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SPORTS

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SWIMMING & DIVING PRELIMINARIES

Driven Winona senior sets record

Jack Herzog leaves his mark in 100 freestyle.

By JOEL RIPPET
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Winona senior Jack Herzog is closing out his high school swimming career at the boys' swimming and diving state meet this weekend.

After winning three individual events and swimming on two winning relays in the past two Class 1A state meets, and having already signed a Division I letter of intent, Herzog could have approached the meet satisfied with those accomplishments.

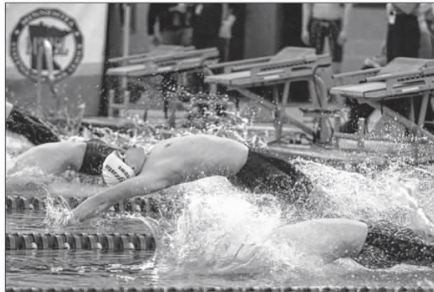
"I think he's wanted it more this season," Winona coach Chris Mayer said. "He's been driven this year. After each meet, he's asked for information on how he's doing. He is so dedicated. I'm so glad to have him."

Herzog began his final state meet Friday with the top time (1 minute, 48.2 seconds) in the 200-yard freestyle preliminaries. He followed that with a Class 1A record time of 44.62 seconds in the 100 freestyle preliminaries.

He closed out his day by swimming a leg on the Winona's 200 freestyle relay and 400 freestyle relay. Both relays had the top qualifying times.

Herzog agreed that he has been motivated this season. "No doubt," he said. "Going to a team like Ohio State, I know I couldn't just replicate my times from last year and help them. I need to be faster than last year. That's what's pushed me."

The Winona's have finished in the top three at the past two state meets. The Winona advanced seven indi-



Casey Stowe of Wayzata started his winning boys' 100-yard backstroke qualifier at the swimming and diving state meet Friday.

viduals and two relay teams to Saturday's finals.

"[Senior] is my last day of high school swimming," Herzog said. "I'm just going to go out and have fun. I have the best memories in the state in the pool, and they are the greatest bunch of guys out of the pool."

Winona senior Grant Walker, the defending champion in the 100 butterfly, had the top time (50.02 seconds) in Friday's preliminaries. He also had the third-best time in the 200 individual medley and swam a leg on both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

Karpenko sets record

Minnetonka's Academy senior Andrew Karpenko opened defense of his Class 1A state title in the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke by missing the Class 1A state record in the 200 individual medley and setting a record in the 100 breaststroke. In the 200 IM, his time of 1:48.05 was just off the Class 1A record of 1:47.05 that he set last year. In the 100 breaststroke, he swam a 54.26, topping the record of 54.41 he set last year. "I'm really happy with how the whole season has gone," Karpenko said. "And, I wanted

nothing more than to end the season on a good note. I've got some work to do, but I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

Crosby sets 2 records

Breck/Slake sophomore Charlie Crosby set Class 1A records in the 50 freestyle (20.31 seconds) and in the 100 backstroke (47.65). Crosby was runner-up in the 100 backstroke at last year's state meet.

Breck/Slake, which has won three consecutive Class 1A titles, qualified 11 individuals and all three relay teams for Saturday's finals.

Breck/Slake senior Neils Wu, the defending champion in the 500 freestyle, had the top time in the 500 preliminaries (4:44.24).

Zheng sets pace in 2A

St. Louis Park junior Hayden Zheng, the defending champion in the Class 2A 200 individual medley and the two-time champion in the 100 breaststroke, had the top qualifying times in both events in the preliminaries.

In the 200 individual medley, he swam a 54:72. In the 100 breaststroke, he had a time of 54.84 seconds. Zheng

Records set

CLASS 1A

50-yard freestyle: Charlie Crosby/Breck/Slake, 20:31. Previous: 20:41 by Cameron Hyde, Sartell-St. Stephen, 2021.

100 freestyle: Jack Herzog, Winona, 44:62. Previous: 45:08 by Jason Tammner, Sauk Rapids, 2004.

100 backstroke: Crosby, 47:65. Previous: 48:37 by Anderson Benschke, Breck/Slake, 2018.

100 breaststroke: Andrew Karpenko, Minnetonka Academy, 54:26. Previous: 54:41 by Karpenko, 2019.

set the all-time and Class 2A state meet record in the 100 breaststroke last time with his winning time of 51:86.

Chaska/Chanhassen junior Evan Rock had the top qualifying times in the 50 freestyle (20:83) and the 100 butterfly (45:56) and swam a leg on Chaska/Chanhassen's 200 and 400 freestyle relays, which had the top qualifying times.

Defending Class 2A champion Edina advanced 11 individuals and all three relay teams to Saturday's finals.

Diving preliminaries

Stillwater's Josiah Fick, the defending diving champion in Class 2A, posted the top score in the 2A preliminaries Friday, a 98.90. Edina's Max DeKeyser was second with a score 98.05.

