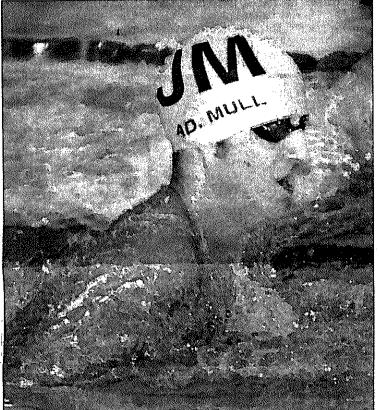
OVAC SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS Park, Brooke Swim to Titles; Linsly Sweeps Small Schools





Photos by Mike Palmer John Marshall's Adam Mull, left, and Brooke's Derek Wayne, top, compete in Saturday's OVAC Championship Swim Meet in Steubenville.

Brubaker understandably happy with results

By MIKE MATHISON For the News-Register STEUBENVILLE – The Linsly swim team won the boys' and girls' small school divisions during Saturday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference swim championships at Steubenville High School's Natatorium.

Wheeling Park's teams just missed performing the same feat.

"It was a good day," Linsly

coach Bill Brubaker said. "The guys swam well. The girls swam exceptionally well. It was kind of a surprise. We have a small number and they all came through.

"That was a very good surprise. We are quite happy.

Linsly grabbed the small school girls' title, edging 10-member Weir by three points, 174-171. The Cadets captured the small "We swam against them (Weir's

school boys' crown with 243 points, outdistancing runner-up St. Clairsville by 70 points. (1) The schools and all the schools and all the swimmers, you are never sure how it's going to shake out."

The Lady Cadets did not have an individual winner, but placed second three times - 200 medley relay, 200 free relay and 200 IM.

Linsly's Zach Hamm, Chris Reardon, Eric Pietz and Sean Rear-don won the 200 medley relay in 1:46.29. Pietz (57.07) and Reardon (58.08) finished 1-2 in the 100.

See, Swim, Page B4



Continued from Page C1

Levi was still excited that his squad achieved a higher point total than anticipated. Jesse Truchan would medal for the Purple Riders winning a bronze in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Barnesville would earn two gold medals and one silver medal in the boys'



Individual Medley with a time of 2:09 and would get edged out in the 500-yard freestyle event by Derek Wayne of Brooke. Hunter Yevincy won the 100-yard backstroke touching the wall in 100.59 seconds.

St. Clairsville boys would claim two silver medals and two bronze in individual events as Eric Eaton won second in the breaststroke and bronze in the 200 IM. Michael Eaton would take second place in the 100 freestyle and third in the 50-yard freestyle sprint.

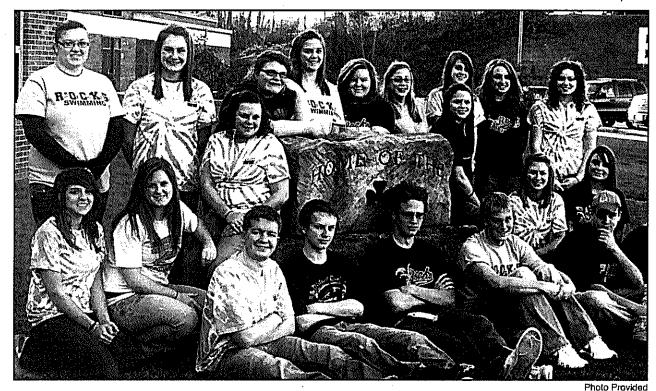
Shana Pramik of Bellaire would win a silver medal in the 50-yard freestyle touching behind Steubenville's Zyaire Pearson.

The swimmers will have two weeks to prepare for the upcoming sectional tournaments in Ohio, which will also be held in Steubenville.

