

FHS, BHS shine in key swim meet

Knights finish second, Panthers third in Class 5A

By CJ Powell, For the Camera
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LOVELAND — If the Cherry Creek girls swimming team really is as "untouchable" as Fairview coach Bob Smartt has them billed, then the Knights and the Boulder Panthers did as well in the Colorado Coaches Invitational as any touchable team could have done.

Fairview (188) and Boulder (162) finished second and third in Class 5A, respectively, to Cherry Creek's enormous total of 272 points Saturday at Mountain View High School, and both teams couldn't be happier.

"Creek is absolutely untouchable," Smartt said. "So second (place) is about the best you can do."

While Fairview is a perennial powerhouse and finished second in last year's Colorado Coaches Invitational, the Panthers are having an uncommon run at greatness.

"We've never been above eighth (at this meet)," Colby said. "In the past, I've been excited about being eighth. But, being in the hunt for second, I'm really pleased."

Boulder's success is largely a result of junior Sophie Allen. In addition to taking second in the 100 backstroke and the 50 free, Allen was also part of Boulder's third-place 200 medley relay team and its third-place 400 free relay team.

Despite the outstanding day in the pool, Allen wasn't completely satisfied with her meet.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Allen, who was seeded No. 1 in both of her individual events. "But it's been a really long week, so I'm happy with how I did."

Colby elaborated on Allen's "long week."

"Basically, she's had three meets in a week," he said. "And she's done amazingly — (she's clocked) personal bests, she's qualified for nationals, and she's broken school records in three individual events.

"I know she's a little disappointed because she wanted to get first in both of the events, but it just makes her all the more hungry."

While Fairview's overall depth carried the team to a second-place finish, one Knight stood above the rest.

Senior Sophie Lucas placed third in the 100 butterfly and was a key swimmer in the Knights' only first-place event — the 200 free relay, which they were losing before Lucas dove in.

"She brought home the victory for us," said Smart of the anchor Lucas. "In that relay, she passed like three people on the final leg."

The real winner this season is the Boulder County swimming fan.

After years of Fairview dominating the local scene, Boulder is as dangerous as ever and should be considered a legitimate top-three contender this year in state.

Besides, Colby thinks Boulder can still improve.

"We just got a taste of how good we can be," he said. "And now, we got some more work to do."

Colorado Coaches Invitational

Class 5A team scores — 1. Cherry Creek 272, 2. Fairview 188, 3. Boulder 162, 4. Mountain Vista 117, 5. Chatfield 115, 8. Monarch 84.

Class 4A team scores — 1. Ralston Valley 208, 2. Rock Canyon 163, 3. Estes Park 77, 4. Thompson Valley 38, 5. Mullen 38, 6. Broomfield 36.5, 9. Niwot 30, 13. Longmont 12, 14. Silver Creek 5.

200-yard medley relay — 1. Ralston Valley (Wenzinger, Lujan, Quick, Johnson) 1:51.43, 2. Cherry Creek 1:52.00, 3. Boulder 1:52.01.

200 freestyle — 1. Shannon Garlie, Fossil Ridge, 1:55.94; 2. Jordan Mattern, Cherry Creek, 1:56.16; 3. Caroline Shea, Mullen, 1:56.66.

200 IM — 1. Katie Johnson, Ralston Valley, 2:07.50; 2. Katie Naze, Cherry Creek, 2:10.80; 3. Arianne Lujan, Ralston Valley, 2:10.83.

50 free — 1. Kelsey Conci, Moffat County, 24.34; 2. Sophie Allen, Boulder, 24.59; 3. Shelley Perkins, Chatfield, 24.61.

1 meter diving — 1. Aubrey Bush, Eaglecrest, 422.10; 2. Courtney Fieldman, Cherry Creek, 416.40; 3. Elizabeth Tovich, Chaparral, 377.35.

100 butterfly — 1. Taylor Curado, Rock Valley, 57.93; 2. Jennifer Oster, Cherry Creek, 59.39; 3. Sophie Lucas, Fairview, 59.63.

100 free — 1. Shelley Perkins, Chatfield, 53.25; 2. Kyla Dahlquist, Mountain Vista, 53.39; 3. Kenzie Hewson, Estes Park, 53.68.

500 free — 1. Katie Johnson, Ralston Valley, 5:06.94; 2. Summer Cook, Mountain Range, 5:08.66; 3. Loren Brandon, Cherry Creek, 5:13.01.

200 free relay — 1. Fairview (Shirin Sedaghat, Tasia Demuth, Lauren Rigg, Sophie Lucas) 1:41.51; 2. Cherry Creek 1:41.96; 3. Heritage 1:42.41.

100 backstroke — 1. Breann Fuller, Brighton, 57.85; 2. Sophie Allen, Boulder, 58.39; 3. Kelsey Conci, Moffat County, 59.50.

100 breaststroke — 1. Lauren Hewson, Estes Park, 1:05.61; 2. Emily Kuhr, Dakota Ridge, 1:06.34; 3. Christine Wixted, Cherry Creek, 1:08.03.

400 free relay — 1. Ralston Valley (Katie Johnson, Paige Fischer, Jordan Quick, Arianne Lujan) 3:38.80; 2. Rock Canyon 3:39.33; 3. Boulder 3:39.36.



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