



MICHIGAN PRESS
READING SERVICE

126 S. Putman, Williamston, Mich. 48895

SAGINAW NEWS

SAGINAW, MI

W-CIRC 1,425

NOV 16 2006

Dow swimmers carry momentum to states

ADAM SMITH

THE SAGINAW NEWS

357

The Midland Dow girls swim team will carry momentum with it to the Division 1 state finals on Friday and Saturday at Oakland University.

The Chargers won the league meet on Saturday at home, ending Heritage's reign atop the standings with 370 points compared to 355 for the Hawks and winning eight of 12 events. Junior Sarah Maraskine won four events for Dow, while freshman Summer Strickler — coach Gary Strickler's daughter — won three.

"I hope that we do well in the 200(-yard) medley relay, because right now we're seeded second, and I hope to place in the top eight in the 100 freestyle and that Sarah Maraskine wins the 100 backstroke. Overall, I hope the team does well," said Summer Strickler, who helped Dow go 11-0 in duals and 8-0 in league duals. "This will help me a lot and, hopefully, there's a scholarship somewhere for me for swimming."

Summer Strickler said that her father has helped her acclimate to swimming at the high school level, but that she isn't surprised at how big of a role she has on the team.

"I'm kind of at the same place I was in the spring," she said. "I knew coming in that I

would be on a state team, probably. My times have gotten faster through working with my dad and stuff."

Her performance at the SVL Meet helped her confidence, said Summer Strickler, who will swim legs on the 200 medley relay, the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay as well as the 100 freestyle at states.

"I knew that I'd be able to compete, but it upped my confidence a lot," Summer Strickler said. "Especially with the times that my team and I swam."

Dow will send eight girls to the meet, with Corina Hinterman, Meghan Richardson, Brianna Harfmann, Kara Gordon, Emily Shao and Morgan Pierce joining Maraskine and Summer Strickler. Gary Strickler looks to two-time defending national champion Ann Arbor Pioneer, Holland and the University of Detroit-Mercy High School as the teams to beat.

"There are four or five teams right in the middle and I'd like to think that we're one of them," Gary Strickler said. "I think we have a really good shot, if we swim as well at states as we did at the Valley Meet, of finishing in the top 10. If we swim a little faster, maybe the top five. Until you go down and swim it, you don't know, but we think we saved something for this weekend." ♦