

WIAA GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS SPLASH INTO ACTION

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: The 41st Annual Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Girls Swimming and Diving Championships will be held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, 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

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| 1. Diving | 7. 100 Freestyle |
| 2. 200 Medley Relay | 8. 500 Freestyle |
| 3. 200 Freestyle | 9. 200 Freestyle Relay |
| 4. 200 Individual Medley | 10. 100 Backstroke |
| 5. 50 Freestyle | 11. 100 Breaststroke |
| 6. 100 Butterfly | 12. 400 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. 30 at 7 p.m. The Division 2 meet will be aired on Nov. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Check local cable listings for the channel in your area.

LAST YEAR: Arrowhead won its second straight Division 1 championship by scoring 303 points, well in front of runner-up Madison East, which scored 181. In Division 2, Sturgeon Bay/Sevastopol was the champion with 201 points, 15 points ahead of defending champion DeForest, which placed second.

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 eight titles (1987, 2002-06, 2008-09). Shorewood has six titles, four coming consecutively from 1994-97 and its fifth and sixth titles in 2001 and 2003.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES-DIVISION 1: Three individual events feature its champion returning to defend their titles.

Senior Aja Van Hout of Madison East is the three-time champion and State record-holder in the 200-yard individual medley. She is the favorite to win a fourth title, entering the meet with the top qualifying time. Any challenges to the title she will receive may come from a heat that returns four other top-10 finishers, among them are senior Pamela Breitrack of Waukesha South/Mukwonago, who placed runner-up last year and sophomore Leah Pronschinske of Eau Claire Memorial, who finished third. Junior Haley Pietila of Arrowhead should also be considered a contender, having recorded the

second-fastest qualifying time in the event. Senior Ivy Martin of Madison East returns to defend the title she won in the 50-yard freestyle. She has the top qualifying time, but she should expect a challenge from senior Becca Weiland of Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, who finished runner-up last year and enters the meet with a qualifying time of just .04 behind Martin. Senior Lea Koenig of Wausau East could also contend in the 50 free after placing third a year ago, as may freshman Mary Warren of Arrowhead. Sophomore Mackenzie Buss of Shawano/Bonduel is the returning champion in the 100 backstroke. She is considered one of the favorites to win the event again this year, but it won't come easy as eight other competitors finished in the top-10 in 2009, including senior Dana Iverson of Kenosha Bradford, who finished in a fifth-place tie and enters the meet only .03 seconds behind Buss. Among the other contenders for the title are junior Zoe Huddleston of D.C. Everest, who was second last year, and junior Emma Szczupakiewicz of Muskego, who placed third. Junior Kayla Skenandore of Waukesha South/Mukwonago finished runner-up last season in 100-yard butterfly. She is the top returner in the event, as well as the top qualifier this season, which makes her the leading contender to win the event this year. Others aiming for the title are senior Amanda Walker of Sun Prairie, who placed third in 2009 and senior Lauren Sichterman of Wausau East, who has the second-fastest qualifying time this year. Skenandore is also the top returning finisher from last year in the 200 freestyle with her runner-up finish. She enters this weekend's action with the second-fastest qualifying time, less than a second behind junior Sami Pochowski of Muskego, who enters the meet with the best qualifying time. The 100 freestyle should be hotly contested with three of the top four finishers from last season returning. As runner-up, Haley Pietila is the top returner in the event. She also has the best qualifying time this year. However, Becca Weiland, who finished third last year, enters with a qualifying time less than a second behind Pietila. Lea Koenig placed fourth a year ago and may also contend for the title, as may Ivy Martin and Zoe Huddleston based on qualifying times. Leah Pronschinske is the top returning placer in the 100 breaststroke after finishing second last year. She has the second-fastest qualifying time in the event this season, behind only Sami Pochowski, who has posted the best qualifying time after finishing ninth a year ago. The 500 freestyle is without three-time champion Aja Van Hout, which makes for open competition for the title. Senior Katie Delaney of Middleton is the top returning finisher after placing third last year, but the top qualifying time is possessed by junior Sara Brzozowski of Brookfield East, one second faster than freshman Kaersten Meitz of Waukesha South/Mukwonago. The diving competition features four of the top six divers returning from a year ago, including senior Lauren Callin of Middleton, who finished second. She has recorded the top qualifying performance this year. Other contenders for the title include sophomore Calli Head of Nicolet, who was fourth last year; junior Rachel Margis of Racine Park, who placed fifth in 2009; and senior Sarah Tighe of Menomonee Falls/Hamilton, who was sixth.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES-DIVISION 2: Five events feature last year's returning champion. Senior Kelsey Hojan-Clark of Brookfield Academy returns to defend the titles she earned the last two years in the 200 and 500 freestyles. She enters the meet with the fastest qualifying times by significant enough margins to consider her the heavy favorite to win those events again. Senior Casey Wolter of DeForest may offer the best challenge to Hojan-Clark. She finished runner-up last season in the 500 freestyle and third in the 200 freestyle. Sophomore Abby Holmquist of Milton should also be considered among the top challengers in the 200 freestyle with the second-fastest qualifying time after placing sixth last year. Senior Allison Meng of Sauk Prairie is the returning champion in both the 100 butterfly and the 100 backstroke. However, she is not the fastest qualifier entering this weekend's action in either of those events. Sophomore Annelise Sprau of Whitefish Bay turned in a time of 58.10, which is .26 faster than Meng's qualifying time in the 100 butterfly. She finished eighth last year. And, sophomore Katelyn Holmquist of Milton was timed at 56.77 in the 100 backstroke to post this year's fastest qualifying time after finishing second to Meng last season. Other contenders in the butterfly include junior Leah Winckler of DeForest, who placed second last year; senior Kelsey Millin of Monona Grove, who finished third; and senior Siri Smits of Berlin/Green Lake, the 2008 champion. Among the other challengers in the 100 backstroke are freshman Bridgette Alexander of Milton, who has the

