

Posted on Fri, Apr. 01, 2005

Vollmer feeling strong heading into Trials

By Charles Polansky

Star-Telegram Staff Writer

The matchup everybody wanted to see -- Dana Vollmer vs. Codie Hansen -- never materialized during February's Class 5A State Swimming and Diving Meet because they swam in different individual events.

If you've kept up with swimming beyond the high school schedule, though, you know that they've already met in two races since state and could meet again in the World Championship Trials, which begin today in Indianapolis and run through Wednesday.

Vollmer and Hansen swam against each other in the 100 and 200 freestyle events at the USA Swimming Speedo Champions Series Southern Zone/Western Section meet at Texas A&M the weekend after state. They could meet in the 200 Saturday and the 100 Tuesday in Indianapolis.



(Dana) VOLLMER

"It was great," Hansen said. "I set personal bests in all of my events, and I beat Dana. That was the high of the meet."

Hansen, a senior at Arlington Lamar, giggled at the memory.

Hansen, who set two state records in Austin to finish her high school career as the first 5A swimmer to collect eight individual gold medals, beat Vollmer in the 200 freestyle.

Earlier in the meet, Vollmer, an Olympic gold medalist who set three state records and won two individual gold medals in Austin, beat Hansen in the 100 freestyle.

"It was a really, really bad swim on my part," Vollmer said about her loss to Hansen in the 200.

Vollmer, a senior who competed for Granbury High for the first time this year, said she has gotten over some fatigue issues and is ready to swim her best at the Trials.

"I'd never done the high school circuit before, and I was pretty exhausted," said Vollmer, who had an MRI shortly after state that revealed a degenerative disk in her back.

Hansen isn't in top form either. She spent spring break touring Germany, and, after coming home, got sick and hasn't been able to train like she normally would.

"Yeah, I'm a little bit worried," Hansen said. "I've got to keep telling myself I've done OK this year without training my butt off at times, and, hopefully, I can do it again."

The 100 and 200 freestyle are Hansen's only events; Vollmer is also in the 50 freestyle and 100 and 200 butterfly.

Vollmer has the second-fastest seed time for the 200 freestyle, third for the 100 butterfly, fifth for the 100 free, seventh for the 50 free and 10th for the 200 fly.

Hansen has the 26th-fastest time in the 100 free, 32nd in the 200 free.

The top six finishers in each freestyle event qualify for the U.S. team for the World Championships in July in Montreal. The top two in all other events also make the team.

After that team is set, swimmers will be picked for the World University Games in August in Turkey.

TCU's Craig Chapman and Jonathan Berrettini are entered, as is Kathleen Roberts, who went to Colleyville Heritage and is at SMU.

IN THE KNOW

World Championship Trials

Today-Wednesday, Indianapolis

At stake: Spots on the U.S. World Championship team and the U.S. team for the World University Games

Tarrant County participants: Codie Hansen (Lamar High) in 100 and 200 free; Kathleen Roberts (Colleyville Heritage) in 200 free; Dana Vollmer (Granbury) in 50, 100 and 200 free, and 100 and 200 fly; Craig Chapman (TCU) in 100 and 200 back; Jonathan Berrettini (TCU) in 100 and 200 back.

Charles Polansky, (817) 548-5514 cpolansky@star-telegram.com