

OTHER SCHOOLS

State swimming: Greenwood's Nathan Wu, Glendale Falcons capture runner-up hardware

Central placed fourth behind Springfield rival Falcons in Class 1 team standings; Kickapoo's Ruder places in Class 2



by Mary Ellen Chiles

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Greenwood senior Nathan Wu dreamed of winning state for years, but he's not going to beat himself up for finishing second in two events at the Class 1 State Swimming & Diving Championships.

"I knew it was the best I could have done," Wu said after his final events on Saturday in St. Peters. "I'm going to be disappointed but it's not like I'm going to be tearing myself apart for it."

Wu set personal records in both of his events. He swam the 100-yard breaststroke in 56.11 seconds, improving his PR by a full second. He swam the 200-yard individual medley in 1:51.34, breaking his PR by 1 ½ seconds. (The IM includes 50-yard swims of the butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.)

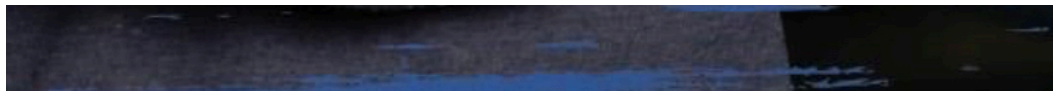
"I like to be in the water, but I also really like to race as well," he said. "Even if you feel really exhausted you know that you gave it your all."

Wu started taking swimming lessons at age 4 at Missouri State Aquatics and started competing at 5. He's swum with MSA ever since. After competing for Greenwood in his first two years of high school, he spent his junior year only competing in club meets.

His coach at Greenwood, John Mullen, was skeptical at first.

"Normally I'd say you're not going to get better because you get a lot of competition in high school," he said, "But it worked out for him, and he did get a lot stronger."





Nathan Wu (Photo by Greenwood)

Mullen was pleased to have Wu back with the Blue Jays. Still, Wu's junior year with MSA helped the young athlete juggle his many interests. Wu is a strong student, a gifted pianist and a dedicated coder. He intends to swim in college and he's considering studying computer science or medicine.

"I just know wherever I end up I'll be happy because I'm going to go to a college where I can swim," he said.

His older sister, Fiona, has always inspired him. She also swam competitively through high school and she is now at an Ivy League school, studying computer science at Penn.

"She helps me push myself because she's doing really cool things on the East Coast right now," Nathan said. "So, basically, I'm just like, 'Man, I gotta lock in.'"

Glendale runner-up in team standings

Another year, another state trophy for the tradition-rich Glendale boys swimming team.

The Falcons, led by Missouri Sports Hall of Fame coach Steve Boyce, placed second in Class 1 thanks to a well-rounded effort that saw the Falcons place several athletes on the podium in their respective events. Parkway Central earned the team crown.

Carson Butler, a junior, brought home four medals for Glendale, placing third in the 100 butterfly (51.44), sixth in the 200 intermediate (1:55.87) and teaming up with Sawyer Andrews, Hudson Andrews and Jackson Van Eps to place second in the 200-yard relay (1:36.26).

Butler, Sawyer Andrews, Carter Roberts and Connor Cook came together to place sixth in the 400 freestyle relay (3:18.67).

It was also a four-medal weekend for Sawyer Andrews, who placed fifth in both the 50 freestyle (21.78) and 100 backstroke (53.54).

Hudson Andrews added team points with an eighth-place finish in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.37).

Central boys place fourth

The Bulldogs finished two spots behind fellow Springfield program Glendale in the Class 1 team standings.

Jason Allen had a strong weekend for the Bulldogs, placing third in the 200 freestyle (1:43.47), fifth in the 100 freestyle (47.95) and teaming up with George Wood, Quinn Smith and Jonas Tetlow to place third in the 400 freestyle relay (3:16.45).

Allen, Smith, Tetlow and Brayden Miao came together to place fifth in the 200 freestyle relay (1:30.24).

Miao also placed fourth in the 100 butterfly (52.08), fifth in the 100 breaststroke (58.38) and, with the help of Tetlow, Smith and Maxwell German, took seventh in the 200 medley relay (1:40.55).

Tetlow rounded out his four-medal weekend by placing fifth in the 100 butterfly (52.41)

Kickapoo's Ruder seventh in Class 2

Kickapoo senior Bryce Ruder was the lone local athlete to advance to the Class 2 finals. The William Jewell-bound swimmer placed seventh in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:43.56.



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More by Mary Ellen Chiles

