

SPORTS

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CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY IN THE OVAC Record-Setting Day For Park, Linsly, Ferry

Nine marks set during OVAC Swim Meet

By **CODY TOMER**
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — Records are meant to be broken, but who knew so many could be broken in one day?

Nine records were set Saturday at the OVAC Swimming Championship at Brooke High School, including three meet records and one pool record.

Linsly's Kevin Pietz broke two meet records, Wheeling Park's Sarah Heilman garnered two school records and one meet record, while Park's Charles Schellhase recorded a school record, Martins Ferry's Rylee Reis and Jarrett Bolinger each set new school records and the Linsly 200 medley relay team set a new pool record.

In the team competitions, the Wheeling Park girls collected the 5-A title and finished runner-up on the boys side by four points to the 5-A winner, Parkersburg South, by a 320-316 count.

Linsly earned top honors on the boys side in the Small School division and secured the runner-up position in the girls small school, just behind Martins Ferry by a 442.50-410 score.

As a celebration, both Wheeling Park coach Patrick Durkin and Linsly coach Bill Brubaker, were surprised by their teams as they were tossed into the pool after receiving their trophies.

"This feels good after being here since eight this morning," Brubaker said as he wiped the water from his face. "I am very proud of all of them

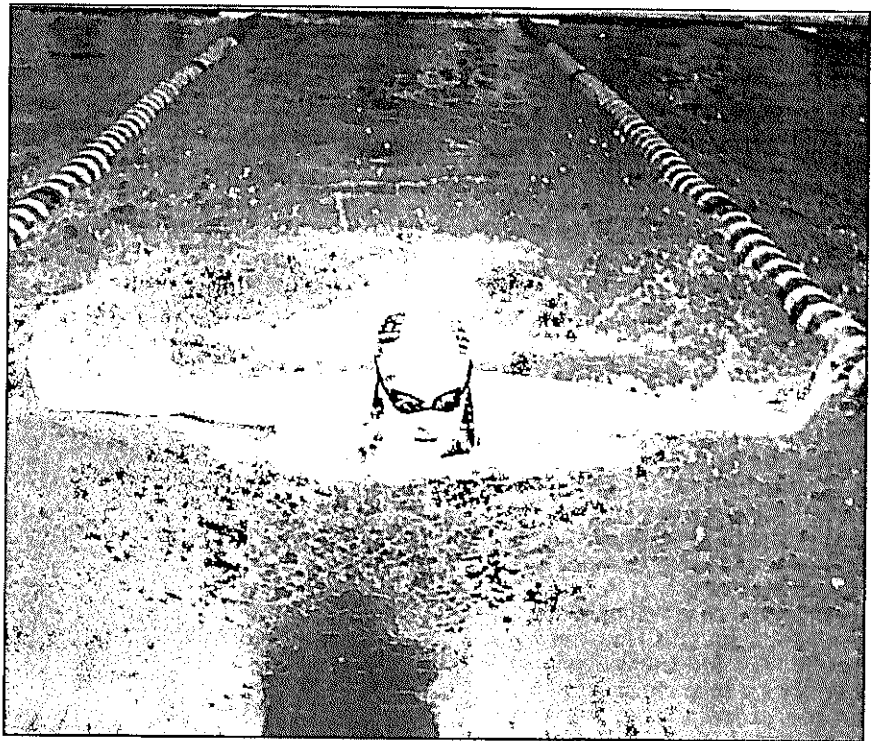


Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Sarah Heilman competes in the OVAC 100 butterfly as she set a new school record for the event.

because almost everyone dropped times. Pietz had a great meet and broke two meet records. Kaleb Nuckles-Polen swam great and Michael Schwarz had a great meet. They all swam their hearts out, especially our girls.

"It was a great meet with Ferry and Nicholas Levi has done a great job with

his team."

The Cadets were led by a record breaking day from senior Pietz, who shattered the meet records in the 100 butterfly (52.16) and in the 100 backstroke (53.65).

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RECORD

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"To break the meet record in my last race means everything to me," Pietz said. "I barely got it but that was my goal and a great way to finish my last meet. We have been training all year for this so I am glad the our whole team dropped times. It has been amazing to swim with them.