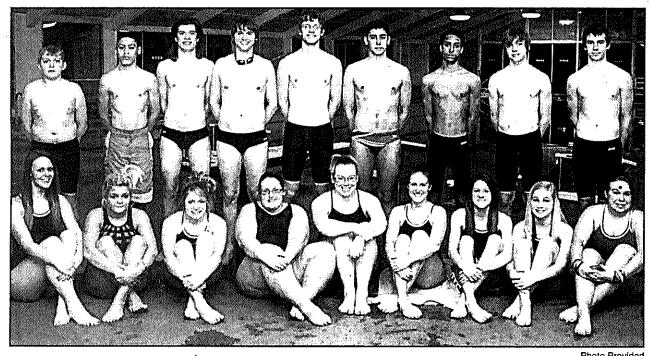
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SPORTS

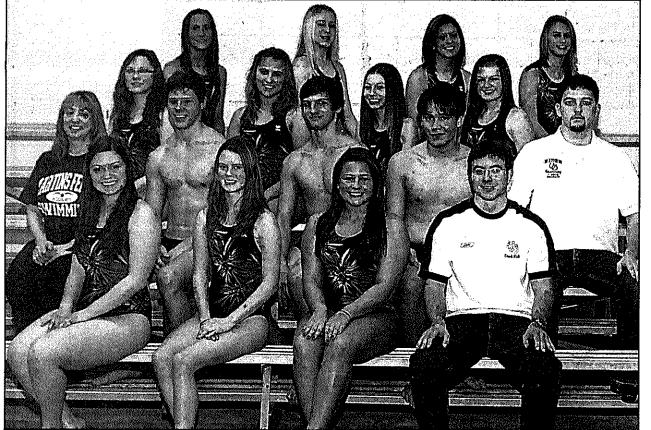
THE TIMES LEADER · Thursday, January 27, 2011 · C3



PICTURED IS the 2010-11 Barnesville Swim Team. Front row, from left, are Shane Roberts, Nate Wehr, Hunter Yevincy, Christopher Baker, JC Weiss and Zach Houseman. Second row, from left, are Shelby Wells, Alexis Vogler, Sadie Reinacher, Tiffany Gallagher and Samantha Shamhart. Back row, from left, are Kiki Lucas, Carolyn Blattler, Julie Ramsey, Alana Smith, Britni Huntsman, Breanna Skinner, Theresa Gallagher, Marisa Yudasz, Hanna Lucas and Jenny Lowry.



PICTURED IS the 2010-11 Bellaire Swim Team. Front row, from left, are Haley Dyer, Emily Crow, Dani Vitale, Emily Shaffer, Sabrina Metz, Paige Pramik, Shana Pramik, Hunter Eden, Ally Martin and Paige Hyatt. Back row, from left, are Collin Nolan, Landen Menough, Patrick Tribbie, Timmy Martin, Ryan James, Gianluca Fasanaro, Devon Johnson, Brenden Ross, Aaron Matthews and Ryan Hoffman. Absent were Miranda Landers and Brooke Masters.





T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

BELLAIRE'S Shana Pramik is the fifth seed in the 100-yard backstroke. She's the top seed in the 50-yard freestyle at this weekend's OVAC Meet.

OVAC -

Continued from Page C1

The Rider boys, meanwhile, are seeded in six events with three different swimmers.

Jesse Truchan is the Riders' leader. He's the secondbest entrant in the 100 breaststroke. He's also the fifth seed in the 50 freestyle.

Travis Couture also a strong chance of faring well in the meet. He's the fifth seed in the 200 freestyle and the fourth seed in the 100 free.

Axel Garcia has enjoyed a strong season. He's the seventh best entrant in both the 200 and 500 freestyle.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE is once again enjoying a solid campaign under head coach Melanie Eaton.

"Both our boys' and girls' teams are looking good going into the meet Saturday," Eaton said. "We have some good relays to go along with the individual events. I am optimistic that we will do well at the OVAC meet."

The Lady Red Devils figure to score well again this season thanks to a nucleus of five seeded swimmers in eight events.

Senior Caty Blair leads the Lady Red Devils. She's the sixth seed in the 200 free and ninth seed in the 500 freestyle.

Senior Emily Skrabak will be one to watch in the 100 butterfly. She's the fifth seed overall.

Senior Lexie King is seeded in a pair of events. She owns the sixth-best time in the 100 freestyle and the seventh-best mark in the 100 backstroke.

