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Olympic champion Vollmer leads pack

By Charles Polansky

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ADDISON - Granbury senior Dana Vollmer didn't disappoint in her first appearance at the Class 5A Region II swim meet.

In Friday's preliminaries at Loos Natatorium, Vollmer breezed through her individual events, the 100-yard butterfly and 200 freestyle, posting the fastest times in both. She also helped lead two of Granbury's relay teams, the 200 and 400 freestyle, into today's finals and signed a few autographs for good measure.

The scary fact for Vollmer's challengers is that the 2004 Olympic relay champion can -- and almost certainly will -- go much faster today. Vollmer held back in her individual events to save energy for her relays.

"After this morning, I feel like I can get a lot faster," Vollmer said. "I'm feeling pretty strong in the water."

Vollmer was proudest of the two relays she helped get to the finals. In the final girls event of the day, the 400 freestyle relay, Vollmer swam the lead leg for the Lady Pirates and posted a time that would have made her the top-seeded swimmer in today's finals for the 100 free.

Lamar senior Codie Hansen was the fastest in her two events, the 100 freestyle and the 500 freestyle. Hansen, aiming to win two individual state championships for the fourth consecutive year, has never lost a high school meet.

"I was looking for faster times than district, kind of revving the engines for state," Hansen said. "My times were faster than district, so I'm happy with that. I'm looking for faster times [today]."

Hansen is going for a double state championship in extremely different events. The 100 freestyle is a sprint; the 500 freestyle is a grueling endurance test. As a freshman, Hansen won state in the 100 and 200 freestyles. The next year, she won state in the 200 and 500 and last year, she won the 100 and 200.

In the boys' field, Arlington High junior Andrew Trowbridge qualified in two events.

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