"I have been swimming with Coach Brubaker all my life and it has been great. I love swimming with him."

The Linsly boys also finished first in the 200 medley (1:45.35) and the 200 relay (1:34.13), while the girls 200 medley relay team of Carleigh West, Sydney West, Sian Longley and Carol Gao set a new pool record of 1:54.23.

As for Park, moments before being tossed in the water, along with every member of his coaching staff, Durkin reflected on a memorable day with his Patriots.

"It was a good day," he said. "Everyone dropped a lot of time across the board and our kids gave everything they had. The coaches and I are extremely proud of their efforts. They did a fantastic job and the coaches and I enjoy coaching all of them.

"The girls really dropped time (Saturday). Sarah broke two school records and a meet record. She is phenomenal."

Heilman broke her own school records in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:00.88 and the 100 backstroke at a 59.64 pace, which was also good enough to break the OVAC meet record.

"It feels pretty nice," Heilman said. "It is nice to get my best times at the OVAC meet and I didn't even know I broke the meet record. It took me by surprise."

Wheeling Park's top swimmer on the boys' side had a pretty strong day as well. Schellhase delivered a masterful perform-

ance in the 200 freestyle (1:52.97) and broke the Wheeling Park school record in the 500 (5:04.27).

"This is amazing," he said. "I didn't expect this to happen at all. I finished the 500 and I felt dead. Then, when I looked at my time, all of my energy came rushing back to me. It means a lot to me.

"We have all been working so hard at practice and all the hard work pays off."

The Purple Riders were led to victory on the girls side by Reis, who delivered a school record in the 50 freestyle (25.78).

"This is such an amazing experience," the junior said. "It is exciting because I got third in the 50 last year and my goal this year was to get first.

"The whole team has worked so hard together and put in so many hours and it is nice when that hard work pays off."

The girls also received a victory from Alyssa Kalinski who won the 500 (5:19.14).

"This is huge for us," Levi said. "We sat down at the beginning of the year and wrote down team goals and winning OVACs was high up there for the girls. Every race was crucial and every point mattered and I told the girls to respond and keep going and they did."

Perhaps the future of Martins Ferry swimming resides on the boys' side in freshman Jarrett Bolinger, who set a new school record in the 100 (50.11) and claimed the 100 breaststroke (1:03.25).

"This is probably my best season out of any of my club swim seasons," Bolinger said. "Our whole team works so hard and we have a great coach. Its an amazing feeling to go from watching this tournament last year and standing on the podium this year and I am excited for the future."

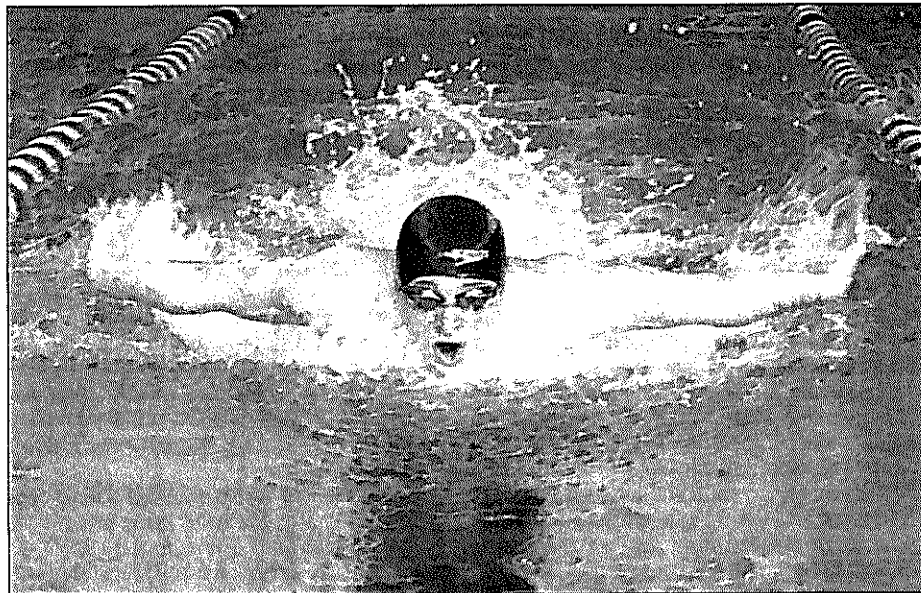


Photo by Cody Tomer

Linsly's Kevin Pietz delivers a new OVAC meet record in the 100 butterfly on Saturday at Brooke.

