

## PREP SWIMMING PREVIEW



Daily News file photo

West Bend West/East junior Ashley Jankowski swims the final leg of the 400-yard freestyle relay during the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships on Saturday at Waukesha South.

# Mix of youth and experience set to power West Bend

## Multiple state qualifiers set to lead the way

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**WEST BEND** — Numbers are strong and leaders are in place for the West Bend co-op girls swimming and diving team, which has hall of fame head coach Dave Bloomier feeling good about its chances this season.

Three state qualifiers are back for West Bend, and those are the swimmers Bloomier will be counting on to set the tone. Seniors Maren McDonnell and Ashley Janowski were each part of the state-qualifying 200-yard freestyle relay and 400 free relay, the latter of which also included junior Nicole Walters, who reached state in the 100 butterfly, as well, finishing 11th.

“We’ve got 39 girls and we’ve got lot of new freshmen, so we’re very optimistic,” Bloomier said.

“There’s no question our leaders are going to be Ashley Jankowski and Nicki Walters and Maren McDonnell. Those three are definitely girls that are going to be very good.”

Brynn Bauer is another senior Bloomier is looking to step up along with junior Madison Nikkinen. Among that deep freshman class, Lily Inkmann is primarily a distance swimmer, Chloe Rummel will compete in the breaststroke and sprints, and Audrianna Roecker will specialize in the breaststroke and middle-distance events.

“We also have two freshmen divers that are going to make some noise,” Bloomier said. “Mallory Spaeth is a freshman diver and Madison Rummel, Chloe’s cousin. And then another diver that’s a senior but I think is making great strides is Maya Inririaj, so those are going to be athletes that hopefully are there at the end of this season.”

Bloomier is excited to be back to a normal schedule and have fans in the stands after the coronavirus pandemic limited West Bend to just one invite last season.

He expects Cedarburg and Whitefish Bay to be in the mix for the North Shore Conference crown.

“We’ve been second the last four years to Cedarburg, but Cedarburg is always tough,” Bloomier said. “I look at all the nice freshman we’ve got that are going to be extremely good. I told the girls I think we had over 1,200 varsity points graduate and those girls need to step up and take spots.”

### HARTFORD/SLINGER

Expectations are high for head coach Troy Hagen and the Hartford/Slinger girls swimming and diving team, as it also has a trio of competitors back with state experience.

Junior Helen Wilson qualified in three events, including two relays. Along with senior Caitlin Simonz and junior Lucie Smith, Wilson participated in the 200 medley and 200 free relays, while also reaching state in the 50 free.

“With having a history of sending girls to state, we expect no less this year,” Hagen said. “With having three returning from the state qualifying relay,

See **SWIMMING**, PAGE 2B

# Swimming

Caitlin Simonz, Lucie Smith and Helen Wilson, we expect to have at least one individual to set up and fill the void left by Irene Wilson, who graduated.”

“Individually, we hope that Caitlin, Lucie, and Helen build upon their experience from last year and with a great season of training qualify in one, if not two, events.”

Aside from his three leaders, Hagen is hoping to see senior Nora Triller and incoming freshman Payton Jankowski step into big roles.

“As for the rest of the team, I always hold the belief that with a little talent and a great work ethic, there will be others that emerge and develop into strong contributors,” Hagen said.

## GERMANTOWN

There aren't many programs bringing back as much top-end talent as Germantown, a promising sign for a team that finished sixth at state during the fall event held at Waukesha South.

The Warhawks have wasted no time in sending a message, winning each of their first two invitationals. Seniors Ali Beay, Hanna DeGrace and Sabina Mrzyglod lead the way for Germantown after making a big splash at state a season ago.



Daily News file photos

**LEFT:** Hartford Union/Slinger junior Caitlin Simonz swims the breaststroke portion of the 200-yard medley relay during the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships last season at Waukesha South. **RIGHT:** West Bend West/East sophomore Nicole Walters swims the 100-yard butterfly.

“With not only all of our individual qualifiers back this season, but all of our relay members from the 2020 state qualifying relays last season back and the continued development of their depth and talent, (we) are primed for a big year this year,” Germantown coach

Lori Bruss said. It returns its entire third-place 200 medley relay team of the aforementioned ‘Big Three’ and sophomore Isabelle Barger. Mrzyglod also podiumed in the 100 free (4th) and 50 free (5th), breaking school records in both races, while Beay medaled in the 100 backstroke (5th) and earned points with an eighth-place finish in the 50 free.

Not only that, the Warhawks’ 200 free relay team of DeGrace, sophomore Johanna Luo, sophomore Abigail Bruss and Barger was seventh, while DeGrace qualified in the 100 breaststroke and the quartet of Beay, Bruss, Barger and Mrzyglod reached state in the 400 free relay. In 1-meter diving, junior Katie Linn Poindexter

earned a sixth-place medal, and fellow junior Kristian Wittmann also qualified for state in her first year competing in the event. Others who will add depth to the squad are senior Andrew Wu, freshmen divers Bella Poindexter and Fynn Langley, freshman Julia Saxman, a former 12-and-under state champion, and freshman Emma Wolf, another

state qualifier at the youth level. “I have a group of young ladies who are talented to commit to excellence and work together,” Bruss said. “These ladies are not afraid to put in the hard work and know what it takes to perform at the end of the season. I look forward to this season and what these young ladies will achieve.”