

All-area girls swimming

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Compiled by Staff Writer Matt Jacob based on times at the state meet

Having been home-schooled the last two years, Dana Vollmer missed all the little things high school had to offer. So even before winning a gold medal at last summer's Athens Olympics, Vollmer, 17, decided she would attend classes at Granbury and swim for the high school team.

And what an inaugural season she turned in.

Vollmer set state records in winning the Class 5A 200-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly and missed two national high school records by a combined 0.44 seconds.

"National records would have been nice, but I went into the meet not prepared to go that fast," Vollmer said. "I was close, but it leaves me with something to taste. Going that fast kept me going and made me want to get back in the pool and do some hard training."

Vollmer has plenty of time to continue making waves in swimming. She will graduate a year early and said she is being courted by Stanford, California, USC, Tennessee, Florida and other top programs.

But Vollmer knew that if she wanted to be a typical high school student, this would be her only chance. And she is glad to have made the most of it.

"Overall, it was a really good experience – one I won't ever forget," Vollmer said.

"By getting a best time at state [in the 100 butterfly], it taught me that even if you're not in the best shape or best frame of mind that you can get yourself ready to swim. All that, and getting to spend some real time with friends, what more can you ask for?"

GIRLS SWIMMER OF THE YEAR

Dana Vollmer, Granbury, Sr.

At state: Set state records in winning 5A 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly

My influence: "My mom, Cathy. She was a swim coach even before I was born and has been the driving force in everything I've accomplished."

About me: "I had a picture submitted to Vogue for its Olympic preview issue."

Recent honorees

2000: Whitney Henderson, Highland Park, and Dallas Marshall, Plano

2001: Erica Tate, Grapevine

2002: Lauren Gettel, Plano

2003: Codie Hansen, Arlington Lamar

2004: Codie Hansen, Arlington Lamar

GIRLS NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Alyssa Landino, Flower Mound Marcus, Fr.

At state: Finished seventh in 5A 50 freestyle, eighth in 100 freestyle

My influence: "My parents, John and Annie. I used to play select soccer and didn't want to start swimming, but my mom made me and I liked it enough to stay."

About me: "I'm Italian. My dad's parents emigrated from Italy."

GIRLS SWIMMING FIRST TEAM

Brittany Barwegen, Plano, Jr.

At state: Finished third in 5A 200 individual medley, fourth in 100 butterfly

My influence: "My coaches, Craig Harris and Steve Mateer, keep me pretty motivated."

About me: "I've wanted to be a sumo wrestler the last two or three years. I just think it would be a cool thing to do."

Molly Bollen, Carrollton Newman Smith, Jr.

At state: Finished tied for second in 100 butterfly, sixth in 50 freestyle

My influence: "My family, because they've always come to all my swim meets and used to drive me around to all the practices."

About me: "My friend, Stephanie, and I were aspiring Backstreet Boys backup dancers. We used to practice every weekend."

Leslie Clampitt, Highland Park, Sr.

At state: Finished third in 4A 50 freestyle, third in 100 freestyle

My influence: "Paren Jones, my old coach, helped me when I was younger and not so serious and taught me to work hard so I could go pretty far."

About me: Clampitt works with a charity group that helps clothe and prepare women for job interviews.

Meredith Grubb, Hebron, Jr.

At state: Won 4A 200 individual medley, finished second in 100 freestyle

My influence: "My parents, because I want to be able to give back to them everything they've given to me."

About me: "I like to cook but only desserts. I've already memorized the chocolate-chip cookie recipe on the back of the bag."

Whitney Hall, Flower Mound, Jr.

At state: Won 5A 200 individual medley, finished fourth in 100 breaststroke

My influence: "[Olympic champion] Amanda Beard, because she has gone above and beyond when most girls' swimming careers are already done."

About me: "I like to ride motorcycles and four-wheelers because they are de-stressing."

Codie Hansen, Arlington Lamar, Sr.

At state: Won 5A 100 freestyle and 500 freestyle

My influence: "My older sister Amy. She motivated me to swim, and I am looking forward to joining her at A&M."

About me: "Six dedicated swim coaches and one awesome personal trainer have all contributed to my success in high school swimming."

Emily Neal, Plano West, Jr.

At state: Finished fourth in 5A 200 individual medley, fourth in 100 backstroke

My influence: "My club coach, Steve Mateer. He motivates me a lot to do things I didn't think I could do."

About me: "I have to kiss my dog Lucky, a cocker spaniel, seven times before every swim meet."

Brittany Sacco, Highland Park, Sr.

At state: Won 4A 100 breaststroke, finished second in 200 individual medley

My influence: "[Olympic champion] Amanda Beard. She had a lot of success when she was younger, had a slump and then came back better than ever."

About me: "I'm a hypochondriac. I always complain about having a bad heart."

Diver: Madison Luce, Colleyville Heritage, Jr.

At state: Won 5A 1-meter diving

My influence: "My coach's dad, Dick Wilson. He was my club coach since I was 9, and he passed away in September. That influenced my diving a lot."

About me: "I'm really, really shy."

Relay: Highland Park 200 medley relay (Alex Weber, Fr.; Leslie Clampitt, Sr.; Alexandra Jennings, So.; Brittany Sacco, Sr.)

At state: Won 4A championship

About us: "When everyone is going for their best times, you have to get the timing down just right. That becomes the most important thing." Leslie Clampitt

GIRLS SWIMMING SECOND TEAM

Name	School	Cl.	At state
Lauren Baalman	Frisco	Sr.	Fourth in 4A 200 freestyle, seventh in 100 freestyle
Beth Geis	Hillcrest	Sr.	Sixth in 4A 100 freestyle, eighth in 200 freestyle
Kristen Hempleman	McKinney	Jr.	Second in 4A 100 breaststroke, fourth in 200 individual medley
Gwen Blythe	Colleyville Heritage	Fr.	Third in 5A 100 breaststroke
Stephanie Martin	Woodrow Wilson	Fr.	Third in 4A 100 breaststroke
Caroline Maxvill	Richardson Pearce	So.	Fifth in 5A 100 breaststroke
Sasha Stephens	Flower Mound Marcus	Fr.	Third in 5A 100 backstroke
Alicia Stevens	Hebron	So.	Third in 4A 100 backstroke, sixth in 200 individual medley
Chelsea Johnson	Keller	Jr.	Second in 5A 1-meter diving
Relay: Brittany Sacco, Sr., Meredith Higgins, So., Alexandra Jennings, So., Leslie Clampitt, Sr. (Highland Park) Second in 4A 4x100 freestyle			