

Depth pays as Hawks dunk Nicolet

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN

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Lineup changes allow Grafton to show versatility in easy NSC swim victory

A shuffled lineup didn't keep the Grafton girls' swimming and diving team from cruising to a North Shore Conference road win last week.

Despite using swimmers in events they usually don't enter, the Black Hawks sailed past Nicolet, 122-64, on Sept. 3.



"I tried to give the girls a chance to see what they could do in different events," Grafton coach John Douglass said.

"It was an opportunity for us to find our depth and see who can do what."

The Hawks' success included 1-2 finishes in a pair of events.

In the 200-yard freestyle, Sam Senczyszyn had a winning time of 1 minute, 52.26 seconds, and Autumn Haebig was second at 1:53.12.

"I believe those are the top two times in the state in that event this season," Douglass said.

Gabby Kraus won the diving with 201.25 points, and Paige Schommer was second with 192.7. Both scores were personal bests for six-dive competitions.

Grafton's other swimming wins included Senczyszyn in the 100 breaststroke (1:04.06), Emma O'Brien in the 200 individual medley (2:20.86), Natalie Keshemberg in the 50 freestyle (25.26), Stephanie Haebig in the 100 backstroke (1:02.81) and Autumn Haebig in the 500 freestyle (5:05.98).

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The Hawks' sweep of relay races included wins from the 200 medley team of Stephanie Haebig, Katherine Bordetskaya, Keshemberg and Anya Dillahunt (1:58.71); the 200 freestyle team of Senczyszyn, Autumn Haebig, O'Brien and Rachel Hauer (1:40.62); and the 400 freestyle team of Keshemberg, Lily Kaplan, Dillahunt and Senczyszyn (3:55.58).

This week, Grafton faced Homestead in another NSC dual meet Tuesday and will travel to Plymouth on Thursday for a 6 p.m. triangular meet against the host team and West Bend West.

On Sept. 17, the Hawks will participate in the conference relays at Whitefish Bay. Diving starts at 4 p.m., followed by swimming at 6 p.m.

Homestead 150, Port Washington 31

The host Pirates had a tough time with a perennial power in a North Shore Conference meet that opened their season Sept. 3.

Homestead placed first and second in every swimming event.

Port's best finish was a second from diver Kristen Smith (167.2 points).

Taking third for the Pirates were Ann Nuedling in the 50 freestyle (29.99) and the 200 freestyle relay of Elise Anderson, Nuedling, Breanna Grady and Kelsey Brockman (2:04.06).

Port got fourth-place finishes from the 200 medley relay of Nuedling, Brittany Heinen, Brockman and Anderson (2:30.19) and the 400 freestyle relay of Mikayla McBride, Monica Gotthart, Brooke Verfuert and Heinen (5:13.63).

Knowing Homestead would be a tough challenge, Port coach Melissa Hoogester said she juggled her lineup for the meet.

"We kind of mixed it up to try girls in a number of different races," she said.

The Pirates were scheduled to travel to Nicolet for a 6 p.m. dual meet Wednesday, Sept. 11, and will participate in the conference relays at Whitefish Bay on Sept. 17.

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Image Information: PORT WASHINGTON'S Monica Gotthart turned for a breath during the 200-yard freestyle race against Homestead in a North Shore Conference meet Sept. 3.

Photo by Sam Arendt