

# Watkins Memorial girls beginning to see results in pool



**Kurt Snyder, Reporter**

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(Photo: Michael Lehmkuhle/The Standard)

GRANVILLE - The holiday break is over, and the Watkins Memorial girls swim team is ready to kick it into gear.

With new coach Fay Barry and having graduated a chunk of their team, including standouts Kayla Fenimore and Shelby Seas, the Warriors have spent the first month in a bit of a trial-and-error process. They now have a month of work to reach postseason form.

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Watkins Memorial sophomore Kelsey Seas competes in the 100 freestyle Monday during a meet against Granville at Denison. (Photo: Michael Lehmkuhle/The Standard)

"The kids are working really hard," Barry said. "We have had enough meets under our belts where we know our strengths and we know what we need to work on. It starts to get exciting because the kids should be getting faster and faster. They really get to see that work they put in and what they get out of it."

The Warriors compete in an invitational at Delaware on Saturday. On Monday, the Warriors competed against Granville at Denison University, where the Warriors have been training this season.

Watkins' highlight was the 100 backstroke as Abby Jarvis (1:12.25), Kelsey Seas (1:13.32) and Gracie Gessner (1:14.94) took the top three spots. Seas, who added a third in the 100 free (1:03.14), missed the volleyball season because of injury, but she is back to 100 percent this winter.

"I think we are doing pretty well. I know I have dropped time, but also my teammates have dropped time," said Seas, who is shooting for the school record in the 50 free. "(In a dual meet), the time differences are a lot more spread out because we only had one heat or even two heats. It's hard to push yourself harder to do your best."

Other top placers in the dual against Granville were Jarvis third in the 50 free (29.66) and Adrianna Hansen second in the 100 butterfly (1:17.46).

Watkins has been ascending up the ranks in central Ohio for much of the past decade. The Warriors have set and reset school records each season, and they muscled their way in a crowded field as high as 19th in the district meet in both the 200 medley and 400 free relays in 2015.

"It's not pressure, I guess, but we do want to carry on and improve the program," Seas said.

Barry does not want to put too much pressure on the Warriors heading down the stretch. Yet, she certainly does not mind if they have a goal in sight.

"They are definitely working with that in mind," Barry said. "They are dedicated. It's not something we necessarily talk a lot about, but you can definitely tell from them they don't want to back off. They are going to represent the girls the best they can. Certainly, it is going to be a challenge because of the

talent they graduated."

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