

Academy Roundup

Swim coach likes squads' talent, depth

By DON DELCO
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Four state qualifiers lead a large group of boys and girls swimmers at Columbus Academy. The result is an excited coach in Craig Yakscoe.

"We have some top-level swimmers, some solid depth on both the boys and girls squads," Yakscoe said. "That should help us in our dual meets as our individuals will be scoring throughout the places in meets."

Three state qualifiers have returned to the boys team in seniors Jackson Humphrey, Drew Yakscoe and junior William Rosler. Humphrey and Rosler competed in four events at the Division II state meet in Canton, where Academy finished 14th (45 points) behind champion Hunting Valley University School (288).

Humphrey and Rosler led Academy to its best finish as they joined graduates Nathan Mullins and Andrew Nash to finish seventh in the 200-yard freestyle relay in 1 minute, 29.44 seconds.

"Jackson and Will have continued to improve in both the relays and individual events," coach Yakscoe said. "Drew has done a great job to step up with another year of experience. I'm looking for leadership from all three."

Also expected to contribute include returning letterwinners in senior Will Sherman and sophomores William Westwater and Conrad Wuorinen.

On the girls side, sophomore Sarah Wilson has returned after

finishing 11th in the 200 free (1:57.32) and 11th in the 100 butterfly (1:00.85) at state. As a team, Academy tied Parma Padua Franciscan and Springfield Catholic Central for 39th (12) behind champion Gates Mills Hawken (334).

"I'm looking for Sarah to do more good things," coach Yakscoe said. "I know she's excited about her potential this year. Right now, the 100 fly and 200 free are her strongest events, but she's pretty versatile. We may tinker around this season and see what events she wants to compete in come the postseason."

The Vikings captains are seniors Bethany Luzny (200 IM, 100 breaststroke) and Natalie Szykowny (100 free, 200 free), while sophomores Lauren Burke (backstroke) and Annie Lee (100 fly, 500 free) and freshman Abby Brown are also expected to be key contributors.

The boys and girls teams performed well in the postseason. At the MSL-Ohio meet, the boys (306) and girls (305) finished first. At the home sectional, the boys finished second (238.5) to New Albany (279) and the girls were third (141), behind New Albany (372) and Granville (153). At the district meet at Ohio State, the boys were third (208), behind New Albany (353) and Olentangy (296). The girls finished fourth (158) behind champion New Albany (527).

In diving, the boys team features freshman Benji Hoagland and the girls return junior Natalie Ritter. As a freshman, Rit-



By James D. DeCamp/ThisWeek

Casey Lange of Academy competes in the 200-yard freestyle relay during the Academy Relays last Saturday. She helped the relay finish first in 1 minute, 53.77 seconds.

At a glance

Below are recent results and coming schedules for the Academy boys basketball, girls basketball, swimming and wrestling teams:

BOYS BASKETBALL

Last Friday — Defeated Wellington 72-37 in opener. Zach Ratcliff scored 13 points.

***Last Wednesday** — Played Whitehall

***Saturday** — At Newark Catholic

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dec. 1 — Def. Berne Union 35-20. Allie Roehrenbeck scored 13 points.

***Dec. 3** — Lost to Granville 51-45. Molly Belcher scored 14 points.

***Last Saturday** — Lost to Newark Catholic 57-31. Belcher scored 14 points.

***Last Tuesday** — Played Heath

***Friday** — Home vs. Whitehall

Of note: The Vikings were 1-2 overall and 0-2 in the MSL-Ohio before last Tuesday.

SWIMMING

Last Friday — Boys: Def. Watterson 108-45. Jackson Humphrey won the 200 free (1:55.08) and 500 free (4:57.45) and William Rosler won the 50 free (:22.73) and 100 fly (54.44); Girls: Lost to Watterson 106-

62. Sarah Wilson won the 200 free (2:03.2) and Natalie Szykowny won the 50 free (:27.71).

Last Saturday — Boys: Finished first (118) at home Columbus Academy Relays. The Vikings won the 400 medley (3:51.78), 800 free (8:28.48), 300 IM (3:12.11), 200 free (1:38.89), 200 fly (1:53.88), 500 free (4:53.81), 300 back (2:58.84) and 300 breast (3:37.97); Girls: Finished second (74) at home Columbus Academy Relays won by Delaware (78). The Vikings won the 400 medley (4:24.81), 200 free (1:53.77) and 500 free (5:23.51).

Friday — Home vs. Bexley

Saturday — At Lancaster YMCA at Pickerington Central Invitational

WRESTLING

Last Friday — Def. Mifflin 30-3; Def. Fairbanks 36-0. Stephen Guendert (171 pounds) Dan Leathery (130) Preston Pearson (171), Jacob Peters (189) finished 2-0.

Last Wednesday — Competed against Eastmoor Academy, Groveport and Thomas Worthington

Today — At Worthington Christian with Worthington Kilbourne

***MSL-Ohio game**

ter finished fifth (389.55) at state. She was unable to compete last season because of an injury.

"So far, so good," coach Yakscoe said. "Our team togetherness on both squads seems to be pretty close right now. They bring positive attitudes to practice every day and they work very hard. I'm

pleased so far."

***The wrestling team** once again features seven wrestlers. Last season, those seven were a combined 110-50 against varsity competition.

Six of those seven are back. "From 160 pounds to heavy-weight, we're not too bad," coach Paul Bukky said. "It's encouraging. Some kids are in

weight classes a little too big for them, but we got kids who are poised to do something."

Leading the group of returnees is junior Preston Pearson (171). Last season at 160, he finished 27-6 and was the Vikings' lone Division III district qualifier, where he went 1-2. As a team, Academy tied Centerburg and Liberty Union for 48th with three points, behind champion Marion Pleasant (138.5). Pearson finished third at the sectional tournament to help Academy finish 11th (27), behind champion West Jefferson (256).

Also back are seniors Jacob Peters (189) and Mike Roehrenbeck (215), juniors Stephen Guendert (171) and Brent Mullin (215 or heavy-weight) and sophomore Dan Leathery (130). Freshman Johnston Allinder may wrestle 152 or 160, according to Bukky.

Last season, Academy opened with a junior varsity schedule the first two months of the season before finishing seventh in the MSL-Ohio at 1-6 behind champion Licking Valley at 7-0. Academy has only two junior varsity events scheduled this season.

"Our competition level has been stepped up quite a bit," Bukky said. "I told the kids they got to rise to the occasion and be ready to go."