

Swimmers dive into final month

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

HHS swimmers dove right back into the competition this past week, heading into their final month of the 2012-13 season.

The Dragons competed in a dual with Eaton Tuesday, Jan. 8 and at the Valor Invitational at Colorado School of Mines Saturday, Jan. 12.

At Eaton last Tuesday, the local team was outnumbered by 18, and Eaton also had four divers. As a result, Holyoke came up short in team points.

However, coach Luke Thomas said the girls held their own in every event and had a great time. On average, there were about eight swimmers in each event.

Freshman Dani Brandt earned the team's only first-place finish when she won the 100 backstroke. She also finished third in the individual medley.

Lori McWilliams placed second in the 50 free, Jayden Durbin finished second in both the 200 free and 500 free, and LaKyla Moore was second in the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke.

Saturday, the girls swam in their largest meet of the year at the Valor Invitational. There were 24 teams and 465 swimmers. A majority of the teams were 5A schools, where athletes swim year-round.

Coach Thomas pointed out there were close to 100 swimmers in each event. While Holyoke was the smallest team, the girls finished 17th.

In meets of this size, the top 16 places are recorded.

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Brandt, Lori McWilliams, Durbin and Moore combined to take 15th out of 40 in the 200 freestyle relay and 16th out of 46 in the 200 medley relay.

Numerous personal records were set by Dragon swimmers Saturday, and coach Thomas was pleased with that effort.

Two new personal records were recorded by Moore in the 200 free and 100 butterfly and by Brittney Prottzman in the 100 back and 100 breast.

Jentry Andersen swam a personal best in the 100 free, Lori McWilliams in the 50 free, Malena McWilliams in the 100 breast and Meg Strauss in the 100 breast.

Upcoming action

The Skyline dual is tentatively on the Dragon schedule Thursday, Jan. 17. Conference competition is set for Feb. 1-2, with the state championships Feb. 8-9.

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