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SPORTS

SECTION

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Thursday,
January 19, 2017

OVAC swimming championship set

• Event slated for 11 a.m.
Saturday at Brooke

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WELLSBURG – Swimmers to your mark!

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will crown its swim champion Saturday at Brooke High School's natatorium as the annual OVAC

Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship unfolds.

The meet is slated to begin at 11:10 a.m. This season marks the first year that the event has been held at Brooke after a lengthy stay at Steubenville High School.

The small-school team title race should be highly competitive with defending champion Linsly and Martins Ferry expected to vie for the crown. Either the Cadets or Purple Riders have won the team title each season since 2009. However, only two of those have gone to the Riders.

"As a team, we're looking to swim up from our seed times and continue to improve," Ferry head coach Nick Levi said. "We know Linsly will bring its 'A' game. The meet isn't named after their coach for nothing. We know it'll be a four-plus hour heavyweight fight."

Levi believes the meet won't come down to how many swimmers earn one of the top three medals.

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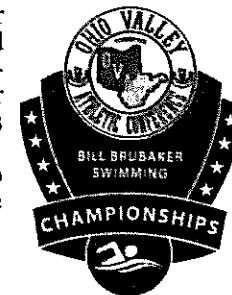
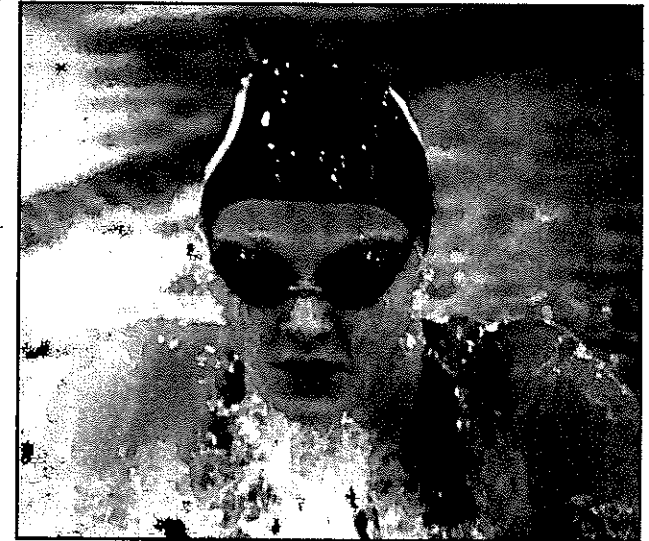




Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the Barnesville swim team. Front row, from left, are Brittany Butler, Lexie Thornton, Kasi Castello and Alexis Marovich. Second row, from left, are Ashtin Austin, Joanna Gallagher and Samantha Drake. Third row, from left, are Mya McEndree, Alana Willis, Manny Vazquez, Kali Millhoan, Alee Wise and Sarah McMillen. Back row, from left, are Kayla Crooks, Kelly Gallagher, Lani Shepherd, Jacey Stephen, Baylee Patrick, Kyla Morris, Ashlyn Gordon and Jaylin Pouerle.



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

MARTINS FERRY'S Alyssa Kalinski is the only area defending champion (500 free) back in the field this weekend at the OVAC Bill Brubaker Swimming Championship.

• Swimming

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“The team that will win will be the one that can get scoring from swimmers moving up from 22nd to 17th or 16th to 12th,” Levi said. “In order for us to win this meet, it will need to be a total team effort. Every point is going to be crucial, every race will matter.”

Martins Ferry features the top seed – based on entry marks – in the 500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. Those are where senior standout Alyssa Kalinski resides. She’s enjoying a brilliant campaign thus far, having established three new Ferry school records. She is the defending conference champion in the 500.

“Alyssa is having another stellar season,” Levi said. “She will be in the hunt for medals in both of her individual events.”

In the 500, Kalinski’s entry mark of 5:22.97 is nearly seven full seconds better than her nearest competitor. In the breaststroke, however, Kalinski is less than a second ahead of Linsly’s Sydney West, who is the defending champion.