second fastest qualifying time, and senior Emily O'Rourke of Baraboo, who placed seventh last year. Sophomore Savanna Townsend of Sturgeon Bay/Sevastopol is the returning champion in the 50 freestyle. She has the second fastest qualifying time heading to the meet, less than a second slower than the junior Alli Bellford of New Berlin Eisenhower, who has the top qualifying time after finishing third last year. Bridgette Alexander sets her sights on the 200 individual medley title in her first season. She has the fastest qualifying time by more than three seconds. Among those posing challenges include junior Anna Meinholz of Catholic Memorial, who is the top returning finisher from last year's event, placing fourth, and senior Sierra Townsend of Sturgeon Bay/Savastopol, who has the second-fastest qualifying time this season. Meinholz is also the top returning swimmer in the 100 breaststroke. She was runner-up last season. However, it is junior Kate Criter of Plymouth, the 2008 champion, that owns the fastest qualifying time this year after a third-place finish last season. The 100 freestyle shapes up to be a highly competitive event with a plethora of experienced competitors vying for the title. Savanna Townsend, who finished runner-up last season, is the top returner. Senior Kelsey Kohlbeck of Sauk Prairie finished third in 2009 and has recorded this year's top qualifying time. Others expecting to contend are Sierra Townsend, who was fourth last year, and junior Chelsea Statz of DeForest, who was fifth last year and fourth in 2008. In the diving competition, sophomore Rachel Stave of Whitnall posted the top qualifying performance this year and last season. She finished runner-up a year ago to earn the distinction as the top returner to the event. Competition for the crown will come from nine of the top 15 finishers from last year's event.

NEED THE QUALIFIERS?: All qualifiers, lane assignments and qualifying standards are available on the girls swimming and diving page on the WIAA Website.

NEED RESULTS?: Results will be available on the WIAA Web site:
<http://www.wiaawi.org/index.php?id=564>.