

## PREP SWIMMING AND DIVING: State championship preview

# West Bend brings four entries to state meet

## Germantown leads area teams by competing in 12 events

By Pat Neumuth  
Daily News Correspondent

WEST BEND — Heading west is no longer manifest destiny. For the second year in a row, the Washington County athletes that qualified for the WIAA Division 1 Girls Swimming and Diving Championships head south again to Waukesha South.

In last season's COVID-riddled year, about a third of the state didn't compete during the girls swimming season. Last year was the first time the state meet was at Waukesha South after 41 straight years at the UW Natatorium.

"We knew it was going to be very tough qualifying times and they are, but if you keep working hard, hopefully we get a shot," West Bend coach Dave Bloomier said. "We've got some kids in."

West Bend has four entries in the state meet, including the 400-yard freestyle relay team. Bloomier said he expected the relay team to qualify, but had to drop about five seconds at the sectional to get under the qualifying

time. Seniors Ashley Jankowski and Maren McDonnell will team up with junior Nicole Walters and freshman Lily Inkman to compete in the relay.

"We've got two seniors on there and we are excited about that," Bloomier said. "I know it's exciting for them. They are great kids, captains and great leaders."

Walters and Inkman will also be swimming in individual events. Walters is in the second heat of the 100 butterfly, while Inkman is in the first heat of the 500 freestyle.

Walters will be hoping to break the program record in the butterfly. She was two one-hundredths of a second off the record at the sectional meet in 57.97. South has a fast pool so Walters will be going for history.

As for Inkman's strength, the 500 is too short of a race despite it being the longest the WIAA offers. Bloomier said Inkman is more suited for the 1,650 freestyle. At the start of the season, she was swimming at about 5:37, but has worked her way to a 5:17.46 sectional time to qualify.

"She's very laid back and a hard worker and just happy she made it," Bloomier said. "Her consistently dropping time and getting to that level is outstanding and a tribute to her hard work."

On the diving board, freshman Madison Rummel makes her state debut. Rummel has a qualifying score of 400.15, which is 20th out of 24 qualifying divers.

"She's just an outstanding talent and we are looking forward to what she can do on the state stage," Bloomier said. "She's come a long way. All our divers have come a long way."

"We are just happy she's there to get the experience. I do believe in a couple years she will be the real deal — really, really good. Hopefully she can get all 11 of her dives in because they do cut. We are just hoping she can score a point for us, but an outstanding talent."

Germantown will bring the most athletes to state from the county with 12 entries, including all three relays. The Warhawks won their home sectional championship last weekend.

"Winning our sectional and qualifying eight athletes in 12 events is something I am extremely proud

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Bradford Paulson/Special to the Daily News

West Bend's Nicole Walters swims to a first place finish in the 100-meter butterfly varsity at West Bend High School on Sept. 9.