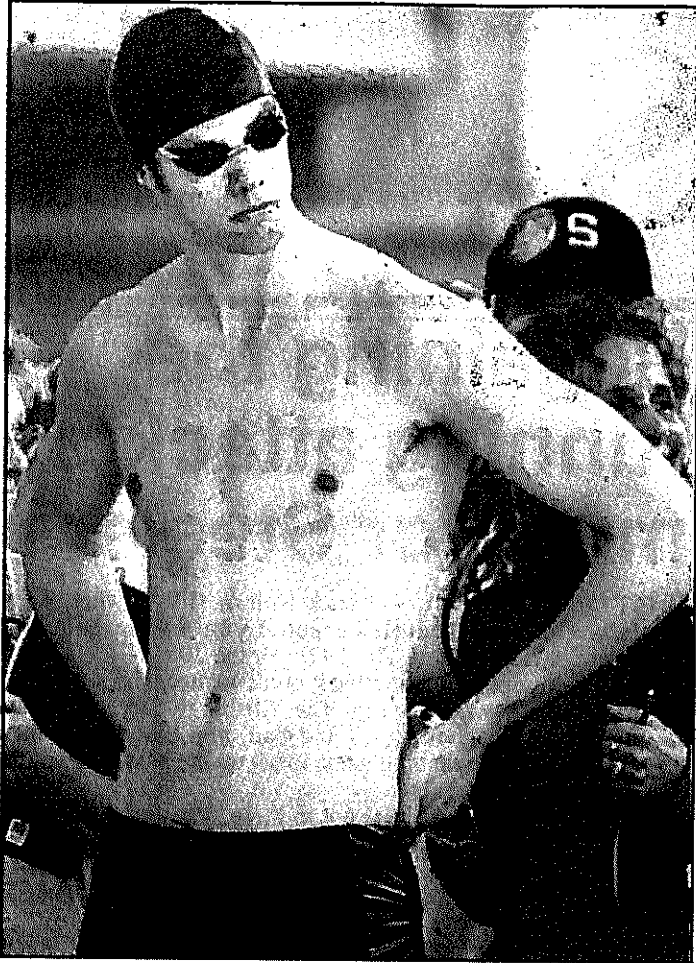
Six Crusaders grabbed gold medals.

Rachel Williams once again held off Brooke's Christina

DiBartolomeo to win the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:06.14. DiBartolomeo finished with a time of 1:08.49. However, one of the most captivating surprises of the whole meet was Horacio Gonzalez winning the 100 butterfly. Gonzalez came into the event with a qualifying time of 1:04.24. Brooke's John Allen Zumpetta was the favorite. But Gonzalez set a new personal best time of 1:01.59 to win the medal. Zumpetta was second at 1:02.24.

In the 200 freestyle relay, the team of Jonathan Albarano, Shane Myers, Brandon Albarano and Greg Ashmead finished first at 1:40.02.

See, OVAC. Page B6



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MARTINS FERRY'S Markus Sievers stands ready during the OVAC Swimming Championships at the Steubenville Natatorium Saturday. The foreign exchange student won two individual titles, breaking OVAC records in both events.

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Myers commented following her competition.

Hoof, a returning WV breaststroke champion from a year ago, grabbed first in both the 100 breaststroke and 200 individual medley. While breaking her personal best in the backstroke, she was a member of two championship relays -- 400 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay.

"This will be my fourth 100 breaststroke title and my second 200 IM title," Hoof said. "I hope I can use this victory to get ready to go back to states."

Other individual champions included Eric Schwartz of Barnesville (100 freestyle), Justin Kangisser of Wheeling Park (50 freestyle) and Rachael Mounihan of Mount de Chantal (100 freestyle and 100 backstroke).

Pool

(Continued from Page 19)

"His goal is to get pool records," Wilson said.

Sophomore Tyler Chesonis is the defending champ in the 500 freestyle and is again the top seed.

"He also got the silver last year in the 100 butterfly," Wilson said of Chesonis, also the top seed this year in the 200 freestyle.

Ferry's other top seeded swimmer is senior Andrew Chesonis, who is the top seed in the 100 breaststroke.

Bill Brubaker, meet organizer and head coach at Linsly, also believes Martins Ferry has a good shot to claim the title.

"They would have to be the favorite," he said.

Wheeling Park, John Marshall, Brooke and Barnesville represent the other four top seeds.

The Patriots' 200 freestyle relay quad of Travis and Brandon McKinley, Ryan Hosfelt and Justin Kangisser is a top seed, as are John Marshall's Tyler Steele in the 50 freestyle, Brooke's John Allen Zumpetta in the 100 butterfly and Barnesville's Eric Schwartz in the 100 freestyle.

On the girls' side, Wheeling Park senior Sarah Hooff will be back to defend her crowns in the 100 breaststroke and 200 IM. Hooff holds the meet, pool and open records in the 100 breaststroke and is the top seed again this year. She is also the top seed in the 100 IM.

In addition, Hooff is part of the Patriots' top-seeded 200 medley relay team along with

Kait Eckman, Abby Kaczor and Renee Miller.

St. Clairsville senior Ali Myers is also a top seed in two individual events and one relay. Myers will be going for her third-straight wins in the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

Myers is also a member of the top-seeded 200 freestyle relay team along with Ashley Mick, Sukhmani Sandhu and Alison Garbash.

Mount de Chantal's Rachael Moynihan is the top seed in two events -- the 100 backstroke and 100 freestyle. She won both events last year as a sophomore.

Steubenville Catholic's Rachel Williams is also top-seeded in two events -- the 100 butterfly, an event she won last year, and the 400 freestyle relay along with Jessica Belback, Mia Ravasio and Erin Lucas.

Linsly's lone top seed is Morgan Drotos in the 50 freestyle.

Steubenville's boys and girls will be back at their home pool seeking to repeat in both Big School divisions, while Linsly's boys and Steubenville Catholic's girls are the reigning Small School champs.

All told, there will be nearly 400 swimmers competing this year. There will be no diving this year as no schools are fielding diving competitors. However, Brubaker said the meet should still provide plenty of thrills.

"It should be competitive this year, and that's when it's fun," he said.