

# FHS swimmers aim to upset No. 1 Creek

By Joshua Lindenstien  
Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Few if any teams have ever been able to say they've beaten the juggernaut Cherry Creek girls swimming team in duals three out of five years — like the Fairview Knights can.

And it's likely none would admit to being confident about their chances of making it four out of six.

But the second-ranked Knights head into Thursday's 4 p.m. dual at Cherry Creek High School against the state's top-ranked team poised to do just that, albeit with a different formula than they used in their last three victories over the Bruins, who have won 22 team state titles since 1974.

The Knights beat the Bruins three times from 2002 to 2005 before falling last season. But Fairview pulled off those wins with star power that included All-Americans Sarah Fischer, Madeline Rovira and Kristen Lahey.

As for this season?

"We'll have to do it on depth," Fairview coach Bob Smartt said Monday.

Although the Knights do have some heavy hitters on this season's team, there are none the likes of Fischer, Rovira and Lahey.

But the Knights do enter the meet with more state qualifiers to date than the Bruins have, meaning racking up seconds, thirds and fourths will be crucial on Thursday.

The Knights are strongest in the 500 free, with senior standout Julie Giehl, Mikella Zgliczynska and Julie Anderson, and in the 50 free, where Rachel Cazden, Keeley Hernandez, Tasia DeMuth all placed in the top five at the Boulder County Invite on Saturday.

"They may win more first places but we've certainly got a lot of depth," Smartt said.

With the Centennial League Championships and the state meet looming the next two weeks, there could certainly be reason for both teams to play cat-and-mouse games as far as which swimmers race their best events on Thursday or hold back a little in an attempt to stay fresh for the later meets.

But Smartt doubts such things will play a large factor in the outcome of the dual.

"We're going to go for it, and they have great pride," Smartt said. "I don't think you're going to see either team holding back."

Some of the bigger matchups could come in the 100 butterfly where Fairview's Sophie Lucas is tied for the best time in the state this season, just ahead of Cherry Creek's Katie Keller, who is third.

Giehl could also have some exciting distance races depending on where Cherry Creek races All-American Michelle Menezes, who hold's the state's fastest times this season in the 200 IM, 100 free and 200 free and is also fast in the 500 free.



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