A pair of freshmen have also proven to be impact performers for the Lady Red Devils. Carly Falcone is the seventh seed in the 200IM and also the sixth seed in the 100 breaststroke.

Alaina Fasola has proven to be a quality entrant in the 100 butterfly with the 12th best entry mark.

The Red Devils' boys are led by Michael and Eric Eaton.

Michael, a junior, is the third seed in the 100 freestyle and the fourth seed in the 50. Eric, meanwhile, is the third best entrant in the 200IM and the 100 breast.

Senior Jacob Rife is seeded in both the 100 and 200 freestyles. He's the eighth seed in the shorter distance.

Other Red Devils to keep an eye on include seniors Logan Paxton and Nick Pokas as well as sophomore Nick Tobin.

BARNESVILLE'S experiencing a youth movement, but a pair of veterans lead the way for the Shamrock boys. Junior Hunter Yevincy and sophomore Christopher Baker lead the way for Coach Bobbi Jo Johnson's squad.

Baker comes into the meet as a defending champion. He claimed the 200IM a year ago and earned a bronze in the 500 freestyle.

He'll enter both of those events again this year. Baker is the top seed by nearly four seconds in the 200IM and he's the top seed in the 500 free by almost six full seconds.

Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2010-11 Martins Ferry Swim Team. Front row, from left, are Gisah Poffo, Rebecca Deaton, Chelsea Lewis and Head Coach Nicholas Levi. Second row, from left, are Assistant Coach Sue Levi, Jesse Truchan, Josiah Endsley, Axel Garcia and Assistant Coach Andrew Chesonis. Third row, from left, are Christina Lattimer, Katie Wharton, Lindsay Cunningham and Shannon Lewis. Fourth row, from left, are Beth Hotlosz, Salina Howard, Gabrielle Fulst and Alyssa Smith. Absent are Travis Couture and Shelby Poludniak.



Yevincy, meanwhile, finished second and fourth in the 100 back and 100 fly, respectively a season ago. Like Baker, those are the same strokes he'll enter this year.

Yevincy is the top seed in the 100 backstroke by more than a second. He's ranked third in a tight 100 butterfly. Yevincy has been entered at 59.33 and the top seed has posted a 57.97.

Other Shamrocks' boys who could could fare well include: Shane Roberts, Nate Wehr and J.C. Weiss.

The Lady Shamrocks, who won an OVAC team title in 2004, are led by a pair of freshmen. Carolyn Blattler and Shelby Wells are their top entrants. Blattler takes part in the fly and back, while Wells enters the breast.

"We've got 20 swimmers in the whole program and half of them have never swam in the OVAC," Johnson admitted. "I am thrilled with our kids; they're determined and committed to swimming. I think the next couple of years will have the Shamrocks near the top of the times in the OVAC."

BELLAIRE is led by junior Shana Pramik. She's the top seed in the 50 freestyle. Her entry time is 27.10, which is almost half a second ahead of the second seed.

She's also the fifth seed in the 100 backstroke. Senior Paige Pramik is the eighth seed in the 100 freestyle and the 11th seed in the 200 freestyle.

