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WIAA GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS SPLASH INTO ACTION

Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls State Swimming & Diving Championships Friday-Saturday, Nov. 13-14, 2009 UW Natatorium, Madison, Wis.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: The 40th Annual Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13-14, at the Natatorium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis. Ticket prices for the meet are \$6 and \$1 for children 6-years old and under.

MEET INFORMATION: The Division 2 championships will be held Friday, with the Division 1 championships to follow on Saturday. The Division 2 diving competition begins Friday at 2:30 p.m. The swimming finals are scheduled to begin Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Division 1 diving competition is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, with the swimming events to begin at 3 p.m. The swimming events will run consecutively following the first event's starting time on the respective days. Here is the order of events (all events in yards):

Order of Events

Diving
200 Medley Relay
200 Freestyle
200 Freestyle
200 Individual Medley
50 Freestyle
100 Backstroke
100 Breaststroke
100 Breaststroke
100 Freestyle Relay

CHAMPIONSHIP MEET ON FS WISCONSIN: Watch the delayed airing of the WIAA State Girls Swimming & Diving Championships on FS Wisconsin. The Division 1 meet will be aired on Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. The Division 2 meet will be aired on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. Check local cable listings for the channel in your area.

LAST YEAR: Arrowhead won the Division 1 championship with 256 points, 16 points in front of runner-up and defending champion Madison East, which scored 240

points. In Division 2, DeForest won its third straight title by scoring 236.5 points, well ahead of runner-up Grafton with 180.

MEET HISTORY: The WIAA began girls swimming and diving championships in 1970 and moved to a two-division format in 1992. Madison area schools have dominated the championships through the years. Either Madison West or Madison Memorial won all the championships through 1983 and all but one of the Division 1 titles since the inception of the two-division format in 1992 until 2001. Overall, Madison West has won 15 titles, and Madison Memorial has won 14. Arrowhead has captured seven titles (1987, 2002-06, 2008). Shorewood has six titles, four coming consecutively from 1994-97 and its fifth and sixth titles in 2001 and 2003.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES-DIVISION 1: Six individual events feature its champion returning to defend their titles. Senior Kylie Rosenstock of Madison West is the three-time champion in the diving competition. She returns to the Meet this year with the top qualifying performance of 473.20. Last year's runner-up, senior Sara Axness of Eau Claire Memorial and third-place finisher Lauren Callin, a junior from Middleton, are also back to contend for the diving title. Junior Aja Van Hout of Madison East has qualified in both the events she has won the past two years. She has the top time entering the meet in the 200-yard individual medley and the second-fastest qualifying time in the 500 freestyle. Van Hout has more than a three-second cushion between her and the next fastest competitor in the 200 I.M. Her qualifying time in the 500 is one one-hundredth of a second behind senior Brittany Walsh of Muskego, who finished runner-up last year and has qualified with a time of 4:58.70. Junior Emma Goral of Arrowhead has won the 100 butterfly championship the last two years and returns as the favorite with the fastest qualifying time of 56.37. Her competition will come from four other swimmers that placed in the top seven last year, including runner-up Becca Soderholm, a senior from Madison East. Senior Emily Russart of Badger/Big Foot/Williams Bay is the two-time returning champion in the 100 breaststroke. She enters the State meet with the second fastest qualifying time. The top time was turned in by freshman Leah Pronschinske of Eau Claire Memorial at 1:03.22. Senior Jackie Powell of Madison Memorial is back to defend her title in the 200 freestyle. She enters with the fourth fastest qualifying time and will need to contend with sophomore Haley Pietila of Arrowhead, who finished second a year ago, as well as Skenandore sophomore Kavla of Waukesha South/Mukwonago, who has qualified with the swiftest time of 1:51.07. The fastest times in both the 50 and 100 freestyles belong to junior Becca Weiland of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln at 23.50 and 51.53, respectively. She did not compete at State last year, but finished third in each of those events in 2007. Among the qualifiers expecting to contend for the title in both those events are Pietila, who placed runner-up in the 100 free last season; junior teammates Lea Keonig and Lauren Sichterman of Wausau East; freshman Julie Mikota of Arrowhead; and junior Ivy Martin of Madison East. The 100 backstroke will be hotly contested by a predominant group of underclassmen. Sophomore Emma Szczupakiewicz of Muskego is the top returner back from last year, having finished runner-up. However, sophomore Kate Jones of Arrowhead has the fastest seed time at 57.36, just ahead of the 57.81 recorded by sophomore Zoe Huddleston of D.C. Everest.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES-DIVISION 2: Five events feature last year's returning champion. Junior Clare Chamberlain of Shorewood has won the 200 individual medley the past two seasons. She is back to defend those titles, but will face tough challenges from, among others, senior Jennah Haney of Milton, who has the fastest qualifying time of 2:06.93. Junior Kelsey Hojan-Clark of Brookfield Academy returns to defend the titles she earned last year in the 200 and 500 freestyles. She enters the meet with the fastest qualifying times in each of those events at 1:53.04 and 5:00.46, respectively. Those times make her a clear favorite in both events. Junior Siri Smits of Berlin/Green Lake is the returning champion in the 100 backstroke. She should expect stiff challenges to retain the title from freshman Katelyn Holmquist of Milton, who enters the Meet with the fastest qualifying time of 57.37. In addition, senior Sadie Nennig of Grafton, the runner-up last year and the back-to-back champion in the event in 2006-07, has qualified in an attempt to regain the crown. The same scenario is featured in the 100 breaststroke where sophomore Kate Criter of Plymouth will attempt to retain her crown. The crowded field of contenders in the event include each of the competitors that finished in the top five last year. Among them are senior Emily McClellan of Delavan-Darien, who placed fifth. She enters the meet with the fastest qualifying time of 1:05.66. Haney is also in the mix following her runner-up finish last year, which followed back-to-back titles in both 2006 and 2007. Criter and Smits are the top returning finishers from the 100 butterfly last season. Criter was runner-up and Smits finished third; however, senior Terrin Seaver of Elkhorn is among several swimmers with faster qualifying times this year. She has the best qualifying time at 58.85. The 50 freestyle should again be hotly contested. Senior Maggie Smith of Whitefish Bay has one last shot at the title. She has finished runner-up the past two seasons and enters this year's meet with the fastest qualifying time of 24.32. However, among those attempting to deny her the title will be freshman Savanna Townsend of Sturgeon Bay/Sevastopol with a seed time of 24.35 and the threesome that finished third through fifth last year. That group includes sophomore Alli Bellford of New Berlin Eisenhower (3rd), senior Kelsey Richard of Edgewood (4th) and sophomore Rachel Johnson of Elkhorn (5th). Sophomore Chelsea Statz of DeForest is the top returning swimmer in the 100 freestyle, and she has the fastest qualifying time at 53.65. She placed fourth last year. Senior Kristin Capcik of Milwaukee Lutheran is the top returning diver from last year, finishing runner-up after a fourthplace standing in 2007. She has qualified with a score of 404.5. However, the top qualifying score was performed by a freshman. Rachel Stave of Whitnall advanced to the State Meet with a score of 429.75.

NEED THE QUALIFIERS?: All qualifiers, lane assignments and qualifying standards are available on the WIAA Website at: http://www.wiaawi.org/index.php?id=124

NEED RESULTS?: Results will be available on the WIAA Web site: http://www.wiaawi.org/index.php?id=426.