Other Ferry girls seeded in the top two of their respective individual events are Jamie Fogle (200 free), Rylee

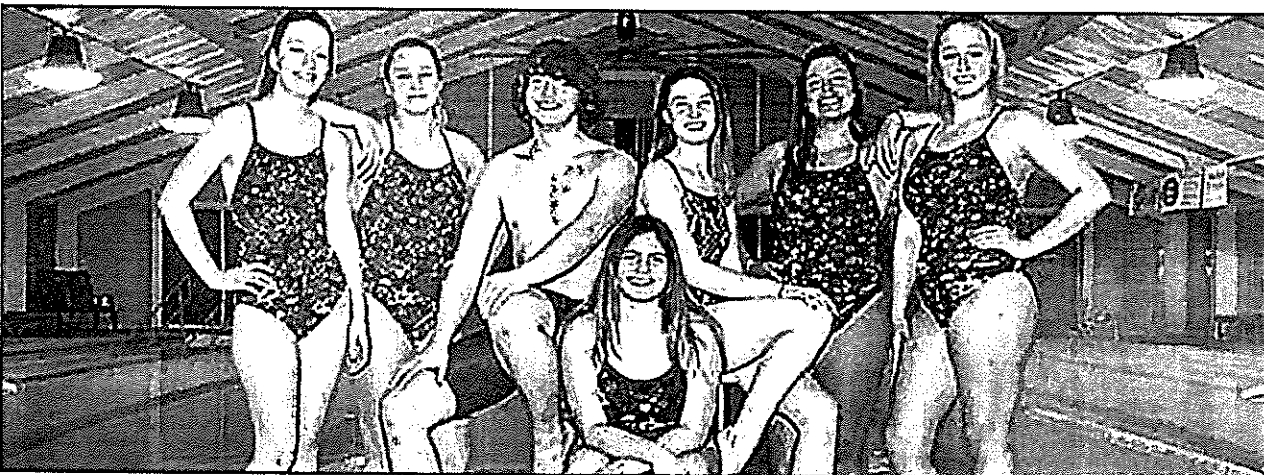


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the Bellaire swim team. Sitting is Anna Gianangeli. Standing, from left, are Jackie Mounsey, Nicole Johnston, Cody Carpenter, Savannah Allen, Jaymee Stevey and Devynn Edwards. Absent was Abbie Gianangeli.

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Photo Provided



Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the Martins Ferry swim team. Front row, from left, are Rylee Reis, Macy Shriver, Alyssa Kalinski, Kyrie Lucas and Laia Romero. Second row, from left, are Alexia Nixon, Bryanna Kociban, Kayana Jones, Megan Ritts, Makenzie Reihner and Kiri Williams. Third row, from left, are Jamie Fogle, Collin Briggs, Ethan Beale, Jarrett Bolinger and Kayla Fogle. Back row, from left, are Kylie Huber, Thomas Singhaus, Jackson Lybarger, Ezra McNickle, Skylar Wyatt and Head Coach Nick Levi. Absent was Ella Germuskova.



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Other Ferry girls seeded in the top two of their respective individual events are Jamie Fogle (200 free), Rylee Reis (50 free, 100 free) and Kayla Fogle (100 fly).

While West, who is also the defending champion in the 100 backstroke, leads the way for the Cadets, she's by no means alone. Linsly boasts the top entry mark in the 200 medley relay by nearly two seconds and is the defending champion in the event.

Carleigh West, Carol Gao and Sian Longley are others to keep an eye on as well for Linsly.

Other area defending champions returning on the girls side include: Wheeling Park's Sarah Heilman in the 100 fly and Victoria White in the 200 individual medley. The former is the top seed in her event, while the latter is second.

On the boys' side, Linsly and Parkersburg South are the defending champions in Class 1A-4A and 5A, respectively. The Cadets own a mind-boggling 58 conference swim titles, including the last seven.

Brubaker's boys appear prime to make a splash toward an eighth consecutive, too.

