

The Bee will begin previewing varsity winter sports for the 2006-07 season in next week's edition of the paper, kicking things off with the boys and girls basketball teams. The other winter sports will be previewed over the following weeks, and as always, each preview will include a full schedule.

## Girls Swimming

# Diver Matthews on top of state again

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

For the second time in three years, Casey Matthews is the queen of New York State diving.

Matthews, a state champion in 2004 and runner-up in 2005, defeated last year's champion, Section IX's Kristen Meier, 515.40-505.10, to win this year's 1-meter title at Saturday's New York State Swimming and Diving finals at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center.

"It feels pretty good," Matthews said. "I was excited, especially because I lost last year by ten points."

Matthews said Meier won last year because her dive degree difficulty was higher so for this season, Matthews learned several new dives, including an inward double tuck, which scored her 64 points on her second dive on Saturday. It also gave her a 15-point lead and basically assured her of the title.

"Before that dive, I knew I had to hit it," she said. "As soon as I came up and listened to my scores, I knew I did."

"Both dove well on their final three dives but Casey's higher dive difficulty is what sealed the deal," added North coach Doug Cassidy.

Matthews was ahead by 65 points after her last dive, a back 1½ somersault with a full twist; Meier only scored 55 points.

Matthews led by eight after her first eight dives on Friday, includ-



Williamsville North's Casey Matthews practices a dive prior to competition on Friday at the New York State Championships held at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center. Matthews won her second 1-meter state title in three years on Saturday.

Photo by John Normile

ing 62 points from an inward 1½ diver to win a state title. She was the only Section VI "She won it as a freshman but

when she just missed last year, she realized how important the high school title was," said Cassidy. "She worked hard on her 1-meter high school diving list to be prepared for this year's championship and it certainly paid off."

"This year I saw a real seriousness and focus," he added. "She was loose but very determined on what she needed to do to be successful."

Cassidy said Matthews is already setting goals for her senior year.

"She's looking at more difficult dives for next season," he said. "I know it's going to be a priority for her as a senior to finish out on top. We'll do whatever we can at North to support her."

Williamsville East also performed well, finishing 11th overall.

The Lady Flames' 200 medley relay of freshman Bailey Woodling, sophomore Kristen Ostanski, junior Janelle Munroe and senior Jennifer Anthonie won the consolation final with a ninth place finish of 1:53.05. The quartet set a school record at sectionals a week earlier.

"If we swam a little better in the

trials we might have been able to get in the finals and that 1:53 would have taken sixth place," said East coach Mike Doerfler.

The 400 free relay of Woodling, Tori Mayer, Munroe and Anthonie placed eighth in a school record 340.23.

"That relay's time never stopped going down," Doerfler said. "At ECICs, we went 342.65. At sectionals, we went 341.36 and in the finals,

340.51. At states, we went 340.43 and 340.23. We didn't make huge drops but we kept getting faster each time which is what we wanted to do."

Anthonie finished 12th in the 100 free (53.66) and 14th in the 50 free (24.69) to close out her high school career.

"She had a very good state meet," said Doerfler. "It was a good way to finish off. Both times are a tenth away from her best times ever."

In the 100 butterfly, Munroe won the bonus heat with a 17th place finish of 59.45. Woodling swam under a minute for the first time in the event in 59.87, good enough for 19th place.

Munroe finished 29th in the 100 backstroke during Friday's pre-

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— Casey Matthews, Williamsville North diver

## Cross Country

# Sacred Heart closes season at Federation race

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Missing three starting runners, Sacred Heart's cross country team finished 27th at the New York State Federation race on Saturday at Bowdoin State Park in Wappinger Falls, N.Y.

Starters Brittney Gibbons and Jackie and Jenna Piecuch did not compete. Anna Ministero (238th, 24:35.5), Carly Hall (246th, 26:09.2) and Mary Russell (249th,

26:32.9) filled in. Kim Patterson led all Sacred Heart runners, finishing 208th in 22:46.2. Kerry Hurley was second (229th, 23:32.9), Amanda Zanghi was third (236th, 24:15) and Stephanie Smith was fifth (245th, 26:09) for the Sharks.

"We were hoping for better results but Patterson, Zanghi and Hurley raced what I expected them to," said Sacred Heart coach Rod Sarkovics. "They knew they had to pick up the slack. Ministero ran a better race than what I expected."

"The girls kind of gutted it out and did the best they could," he added. "It's a team effort and if someone is injured and can't race that day then I expect the next girl in line to step into the spot and that's exactly what they did."

In other cross country news:

Sweet Home's Jacob Hagen finished seventh in the boys race at the All-Western New York Checkers/Runners Roost Invitational Sunday at East Aurora High School. Hagen finished in 18:12 and earned

All-WNY First Team honors. Teammate Ryan Poley was 15th in 19:18. Williamsville North's Dave Johnson (35th, 20:24), Geoff Hurley (37th, 20:30) and Jon Adler (47th, 24:10) also competed.

Sweet Home's Megan Niblock finished 14th in the girls race in 22:41. Her younger sister Katie was 23rd in 24:06. Amherst's Brenna Symoniak (15th, 22:41) and Arielle Januszkiewicz (32nd, 26:09.19) also ran.

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# ASA women's major championship to return in 2008

The Amateur Softball Association Women's Major National Championship Fast Pitch Softball Tournament will return to Amherst in two years.

The tournament, to be held Aug. 6-10, 2008, was awarded to Metro Buffalo at the ASA annual meeting held last week in Colorado Springs, Colo. Amherst bested Auburn, Ala., Ft. Myers, Fla. and Broken Arrow, Okla. in the selection process.

The Women's Major tournament represents the highest level of ASA women's amateur softball competition in the United States. Amherst hosted the prestigious ASA event this past August. It was only the second time and first since 1984 that it had been held in Western New York. The tournament, played at the Amherst Girls' Softball complex at the Audubon Recreation Center, attracted 14 teams. The legendary Stratford Brakettes won its 27th national title since they began play in 1947.

"Following every major tournament, we rate the area and host and Buffalo Niagara earned 98.4 points out of 100," said Phil Augustino, ASA Junior Olympic Commissioner for Metro Buffalo. "ASA knows how well we run a tournament and that we know what we're doing."

Amherst has hosted several other ASA National Championship tournaments in recent years, including two ASA National Championships in the 23 and Under Division. It is hoped that the Women's Major and 23 and Under Division tournaments will be played in WNY on a regular basis in alternating years.

"The ASA looks at two criteria as most important in selecting a city and Buffalo met both - location and reputation," said Augustino. "Our location worked in our favor because we're close to many of the athletes and we have proven that we're an experienced and successful host of ASA events."

In addition, ASA selected Buffalo to host the 2007 National Under 10 Girls Fast Pitch National Qualifier; the 2007 National Under 12 Girls Fast Pitch National Qualifier; and the 2007 Mid-Atlantic Territory Meeting.

"We're thrilled that the Amateur Softball Association selected Buffalo to host these events," said Richard Geiger, President, Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Landing these events will bring 1,200 visitors and more than \$450,000 in direct economic impact while further enhancing our standing in the amateur athletics community."

ASA Metro Buffalo Commissioner Edward Lindsey, an ASA National Hall of Fame member, led the Metro Buffalo delegation. He was accompanied to Colorado Springs by Augustino, Metro Buffalo ASA player representative Bob Nowak, and Kristin Wood of the Buffalo-Niagara Con-

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