

# Watkins Memorial swimming set to reach peak

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(Photo: Jessica Phelps/The Standard)

PATASKALA – Everything the Watkins Memorial swim team has done in practice this season has been geared toward delivering top performances the next two weekends.

The Warriors begin their postseason swim in the Division I sectional meet Saturday at Thomas Worthington. The girls meet begins at 9:15 a.m. The boys meet begins at 3:45 p.m.

“Our relays are looking stacked, and everyone has been working very hard the past week and will soon have another week of taper,” Watkins coach Heidi Williams said. “I think this will be one of our best years in terms of performance and advancements.”

The Warriors seemingly raise the bar for themselves each year. In 2014, the Watkins girls qualified each of their three relays to the district meet, and Shelby Seas and Kayla Fenimore each qualified in two individual events.

The standout seniors recently tuned up for the postseason in a meet at Denison against Granville and Northridge on Jan. 31. Seas won the 100 free (59.78) and placed second in the 100 breaststroke (1:14.21) while Fenimore placed third in the 100 butterfly (1:07.67) and fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:18.09).

Each of Watkins' relays placed second to Granville, which again should have a strong showing in the Division II state meet. Kelsey Seas added a victory in the 50 free (27.44), and Gracie Gessner placed third in the 100 backstroke (1:16.64).

“The rest of our lineup all have a good shot at making the top 30 to make districts,” Williams said. “A lot will depend on their taper work.”

Leading the boys team, junior Skylar Chapman appears primed to compete for his first individual qualifying spot to the district meet. He earned runner-up finishes in the 200 free (2:18.35) and 500 free (5:57.99) during the meet at Denison.

Jacob Sloan added a third in the 100 back (1:14.06), and Jacob Raver was fourth in the 50 free (27.06). The boys also continue to drop time in each of their three relays.

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