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NEWS RELEASE

February 26, 2014

State Finals Preview: Pieroni, Whitaker Lead Chesterton Back to Swim Finals

Three individuals who captured five state championships a year ago will be in the hunt for more glory this weekend during the 77th Annual IHSAA Boys Swimming & Diving State Finals at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Top-ranked Chesterton is the defending team champion and seemingly has plenty of depth to be in contention for its fourth title in seven years if things go their way this weekend. The Trojans have 18 swims set for Friday's prelims, the most of any team, followed by sixth-ranked Carmel (17) and third-ranked Avon (16).



Chesterton senior teammates Blake Pieroni and Aaron Whitaker both earned a pair of individual crowns in this meet last season in addition to their relay honors.

Whitaker is the top seed in both the 100 backstroke (49.80) and 100 butterfly (48.73), events he won in 2013 and set state records in.

Pieroni is the top seed in the 100 freestyle (45.26) once again after setting the state record in taking his second straight title. Pieroni also returns as the defending title holder in 200 individual medley but enters the weekend with the fifth-best time (1:51.70) following Saturday's sectionals.

That top time belongs to Columbus North's Cody Taylor (1:48.99) who settled

for second place in last year's event behind Pieroni. Taylor is also the defending champion in the 100 breaststroke where he returns with the fastest time of 54.55, which is actually better than the state record of 54.82 set in 2007 by Tyler Lemert of Fort Wayne Concordia.

Another to keep an eye on is Avon junior Parks Jones who had the state's best time in both the 200 freestyle (1:39.16) and the 500 free (4:28.33).

Preliminary swimming heats get underway Friday night at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT. The top 16 in each event will return for competition on Saturday with the top eight individuals vying for state championship honors. Those finishing ninth through 16th on Friday will make up the competitors in the consolation heats. All diving will take place on Saturday beginning at 9 am ET / 8 am CT with the top 20 of 32 competitors advancing from the prelims to the semis after five dives each. After three dives each in the semis, the top 16 will advance to the final round for another three dives each. All championship and consolation finals, including diving, will commence at 1 pm ET / 12 pm CT on Saturday.

Saturday's championship and consolation finals will be streamed live on IHSAA.tv beginning at 1 pm ET/12 CT with Mark Jaynes, 11-time state championship coach Tony Young and Michael Young for diving.

State Finals

Dates

Friday, Feb. 28, 2014, 6 pm ET (Swimming prelims).

Saturday, March 1, 2014, 9 am ET (Diving prelims and semis), 1 pm ET (Consolations and finals for all events).

Site: Indiana University Natatorium, IUPUI, 901 W. New York St., Indianapolis.

Admission: Unreserved tickets are \$8 per session or \$12 both days.

Webstream: Saturday's championship and consolation finals will be streamed live at IHSAAtv.org beginning at 1 pm ET / 12 pm CT.

Advancement

The top 16 in each swimming event during Friday's prelims will return for competition on Saturday with the top eight individuals vying for state championship honors. Those finishing nine through 16 on Friday will make up the competitors in the consolation heats. All diving will take place on Saturday with the top 20 of 32 competitors advancing from the prelims to the semis after five dives each. After three dives each in the semis, the top 16 will advance to the final round for another three dives each.

[Friday Heat Sheets](#) | [Friday Psych Sheets](#) | [Diving Order](#) | [Order Photos](#)

Defending State Champions in Field (Individual Events)

200 Individual Medley: Blake Pieroni, 12, Chesterton.

100 Butterfly: Aaron Whitaker, 12, Chesterton.

100 Freestyle: Blake Pieroni, 12, Chesterton (2012, 2013 State Champion).

100 Backstroke: Aaron Whitaker, 12, Chesterton.

100 Breaststroke: Cody Taylor, 12, Columbus North.

Career State Championships by an Individual (Individual and Relay Events)

12: Jason Lancaster, Carmel, 1991-94.

12: Kyle Whitaker, Chesterton, 2007-10.

State Championships Won by This Year's Participants (Individual and Relay Events)

5: Blake Pieroni, 12, Chesterton.

4: Aaron Whitaker, 12, Chesterton.

2: Nick Wonder, 12, Bloomington South.

1: Patrick Curley, 12, Chesterton.

1: Andy Hurst, 12, Chesterton.

1: Joseph Krahulik, 12, North Central (Indianapolis).

1: Cody Taylor, 12, Columbus North.

1: Jack Wallar, 12, Chesterton.

1: Ethan Whitaker, 12, Chesterton.