MEET NOTES

■ VETERAN LINSLY head coach Bill Brubaker is the

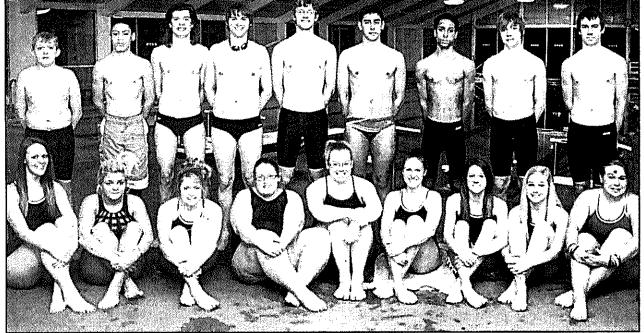


Photo Provided

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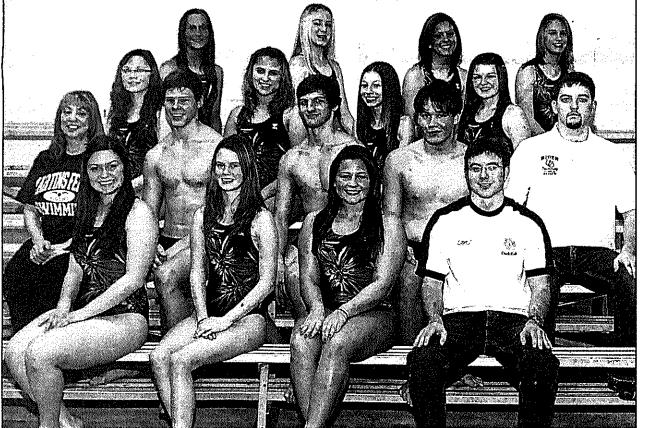
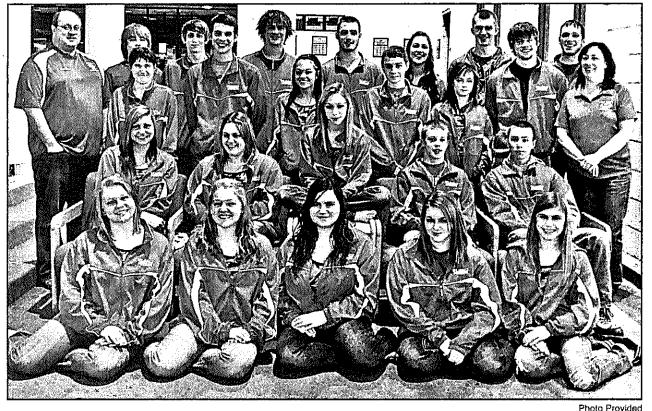


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■ VETERAN LINSLY head coach Bill Brubaker is the OVAC swim director and meet director.

■ SPEAKING OF the Cadets, the Linsly School has won an amazing 52 OVAC swimming championships. Even more impressive than the total is the fact it won 45 in a row, stretching from 1948-92. The Cadets are the two-time defending champions currently.

BROOKE is the defending big-school boys champion. The Bruins are coached by Gina (Twardoski) Reitter. She's a 2000 St. Clairsville High School graduate.

■ NEW MEMBERS, Morgantown and University won't compete this weekend. Both schools have said they'll compete in the 2012 competition. Zanesville also will not compete. It elected to go to another competition the same day. Staskey reached can be at sstaskev@timesleaderonline.com

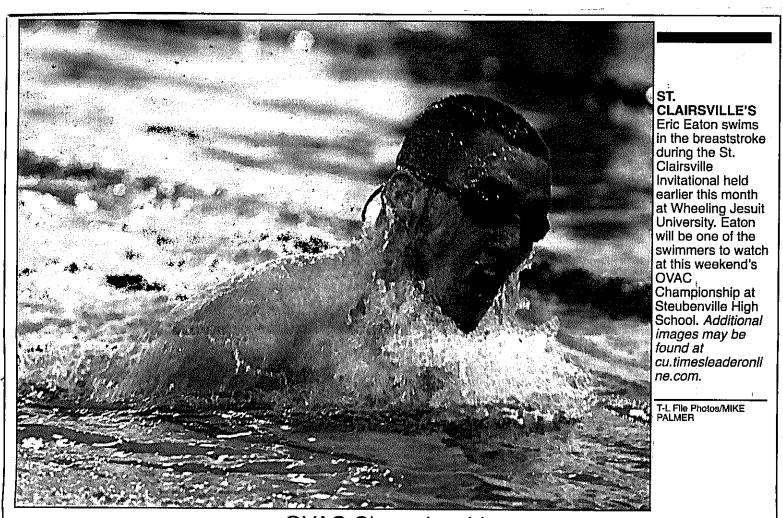


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PICTURED IS the 2010-11 St. Clairsville Swim Team. Front row, from left, are Erica Strope, Kelsey Perkins, Olivia Dibetta, Victoria Hall and Megan Hendershot, Second row, from left, are Lexie King, Emily Skrabak, Carly Falcone, Michael Eaton and Joey Davies. Third row, from left, are assistant coach Ernie Banks, Emily Delong, Nick Pokas, Marisa Dwyer, Nick Tobin, Anna Kaauamo, Ryan Nolte and head coach Melanie Eaton. Back row, from left, are Dan Kennon, Jacob Rife, Codi Eaton, Eric Eaton, Alaina Fasola, Michael Blackwell and Logan Paxton. Absent was Caty Blair.