In the Class 1A preliminaries, Chisholm sophomore Storm Opdahl had the top score with a 38.1. Simley's Garrett Kaiser was second at 34.05.

CLASS 2A SECTION 4 HILL MURRAY 3, WHITE BEAR LAKE 2



Hill Murray's Nick Pierre (7) on the ice during Friday night's victory.

Shorthanded goal caps rally

The Pioneers trailed 2-0 before beating big rival.

By DAVID LA VACHE
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Hill Murray hockey players began their postgame celebration with the puck still in their zone and about two seconds left on the clock. A risky move in a game where fortunes changed in over 100 seconds.

The Pioneers, down by two goals in the second period, roared back for a 3-2 victory against rival White Bear Lake on Friday in the Class 2A, Section 4 championship at Aldrich Arena. Nick Pierre scored a shorthanded goal at 1:51 of the third period to provide the winning margin.

No. 1 seed Hill Murray (9-6-3) averaged a 3-2 overtime loss earlier this season to No. 5 seed White Bear Lake (8-9-4). Friday marked the 29th

postseason meeting of Hill Murray and White Bear Lake in 37 seasons, dating back to 1982-83. They have clashed 16 times in section final. Hill Murray has won 12 of them.

"They are the type of kids that always work hard," Pioneers coach Bill Lechner said. "They stayed with it tonight and didn't come unraveled."

White Bear Lake gave the Pioneers good reasons to fret as Sam Nowpover scored 30 seconds into the game. He added his 22nd goal of the season at 2:25 of the second.

The Pioneers drew even before second intermission on goals from Charlie Strobel and Owen Quast. On Strobel's backhand shot, the puck rolled up a White Bear Lake defender's stick and continued past goalie Tyler Sheffens.

Quast went around another defenseman and scored with Hill to go in the second. A sud-

den burst from Quast provided just his fourth goal of the season.

"He's a chucker," Lechner said. "Once he gets his motor going, he's got a pretty good shot."

White Bear Lake still reeling from its tough semifinal victory against a good Stillwater team, lost steam as Friday's game wore on. Still, the Bears had a power-play chance in the third period as Joe Paluchuk, Hill Murray's top defenseman, went off on a penalty.

Pierre, the fastest jet in Hill Murray's impressive squadron, raised those plans. He blew past a Bears defenseman struggling with the puck and scored the winner.

"With that speed, you can't back up," Bears coach Tim Sager said. "We sat down on No. 7 a couple times and it was like he was shot out of a cannon."

CLASS 1A SECTION 4 MAHOMETT 5, SOUTH ST. PAUL 1



Mahomett's Nikolai Dulak sent a pass across the ice during Friday night's victory.

State string reaches four years

Mahomett captures section title again.

By HEATHER BILE
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For Nikolai Dulak and Colin Hagstrom, section finals always end with a championship in their favor.

Dulak and Hagstrom are the lone seniors on the Mahomett boys' hockey team who have been on the team coach of the past four years to capture four consecutive Class 1A, Section 4 titles. The latest came with a 5-1 victory over South St. Paul on Friday at Roselle Ice Arena.

For Dulak, who assisted on the first two goals before adding an empty-netter, the section title gets better every year. "I actually said that before the game started," Dulak said. "It gets better every single time."

In a section tournament full of upsets this year, top-seeded Mahomett (20-8-0) made sure it didn't fall victim to the same fate.

The Zephyrs took a quick 2-0 lead in the first period with a power-play goal from Colin Hagstrom and a shorthanded goal from Blake Hansen, his third of the season and Mahomett's third shorthanded tally of the year.

On the first one, Hagstrom scored a back-door goal only 26 seconds into the game's first power play. A few minutes later on the penalty kill, Dulak passed the puck over to Blake Hansen who fed a shot from the top of the circles for the team's third shorthanded goal of the season.

"The first goal just really got us going into the game," said Dulak, who assisted on both. "It was so quick and just happened so fast."

Dulak is a tenacious leader for the Zephyrs who leads with his actions, according to coach Jeff Porsche. "He always shows us big moments and he did again tonight."

Junior Ethan Peterson scored the next two goals — his eighth and ninth of the season. The first extended the lead to 3-0 through two periods before he scored again with 5 minutes, 49 seconds to play in the third period. That fourth goal extended the breathing room for the Zephyrs.

"Because at that point where it was 4-0, we kind of just settled down a little bit," Peterson said.

It was the reward for plenty of Zephyrs scoring chances that were either stopped or just missed the net. Mahomett outshot the Packers 65-3 in the third period alone and 50-24 for the game. The Packers (12-14) had initially cut the deficit to 2-1 in the second on a goal by Jayv Schaefer.

State qualifiers
Class 1A: Delano, Hiemtown, Hutchinson, Mahomett, Mahkato East, Lygola, Monticello, St. Cloud Cathedral, Warrond
Class 2A: Andover, Blake, Eden Prairie, Hill Murray, Larkville/South, Maple Grove, Moorhead, St. Thomas Academy