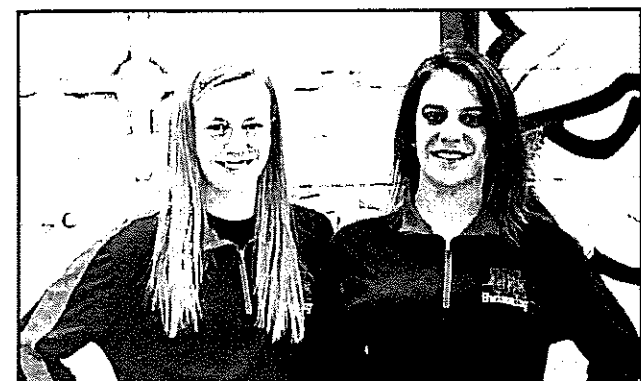
Senior Kevin Pietz returns to lead a veteran cast. He's the top seed and defending champion in the 100 fly. His 54.55 is more than a second ahead of his nearest competitor. He's in the same role in the 100 backstroke. His 55.87 entry mark is nearly six full seconds faster than the second seed.

The Cadets also boast the top seed in the 200 medley relay.

Martins Ferry freshman Jarrett Bollinger has enjoyed an impressive campaign thus far. He owns the top seed in the 100 breaststroke by 31 hundredths of a second over Weir's Tyler Virtue. The 50.97 he's posted in the 100 free is also good enough for the top seed.

Wheeling Park's Charles Schellhase touched the wall in 1:58.77 earlier this season, which is the top mark in the 200 free. Weir's Wil Visnic is the top entrant in the 500 free with a 5:12.06. His time is just 77 hundredths of a tick faster than Schellhase.

Not counting relays, a new champion is guaranteed in six events on the boys side and only one event for the girls.



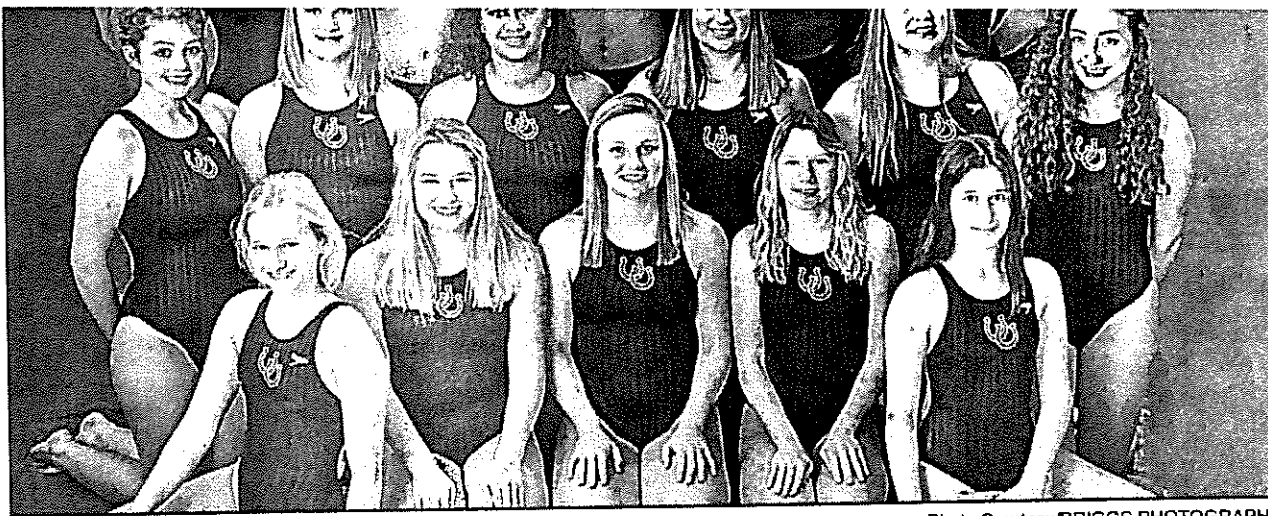


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Photo Provided

PICTURED IS St. Clairsville swim team. Front row, from left, are assistant coach Katie Banks, Bella Saenz, Molly Marody, Natalie Planey, Rylee Wissman, Hannah Swisk, Emily Thomas and assistant coach Connie Marling. Second row, from left, are head coach Ernie Banks, Marissa Cupp, Claire Subasic and Lauren Reed. Third row, from left, are Cat Roberts, Katelynn Davenport and Caroline Smith. Fourth row, from left, are Adam Balcar, Ethan Banks and Justin Hoover. Fifth row, from left, are Jonah Stock, Zachary Banks and Matthew Marling. Sixth row, from left, are Luke Osborn, Mitchel Hoover and Jeb Stewart.