1



OVAC Championship Swimmers set to shine Saturday

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is in the second week of its five-week winter championship tour.

With wrestling already sorted out, it's time for the swimmers to take center stage.

The annual OVAC Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Saturday at Steubenville High School with no fewer than 20 schools taking part in the event.

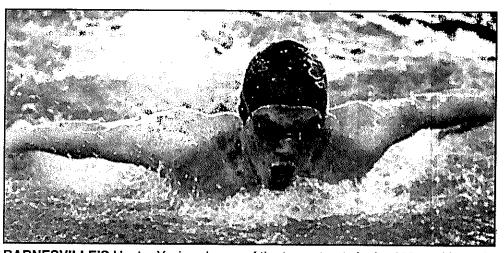
The event will begin at 11 a.m. with recognition of competing seniors. The first event will hit the water at 11:10 a.m.

Locally, four schools are slated to takepart. Included is Martins Ferry, St. Clairsville, Barnesville and Bellaire.

THE LADY Riders come into the event as the defending small-school champions. After several years of inching closer to the title, Ferry got over the hump a year ago under then first-year coach Nick Levi. The Lady Riders lost several key pieces of

that team to graduation, but Levi expects his squad to score well this weekend.

"I like how the team has progressed," Levi said. "We've seen significant time cuts across the board and I expect more time to drop this weekend. We've put ourselves in a great position to score well as a team."



BARNESVILLE'S Hunter Yevincy is one of the top entrants in the 100 yard butterfly at this weekend's OVAC Championship.

The Lady Riders are seeded in nine individual events thanks to five girls.

Shelby Poludniak leads the Lady Riders. She's seeded fifth in the 500 freestyle and ninth in the 100 backstroke.

fly and the 11th seed in the 200IM. Gabrielle Fulst is the seventh seed in both the 50 and 100 freestyles. Rebecca Deaton

is entered the 100 free and back where she's seeded 13th and 15th, respectively.

Christina Lattimer is the 16th seed in the 100 fly.

"I am definitely looking forward to the Alyssa Smith is the eighth seed in the 100 OVAC meet and seeing all of the hard work of the swimmers pay off with some great swims," Levi said.

See, OVAC, Page C3

presenting sponsor

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OVAC SWIMMING

Ghie Sig School Wheeling Park, 329; John Marshell , 227; Brooks , 148; Parkensburg South , 145; Steubenville , 102; Edison , 94; Cambridge , 81; East Liverpool , 48; Bawar Local , 41. Girle Studie Stawar Local , 41. Girle Studie Contral , 133; Wheeling Central , 98; Beilaire , 56; Barnesville , 30; Bishop Rosecrans , 24. Brooke , 271; Wheeling Park , 251; John Marshall , 208; Staubenville , 179; Parkers-burg South , 171; Edison , 126; Beaver Local , 105; East Liverpool , 40; Cambridge , ,33.

tran, o.e.; vymeeling Central, B4; BiBhop Rosectans, 24.
Garls 200 Yard Mediey Relay
Wheeling Park (DiCole, Kell SR, Curmes, Katlyn, Chaplin, Stacy JR, Jebbla, Cocelia), 158 581. 2. Linaly 'A' (Bird, Julla JR, Kriechbaum, Henneh JR, Scarpone, Zoe, Gavorik, Denielle JR), 202 8.3. Weir 'A' (Horp, Lindary SR, Gilbart, Dominique SO, Farguson, Keiser, JR, Vinue, Alaxis SO, 207, 87. 4, Parkersburg South 'A' (Robinson, Annaielae SR, Colline, Elizabeth JR, Sweeney, Audray SO, Fian, Natallei, 2:03, 70. 5, Brooke 'A' (Riggs, Sara SO, Simon, Emma SO, Dulaney, Kayles SR, Richerd, Rachel JR), 2:06,93. 6, St.Clairsville 'A' (King, Lavis SR, Falcone, Carly, Skrabak, Emily SR, Blair, Carly SR), 2:03,96. 7, Martina Ferry 'A' (Poludniak, Sheiby, Lewis, Shennon SO, Lattimer, Christins SO, Fulst, Gabrielle SO, 2:11,10.
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Sunday, January 30, 2011