Top Seeds

200 Medley Relay: Avon, 1:33.61.

200 Freestyle: Parks Jones, 11, Avon, 1:39.16.

200 Individual Medley: Cody Taylor, 12, Columbus North, 1:48.99.

50 Freestyle: Sam Loescher, 12, Columbus North, 20.64.

One Meter Diving: Kevin Frebel, 10, Homestead, 548.10 points.

100 Butterfly: Aaron Whitaker, 12, Chesterton, 48.73.

100 Freestyle: Blake Pieroni, 12, Chesterton, 45.26.

500 Freestyle: Parks Jones, 11, Avon, 4:28.33.

200 Freestyle Relay: Columbus North, 1:25.30.

100 Backstroke: Aaron Whitaker, 12, Chesterton, 49.80.

100 Breaststroke: Cody Taylor, 12, Columbus North, 54.55.

400 Freestyle Relay: Chesterton, 3:06.13.

Media Information

Media Host: IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille will be on hand to assist in your coverage of the state meet.

Media Credentials: Deadline is Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, 4 pm ET. The 2013-14 IHSAA State Finals Media Credential issued previously this year is good for admission. For those outlets without credentials and planning to cover the boys swimming and diving state finals, please apply by e-mailing your request (with name of individual applying) to IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille

at jwille@ihsaa.org. E-mail requests MUST originate from a recognized business account; e-mails from personal accounts (ie: yahoo.com, aol.com, etc.) will not be accepted. Approved requests may be claimed at the media will-call table at the concourse level of the IU Natatorium. Please have proper identification available.

Media Work Area: Working space will be available to writers and photographers in the west bleachers of the Natatorium. Results from each event will be distributed and also posted to the IHSAA.org website as the meet progresses both days. Writers and photographers also will have access to the pool deck.

Wireless Internet: The Natatorium is equipped with complimentary wifi through AT&T to those needing wireless access.

Off Limits: For safety and liability reasons, members of the media are not permitted on the moveable bulkheads that separate the pools or on any of the diving platforms. Also, due to congestion in the immediate area of the starting blocks with timers and judges, we ask that writers and photographers steer clear of that area as well. *Editors and sports directors -- please share this information with those who are covering the event and might not necessarily have access to this release.* Thank you for your cooperation.

Results: Results will be posted to the IHSAA.org website and tweeted at @IHSAA1 shortly after each event both days. Heat sheets for Saturday will be posted following completion of Friday's events and complete results for both days will be available at the conclusion of Saturday's festivities.

Girls Basketball Semi-State Action on Saturday

Sixteen teams will battle for the right to play for a state championship this Saturday as the 39th Annual IHSAA Girls Basketball State Tournament rolls on to the semi-state round. Each of the four sites will host a doubleheader.

Scores from each game will be posted to the IHSAA website as they become available on Saturday.

Girls Basketball Semi-States

Date: Saturday, March 1, 2014.

Admission: \$8.

Home Team: The winners of the even-numbered regionals will be the designated home teams.

Official Basketball: The Wilson Evolution Wide Channel (B0586), the official ball of the IHSAA state tournament, will be provided for use at each host site.



[Class 4A Bracket](#) | [Class 3A Bracket](#) | [Class 2A Bracket](#) | [Class A Bracket](#)

North

1. Crown Point

Class A | Oregon-Davis (21-2) vs. Lafayette Central Catholic (19-5) | **1 pm ET /12 pm CT**

Class 4A | Penn (24-1) vs. Logansport (24-2) | **To follow**

2. Warsaw

Class 2A | Fort Wayne Canterbury (19-4) vs. Tipton (18-4) | **4 pm ET**

Class 3A | Western (21-3) vs. Norwell (21-4) | **To follow**

South

1. Richmond

Class A | Jac-Cen-Del (19-3) vs. Vincennes Rivet (21-4) | **1 pm ET**

Class 2A | Heritage Christian (25-1) vs. North Knox (19-5) | **To follow**

2. Bedford North Lawrence

Class 3A | Indianapolis Bishop Chatard (21-5) vs. Evansville Mater Dei (25-1) | **4 pm ET**

Class 4A | Lawrence North (25-1) vs. Bedford North Lawrence (25-1) | **To follow**

Girls Basketball State Finals

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2014.

Site: Hulman Center, 200 N. 8th Street, Terre Haute.

Admission: \$15.00 per session.

Reserved single session tickets may be purchased at the participating schools the week of the state finals. Contact participating schools for ticket distribution hours. Any remaining tickets will be available game day at the ticket office at Hulman Center.