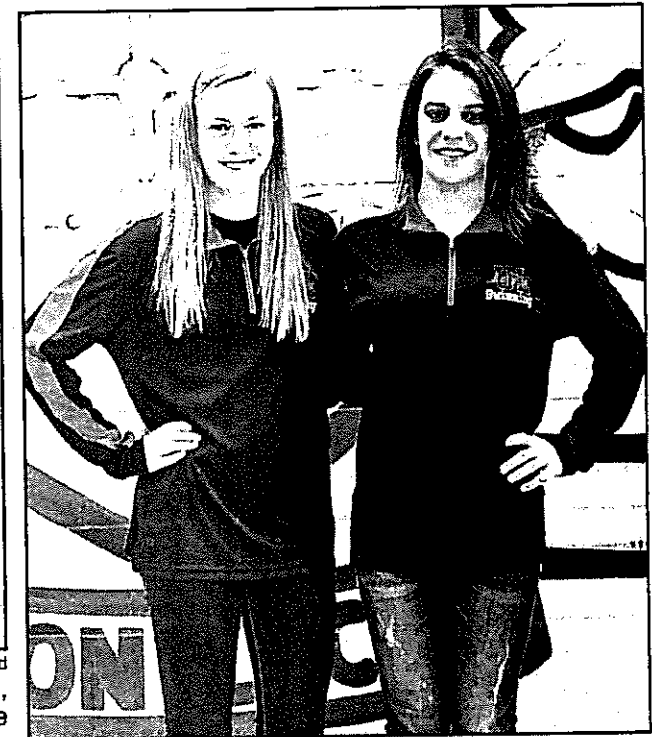
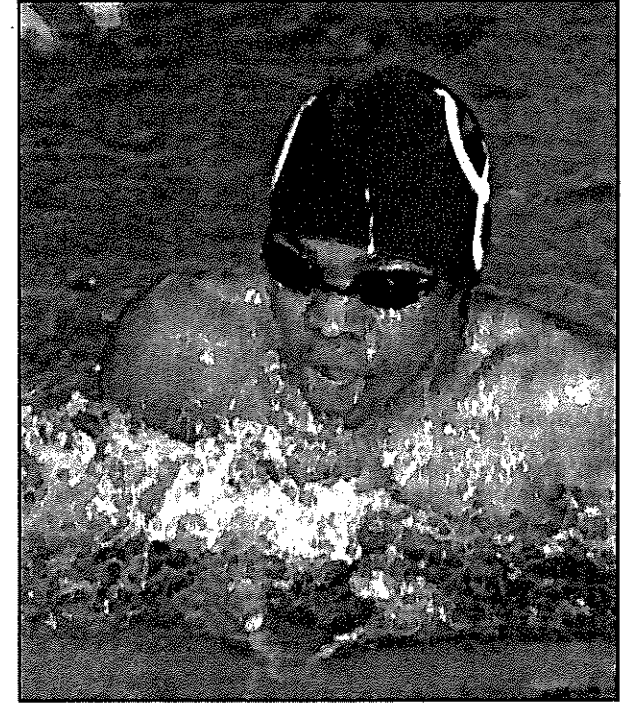


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the Union Local swim team. From left are Hannah Kemp and Madison McFarland.

OVAC Swimming



Photos/MIKE MATHISON

AT LEFT: Martins Ferry's Rylie Reis competes at Saturday's Bill Brubaker OVAC Swimming Championships at Brooke High School. Reis won the 50 Freestyle to help the Purple Riders secure the overall girls' championship, along with the Small School crown, with 442.5 points. Linsly was second overall, and in the Small School division, with 410 points. Martins Ferry senior Alyssa Kalinski won her fourth 500 Freestyle title, aiding the Purple Riders' cause. **AT RIGHT:** Martins Ferry's Jarrett Bolinger swims. The freshman picked up a pair of golds, claiming the 100 Free and 100 Breast. Due to The Times Leader's press time, complete coverage of the meet will be included in Monday's edition.