

# Dobie, Clear Brook dive into district swimming

Team championships may be out of the realm of possibility, but that won't keep the Dobie and Clear Brook swimming and diving teams from having high hopes at district.

Dobie will compete in the District 22-5A preliminary round Jan. 25 at the North Shore Natatorium, with the finals to follow Jan. 27 at the same location.

Clear Brook and the rest of the 24-5A field will be at the Lake Jackson Rec-

reation Center Jan. 27 for the big meet.

Deer Park is the favorite to win the team standings in 22-5A, while regional power Clear Lake is the overwhelming choice to take top honors in District 24-5A.

Neither Dobie nor Clear Brook figure to push hard to top team honors, but both teams have individual performers who have high expectations.

Brook eyes solid efforts. All predictions aside,

Clear Brook swimming and diving coach Rick Barker simply wants to see the Wolverines at their best at district.

"We're going into district looking to do our individual bests in terms of our times," Barker said.

"If we do that, the team results will take care of themselves. It's all about swimming fast, going for our best times and trying to get a berth at regionals for some of these kids."

The Wolverines are led

by two-time district most valuable swimmer Mark Grijalva, who is one of the area's best in the 200-yard individual medley event as a junior. He will also compete as one of the favorites in the 500-yard freestyle.

Among the boys, Barker also expects Alex Ruchti to compete for a medal in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The Lady Wolverines will be guided by the three Sepulveda sisters, including junior Diana and fresh-

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## District swimming greets CB, JFD

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men Julia and Adriana. Diana swims the 100-yard butterfly and 100- and 500-yard freestyle events.

Adriana, the school record holder in the 200-yard freestyle, is also expected to enter the 100-yard freestyle.

Meanwhile, Julia will likely enter the 100-yard breaststroke event.

In the team standings, Barker thinks the Wolverines will vie with Clear Creek for second place among the girls' teams.

Things may be a bit different in the boys' field,

where Barker expects any number of teams to battle for second place behind Clear Lake.

"Clear Lake has plenty of talent and depth," Barker said. "They just have larger numbers and can build the points."

"For us, it's all about being at our best and swimming fast races. That's all we can do."

JFD riding confidence

The Longhorns, meanwhile, are sure to draw inspiration from their Jan. 16 showing at the Pasadena City Championships, which involved Dobie plus the

other four Pasadena Independent School District schools.

Dobie won the boys' division, scoring 106 to 88 for second-place Pasadena.

Among the girls, Dobie (95 points) was second to champion (116 points) Pasadena.

The girls got off to a fast start, winning the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 2 minutes, 14.69 seconds as Courtney Hill, Chelsea Graham, Sarah Woernley and Alex Zayas teamed for the effort.

Woernley and Hill also excelled in individual

events, with Woernley winning the 200-yard freestyle (2:23.47) and Hill claiming the top spot in the 200-yard individual medley (2:47.65).

Zayas got a win of her own in the 100-yard butterfly, logging a time of 1:14.33.

Woernley also was a winner in the 500-yard freestyle, coming to the wall at 6:36.29 for the victory.

The Lady Longhorns also closed strong as Hill, Graham, Woernley and Zayas combined to win the 400-yard freestyle relay. The winning time was 4:35.63.

Several of the Dobie boys will also enter district competition coming off wins at the PISD finale.

In the 200-yard freestyle event, Brian Sawyer earned a time of 2:06.06 for the win.

Brandon Nguyen came away with a gold medal in the 100-yard butterfly, posting a time of 1:04.05.

Sawyer also won a gold medal for his effort in the 500-yard freestyle. He finished off a tight race with a time of 5:57.36, taking the top spot.

The Longhorn boys also finished second in numerous events at PISD.

The 200-yard medley relay team (Sawyer, Erick Zuber, Nguyen and Russell Zuber) was second at 2:00.51.

Erick Zuber was second in the 200-individual medley (2:25.56), while a time of 25.34 earned second place for Sawyer in the 50-yard freestyle.

As for the 100-yard backstroke, Sawyer was second with his time of 1:10.13.

Dobie's relay unit of Stephen Rodriguez, Martin Zuber, Adam Hodges and Spencer Smith finished second in the 200-yard freestyle relay, claiming a time of 1:50.40 along the way.

Erick Zuber's 100-breaststroke time of 1:13.43 was second, as was the 400-yard freestyle relay time of 3:57.83 for Russell Zuber, Erick Zuber, Nguyen and Sawyer.



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