

## Record

Johnston Diving Invitational 2nd-35  
 vs Ankeny L 84-102  
 vs Waukee L 81-105  
 vs Ottumwa W 144-37  
 @ Bobcat Invite 1st-393  
 vs Waukee L 75-111  
 @ Cougar Invite 3rd -397  
 vs Dowling Catholic L 66-120  
 vs Valley W 99-87  
 @ Johnston Invite 3rd-264  
 @ S.E. Polk W 145-40  
 CIML Conference 4th-311  
 CIML IV Conference 3rd-373  
 IGHSAU Regionals 1st - 525  
 IGHSAU State Championships 5th-73



Taking in a big breath, junior Kass Taylor competes in the 100Y breaststroke at Ottumwa. She placed third with a time of 1:17.96. The team always liked the Ottumwa meet because they had great sportsmanship. "With there being no fans this year we really tried to make an effort to cheer for everyone," Taylor said, "and I remember that I was almost late to my race because I was cheering on a girl from Ottumwa and was very invested in her race and didn't realize mine was coming up." Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



1. With arms spread out and water splashing, senior Abby Rastetter races in the 200Y IM against the Ottumwa Bulldogs. Rastetter placed third with a time of 2:31.55. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

2. Sophomore Lydia Yeutsy competes in the 100Y breaststroke against Waukee. She placed fifth in 1:15.29. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti.

3. Stroking her hand back Sophomore Grace Anderson swims the 500Y freestyle against the Ottumwa. Anderson placed second with the time of 6:01.14. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



# girls get super hype

## Relay team, Swalley win state

Sophomore Olivia Swalley, juniors Brooklynn Kaster and Izzy Osborne and senior Abby Rastetter had a running joke about their 200 medley relay team. Midway through the season Kaster remembers Rastetter said, “This relay really doesn’t lose” after the team placed second going to state.

“Relays at state are normally made up of people who swim the 50 and 100 yard sprints,” Kaster said, “and as many people would tell you, I am not a sprinter haha, but I spent time during the season to work on my 50 butterfly leg, so the relay team could achieve what we did.

They went into the state meet ranked second. At state, Osborne just touched out Ames by .03 of a second in 1:49.74. The school record was 1:49.49. “Even though we just missed it by .25 of a second, none of us were really that focused on getting the school record,” Kaster said. “Each of us just wanted to go our best times and potentially win, which we ended up doing both.”

“Our relays order was Abby Rastetter (backstroke), Olivia Swalley (breaststroke), me (butterfly), and then Izzy Osborne (freestyle). After the first 50 backstroke we were in around 4th or 5th place, but our breaststroke leg (Olivia Swalley) brought us into 1st place. Izzy and myself held off the second place team (Ames) for the final two legs of the relay while they were quickly catching up to us,” said Kaster.

In addition to being the state championship relay team’s breaststroke leg, Swalley earned state championships in the 200Y IM and the 100 breaststroke. She said what she enjoyed about the team was the support of her teammates.

When she broke her own school record in the 200 freestyle at the first meet of the season against Ankeny and Boone, they cheered her on. “The whole team was getting super hype and counting down the seconds while I was swimming,” she said. “It was just a super fun and energetic environment which is why I love the team so much!”

Senior Ciara Wheeler said the teammates had to do most of the cheering because COVID-19 limited who could attend meets. “We made the most of it as a team by being louder than ever with our cheering to make up for the lack of parents and spectators,” she said.

Two highlights for Wheeler, a diver, were breaking 300 in a six-dive meet and swimming her fastest 50 free. “... sometimes my coaches will put me in a swim relay, even though I’m a diver, and I finally broke 30 seconds in a 50 free!” she said.

The team won regionals for the first time since 2016. “We had a goal this year to win our district so we could get a banner,” Wheeler said, “and although it was a very tough goal, and our coaches had some doubts, we worked together cheering on each other as loud as we could, and everyone pushed themselves as hard as they could and we ended up winning and getting the first regional champ banner in all four of my years on the team.”

The win at regionals propelled them on to state, Swalley’s two individual state championships and the relay win. “It was a very special moment for my relay team, but honestly I don’t think it truly hit any of us that we had beat every relay in the entire state until a lot later,” Kaster said. “I think it still hasn’t completely hit us, because even multiple months later we always jokingly tell each other, ‘I can’t believe we actually did that,’ or ‘Why did that even happen?’ when the relay gets brought up.”



Senior Hannah Johnson smiles with her eyes as she walks through the tunnel. Fortunately, the pandemic did not stop the traditional senior night tunnel. “I have definitely built strong relationships with my coaches as well as my teammates,” she said. “A lot of my teammates I have swam with since I was little and are some of my closest friends, so that’s always special.” Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti



State champion senior Ciara Wheeler dives headfirst into the water. Wheeler broke her own school record by 18 points leaving her with a new record of 300.3. Photo by: Jordyn Cimmiyotti

083 girls swim

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HJ

Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

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