

Vollmer and rival agree to share the wealth

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Dana Vollmer and Codie Hansen could have been part of the marquee race at this weekend's Class 5A state swim meet. Instead, Vollmer – the 2004 Olympian – and Hansen – SportsDay's two-time girls swimmer of the year at Arlington Lamar – have opted not to meet head-to-head in Austin.

The two have known each other for years through USA Swimming meets, where they regularly face off in finals. But during a conversation at the Kerr-McGee meet in December, they mutually agreed about which races they would focus on at state: Vollmer the 200-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly, Hansen the 100 and 500 freestyles.

"We talked about it and decided we both wanted to have state titles," Hansen said.

Vollmer enters the 200 freestyle, the distance she swam at the Olympics en route to a sixth-place finish, as the prohibitive favorite. Her qualifying time is more than three seconds faster than her nearest pursuer. She has a shot at breaking the state record – held by Hansen – as well as the national mark that has stood since 1982.

Hansen has six state titles to her credit, including the last three in the 200 freestyle. But since last year's state meet, she has run a marathon and trained to build up her endurance. That's why she turned her focus back to the 500, a race she won at state two years ago.

"I'm thinking of this year more of my last chance to have a great time at the state meet," said Hansen, who will swim for Texas A&M next fall. "I want to soak up everything, and I'm going in feeling no pressure."

Matt Jacob