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BARNESVILLE'S Christopher Baker swims the breaststroke in the 200-yard IM during the OVAC Swimming Championships at Steubenville High School Saturday afternoon. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER

OVAC Swim Championship Barnesville duo wins OVAC swim titles

· Linsly coach and OVAC swim director Brubaker honored for 30-plus years of service

By MIKE PALMER Times Leader Sports Writer

The annual OVAC swimming championships were contested Saturday in Steubenville's Natatorium. When the pools were cleared, the Linsly boys' and girls' teams each claimed the small school championship,

It would be a big day for Linsly coach Bill Brubaker, in addition to winning two titles in the event the long-time coach was recognized for his 30-plus years of dedication to the sport of swimming in the OVAC with a plaque presented by assistant swimming director Ed Garbash.

"It was a surprise," Brubaker said of the

a part of all this for the past 30 years.

The coach can add the two championships this year to his already impressive resume that included nine other OVAC banners, 13 OVSL titles, a state championship, the school's first perfect season producing 4 All-Americans along the way.

we can into the event and make it as competitive as possible," Brubaker added.

boys' won the big school titles. The Patriots and Bruins also claimed the overall point's champions.

The Red Devils of St. Clairsville would

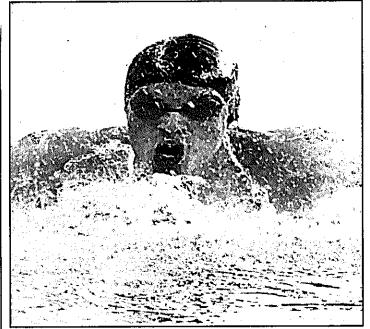
presentation. "It has been a lot of fun being claim second place in the boys small school division finishing fifth in the overall rankings with 147 points.

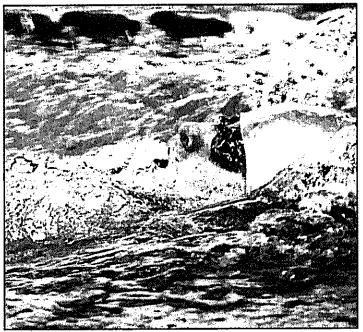
The Red Riders of Weir celebrated when it was announced that they had overtaken St. Clairsville in the girls' event to claim runner-up in the small school division. Melanie Eaton, St. Clairsville coach, was

"We work hard to get as many kids as e can into the event and make it as com-titive as possible," Brubaker added. Wheeling Park's girls' and Brooke's greatest expectations."

While Martins Ferry would not make the top five this year, its head coach Nicholas

See, SWIM, Page C4





BARNESVILLE'S Hunter Yevincy swims in the 100-yard butterfly during Saturday's OVAC Swim Championship at Steubenville.

BELLAIRE'S Shana Pramik swims in the backstroke during the OVAC Swim Meet. She finished second in the conference in the 50-yard freestyle.

Bruney, Batton to coach OVAC All-Stars

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

Prep football season is still some seven months away. However, the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic preparations are well



(West Virginia) in the OVAC Morgantown, University and All-Star Game.'

This is Batton and the Blue Eagles' second time coaching the game. They last did it in 2007 and narrowly fell to Ohio dered (West Virginia), but we've when Nick Rocchio found added some excellent programs Steubenville's Maurice Bougard with excellent coaches," Batton

Hundred have all joined the conference in the last few years.

"Having fewer schools to choose from has always hinSunday, January 30, 2011

OVAC

Continued from page B1

Wheeling Park's girls Barnesville's Danielle won the large school Holskey. Both are also crown with 329 points, school records. "I was numbed up but winning by a large margin on state foe John Mar-shall's 227 points.