Gates Open: The Hulman Center will open its gates to fans beginning one hour prior to the start of each session - 9:30 am ET and again at 5 pm ET. The venue will be cleared between the Class 2A and 3A games.

Home Team: The winners of the north semi-states will be the designated home teams.

Official Basketball: The Wilson Evolution Wide Channel (B0586), the official ball of the IHSAA state tournament, will be used.

Television: All four state championship games will air live on Fox Sports Indiana.

Webstream: For viewers outside of the Fox Sports Indiana coverage area, a live stream will be available at IHSAAtv.org. For those within the FSI coverage area, the stream will be available only on delayed basis following the conclusion of the telecast.

Radio: Each game will be broadcast on affiliates of the [IHSAA Champions Network](#).

Session I

Class A | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **10:30 am ET**

Class 2A | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **To follow**

Session II

Class 3A | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **6 pm ET**

Class 4A | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **To follow**

Notables

Looking for First Semi-State Title (5 of 16)

4A: Lawrence North, Logansport.

3A: Western.

2A: North Knox, Tipton.

A: None.

Looking to Break Semi-State Championship Drought (Five or More Years)

37 years: Roncalli (1977).

36: Jac-Cen-Del (1978).

8: Lafayette Central Catholic (2006).

7: Oregon-Davis (2007).

5: Heritage Christian (2009).

Most Consecutive Semi-State Championships

4 by Noblesville (1987-90); 4 by Fort Wayne Bishop Luers (1999-2002); 4 by Heritage Christian (2006-09); 4 by South Bend Washington (2006-09).

Top 10 All-Time Semi-State Championship Leaders

9: Fort Wayne Bishop Luers.

5: Bedford North Lawrence, Ben Davis, Fort Wayne Canterbury, Heritage Christian, Kokomo, Valparaiso.

4: Columbus East, Crown Point, Noblesville, North Central (Indianapolis), Rushville, Shenandoah, South Bend Washington, Vincennes Rivet, Warsaw.

2013 State Champions Still Alive (3)

4A: Bedford North Lawrence.

2A: Evansville Mater Dei (playing in 3A).

A: Fort Wayne Canterbury (playing in 2A).

2013 State Finals Teams Still Alive (4)

4A: Bedford North Lawrence.
3A: None.
2A: Evansville Mater Dei (playing in 3A).
A: Fort Wayne Canterbury (playing in 2A), Vincennes Rivet.

First-Time Regional Champions

4A: Lawrence North, Logansport.
3A: None.
2A: None.
A: None.

Regional Championship Drought Breakers (Five or more years)

37 years: Norwell (1977).
13: Tipton (2001).
8: North Knox (2006).
7: Oregon-Davis (2007).
6: Indianapolis Bishop Chatard (2008).

Repeat Regional Champions (6 of 16)

4A: Bedford North Lawrence.
3A: Evansville Mater Dei.
2A: Fort Wayne Canterbury, Heritage Christian.
A: Lafayette Central Catholic, Vincennes Rivet.

Girls Basketball State Finals Media Credentials

The deadline for requests is Thursday, March 6, 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT. Credentials will not be granted after that time. For media outlets intending to cover the girls basketball state finals, please apply for credentials by e-mailing your request to IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille at jwille@ihsaa.org. E-mail requests MUST originate from a recognized business account; e-mails from personal accounts (ie: yahoo.com, aol.com, etc.) will not be accepted. Please include the name of individual(s) to be credentialed. Approved requests will be available for pickup at media will-call on game day. Credentials will not be mailed.

Girls Basketball State Finals Coaches Interviews Monday in Terre Haute

Coaches from the eight schools in the girls basketball state finals will gather Monday, March 3, at the Hulman Center in Terre Haute for the pre-tournament administrative meeting with media interviews to follow. A deli-style lunch open to attending media will be available in the media workroom at 12:30 pm ET with coaches being available for interviews in a round-table setting beginning at approximately 1 pm ET. Parking will be available in "Lot D" just across Ninth Street to the east of the Hulman Center. Ninth Street runs one-way north. Use the southeast doors nearest the Ticket Office to enter the facility and ushers will provide direction to the meeting room.

Updated statistics, rosters and other team information as submitted by the schools will be distributed at the interview session. For outlets that cannot attend, a special state finals information package will be available at ihsaa.org that evening.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

Founded in 1903, the purpose of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA) is to encourage, regulate and give direction to wholesome amateur interschool athletic competition between its 412 member schools. The Association provides state championship tournament series in 20 sports, 10 for girls and 10 for boys. Approximately 160,000 student athletes participate in IHSAA sports on an annual basis.