

Clear Brook swimmers advance to state meet

Two swimmers from Clear Brook High School are headed to the state swimming and diving meet in Austin.

Freshman Adriana Sepulveda will be joined by Mark Grijalva, a junior, at the state meet Feb. 16-17 at the University of Texas in Austin.

Both swimmers will be at the meet as a result of winning times at the Region VI meet.

Sepulveda won the 500-yard freestyle event at 5 minutes, 7.65 seconds, easily qualifying for the state meet.

Grijalva, the two-time most valuable swimmer in the district, might be headed for a third straight honor after qualifying for state in two events.

At regionals, Grijalva was second in the 500-yard freestyle in a time of 4:40.84. Grijalva is also headed for competition in

the 200-yard individual medley after his time of 1:57.98 at regional placed him third.

The gold medalists from each region plus the next eight fastest times qualify for the state level.

The regional meet, held at the Katy Independent School District Natatorium, featured some of the state's fastest swimmers.

For Clear Brook swimming coach Rick Barker, seeing two of his swimmers qualify for state and others turn in personal best times, was a great moment.

"We can't be happier," Barker said. "At this time of year you simply hope your kids can turn in their personal best times. So many of our kids were able to do that.

Sepulveda also set a school record in the 200-yard freestyle despite not making her way to state.

As for the expectations

at state for Clear Brook, the goals are similar. Obviously, winning a few medals would be very nice. Fast times, however, will have to do.

"The Texas meet is usually one of the fastest in the nation," Barker said. "Again you just hope to go fast. At this time of the year these kids have been going at it for a long time.

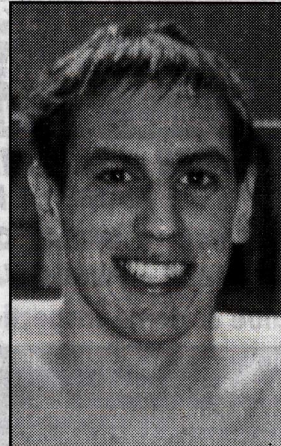
"This is what they have been shooting for, and we just want them to have some fun. If we can bring back some medals, that would be terrific."

Leader of a relatively young team at Clear Brook, Barker knows his two state-bound swimmers are examples of what can be had when hard work comes in.

"Not only are these kids talented, but they are also some of the hardest-working kids we have," Barker said. "All of the other kids on the team see that and



Adriana Sepulveda



Mark Grijalva

want to push themselves. Somewhere along the way you hope as a coach that these young athletes establish a precedence in your program."

For now, it's working. Grijalva and Adriana Sepulveda certainly have the potential to excel at state. Whether they medal or not, Barker believes

they'll have fun anyway.

"All of these kids have competed in big time meets during their swimming careers," Barker said.

"Realistically, making it to the final 8 in any of these events would make me ecstatic. I'm just proud of these kids and what they have accomplished in the program so far."