Park's Kati DiCola, Katlyn Curnes, Stacy Chapin and Cecelia Jebbia started with a meet and pool record in the 200 medley relay with a 1:59.58 clocking. Jebbia, a freshman, came right back to grab the 200 free in 2:00.71, 1.01 seconds off the 13-year-old mark set by Linsly's Sarah Crouch.

Jebbia then beat Steubenville Catholic's Elizabeth Miller in the 500 free. Her time of 5:27.14 edged Miller by .59 seconds. Curnes won the 100 breaststroke in 1:11.42.

Curnes, Marisa Custer, DiCola and Jebbia finished the meet with a meet record 3:57.72 in the 400 free relay.

"Coming in, we expect-ed the girls to do well and they did, but they exceeded all expectations with the record-setting day they had," Patriots coach Patrick Durkin said. "We had individual records fall. We had team records fall. We had meet records fall. The girls swam great.'

The boys finished 20 points behind defending champion Brooke (271-251). Cody Patterson, Josh Garrett, Patrick Voegelion and Jimmy Roset won the 200 free relay in 1:35.83, which set a meet record. Patterson, Noah Salvatore, Roset and Voegelin won the 400 free relay in 3:33.04. "For the boys, it's

always tough to lose and take second place, but there are a lot of teams who wouldn't mind trading places with us right now. We knew we had to score a lot of points coming in against Brooke. I'm happy for the boys. They're a little dejected because they swam their hearts out and we just came up a little short.

"Overall, it was an awesome day.

Behind brilliant victories in the 200 free and 500 free by senior Derek Wayne and and solid per-formance by four relay teams, Josh Harrick in the 100 free and Jacob Robey in the 100 fly, the Bruins won for the second year in a row.

"It's always fun when he un erdog and you come from behind to win a championship meet," Brooke coach Gina Reitter said. "I could not have asked for a better season than this year. It's been amazing. "We're taking home another championship, four school records and a meet record. I couldn't be happier for the kids." Senior Kaylea Dulaney ripped through the water for impressive victories in the 100 fly (1:00.77) and 100 back (1:00.76), the latter of which set a pool and meet record, breaking an 8-year-old mark by

Barnesville's Danielle

"I was pumped up, but was also very nervous," admitted Dulaney, who was also a member of the fourth-place 200 free relay squad and the fifth-place 200 medley relay team. "Being a senior I just wanted to do my best for our team.

"The girl seeded below me in the 100 fly (Zoe Scarpone), I knew she was going to drop her time. She's from Linsly and Linsly tapers for this event. I dove in and knew I had to get a lead. I got a lead at 50 and the last 50 I just went. I knew it was mine.

"This is a great event. We're not tapered, but we're ready to swim for our best times. We know we're not tapered, so we know we can swim better. I'm hoping to go under a minute in both my events.'

Wayne was seeded second in the 200 free and third in the 500 free and came out of the water to stand atop the podium in both events.

"I haven't been swimming that well lately, and to go almost my record in the 200, I was ecstatic," said Wayne, who touched the wall in 1:52.56 in the 200 free and 5:04.50 in the 500 free. "I was so happy to get the record in the 500 again. I swam a 5:13 last week on Monday and to drop 9 seconds in a weeks time, well, I was really happy.

"Whenever I race someone who is really good like Chris Baker (from Barnesville), Eric Pietz (Linsly) or Pat Voegelin (Wheeling Park) I do really well against them. They are some of my favorite swimmers to swim against."

Weir coach Donna Ferguson talked to her squad about who would swim in what races and she received a team consensus.

"With such a small group, I like to give them the choice of what they would like to swim," she said. "And they all came back with 'whatever is best for the team.' When we looked at the times and realized we could put our stronger girls in the relays, it was what was best for the team.

"They were all willing to ive up possibly placing or

medaling in their individual events. Swimming is hard because it's individual, but this is the best part because it's the team part." Junior Kelsey Ferguson

chose to swim the 200 IM for the first time this season to see how her surgically repaired left leg would hold up.

Just fine, thank you. She won the race in 2:15.59.

John Marshall's Derek Artimez captured the 50 free (23.33) and the 100 free (51.34). Teammate Adam Mull won the 100 breaststroke (1:06.62).