

Vollmer leads 4 GHS All-Americans

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by RICK MAUCH

Dana Vollmer is in Florida, but she left a little bit of history behind at Granbury High School. The Olympic gold medalist was honored individually, and she joined her state relay teammates Carrie Greene, Xela Steenberge and Seabre Pope in becoming the first swimmers in Granbury High School history to be named All-Americans.

The quartet were all on the official list published by the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association this week. The list includes the top 100 times nationally for public school swimmers in each event.

The list will be published in an upcoming issue of "Swimming World" magazine, probably in July. Vollmer, who has graduated and will swim for the University of Florida next season, was recognized for six individual events. She also joined Greene, Steenberge and Pope on the 200 freestyle relay.

Vollmer had the nation's fastest times in the 100 butterfly (52.70) and 200 free (1:45.64). She won state championships in each event on her way to being named the outstanding swimmer in Class 5A at the UIL Meet at the University of Texas in Austin.

In addition, Vollmer's time of 22.93 seconds in the 50 free is the nation's second-fastest time. She posted that time leading off the 200 free relay at state.

Vollmer also made the top five in a fourth event. Her 50.09 in the 100 free ranks fifth nationally.

Vollmer's 100 backstroke time of 57.72 is 66th in the nation, and her 2:06.25 in the 200 individual medley ranks 67th.

The 200 free relay's time of 1:38.90 is 68th nationally. It was the eighth fastest time in the state.

"Even the 100th fastest time in the entire nation is very fast," Granbury coach swim coach Robert Laura said. "What these girls have accomplished is something very special.

"It's nice that our first All-American honors were more than just Dana. I think we all knew she was going to be up there, but this shows we had more than just one swimmer contributing to our success.

"Considering all of the accomplishments we've had in our program the last several years, it is really, really nice to have this now be a part of it."

When told of the news, Greene was ecstatic.

"Wow. That's really awesome," Greene said from Granbury SEALS Pups practice, where she is a coach for young swimmers. "You're not kidding?"

"Man, that is really, really cool. I am so proud of us."

Greene has been to state each of the past two seasons on relays. Vollmer was swimming in high school for the first time, so she joined Steenberge and Pope as rookies at state.

The honors are the latest in a long line of awards for Vollmer, who swam a leg of the world record-setting 800-meter relay (7:53.42) at last summer's Olympics in Athens.

And Laura believes another could be on the way in a few weeks as he expects her to be named the national high school swimmer of the year by "Swimming World" magazine.

"All of this information is now in 'Swimming World' magazine's hands," Laura said. "I looked to see if there was someone else they could pick, and based on this I would have a tough time believing she would not win."



For a complete All-American list, visit www.nisca.net.

Rick Mauch can be reached at (817) 573-7066, ext. 256 or e-mail speditor@hcnews.com