

# FHS swimmers ranked 19th nationally

By Chris Shelton  
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Fairview's girls swimming team can count itself among the elite in the country.

Based on the 2006-07 school year results, Fairview was ranked No. 19 in the country this month by the NISCA national dual meet team rankings.

"The dual meet rankings are an interesting way to compare against other teams around the country," Fairview coach Bob Smartt said. "Since we don't have a national swimming high school championship, the dual meet rankings give a rough gauge of a team's relative strength."

Fairview's preseason goal was to be ranked in the top 30.

Also, the Knights came in at No. 2 for all public schools with enrollments between 1,200 and 1,900 students. Fairview's preseason goal in the category was top five.

The Knights took second in this year's Class 5A state championship meet. Julie Giehl won state in the 200-yard freestyle and was second in the 500 free to pace the Knights.

But Fairview's national ranking was earned on its team depth.

"Teams submit their top-three athletes in all nine individual events," Smartt said. "Therefore, the third-place swimmer is just as important in the rankings as the top swimmer. Because Fairview had 25 state qualifiers this year, we show well due to our overall team depth."

This year's ranking wasn't the highest for Fairview.

The Knights were ranked No. 13 in the nation following the 2003-04 school year when they won the state title.



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