

State Meet 2020

No fans in the stands, no problem. Our athletes stepped up and swam great at this year's state meet, despite the absence of fans. As many observed, the girls were great at following the COVID-19 protocols established by the IHSGAU. There were many memories made with fast swimming in both Prelims and Finals. It was exciting to have the relays on Saturday and to see Ames finish with a TEAM win was impressive.

The meet got started on Friday afternoon with Bettendorf's Makayla Hubanks capturing the state title. It was her Coach Mary Doerder's 40th year coaching, and what a great way to celebrate. The Johnston divers did a great job earning team points as they finished 2nd, 5th, and 7th. The state divers did a great job of setting the tone for excellence.

Excellence was then displayed in our girls swims where during the two days of swimming we had 19 Automatic All-American swims and 15 Consideration All-American swims. Scarlet Martin also broke 5 State records; every time she entered the pool as an individual she broke another state record and finished the meet off with her teammates breaking the 400 Free relay state record. For Scarlet's efforts she earned State Swimmer of the Year.

In the team race it was interesting to see Johnston hold the lead up to the 50 free and then the team dominance of Ames took over. While Ames was led by Megan Donald winning the 50 & 100 free, her teammates were everywhere in the finals having many qualifiers in either the consolation or final heats, scoring a lot of team points.

The coaching staff of the year went to Ames for its team dominance. It was also a great way to remember the loss of their head coach, Dan Flannery who passed away earlier this year. Head coach Joe Fisher assisted by Ben Utesch and Cameron Rasmussen did a great job of keeping their girls focused on the goal and winning Ames their 9th state title on the girls' side.

We also remembered and inducted 4 new Hall of Famers: the late Dennis Peters for all his help officiating swimming over the years, along with Kate Galligan who just passed away earlier this month from cancer. Maggie James and Mindy Schulte also where inducted, but unable to attend. Overall, an outstanding Hall of Fame class for the girls in 2020.

Finally, we need to extend grateful thanks you to our administrator Jason Eslinger from the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) for making this meet possible. COVID-19 definitely made it a challenge, and through it all Jason did his best to get everyone into the meet. Another huge thank you to the many workers at the Marshalltown YMCA who devoted themselves to helping put on a great meet under our unique COVID-19 circumstances.

We have an outstanding high school swimming community in our state. A final thank you to everyone who helped in varied ways so our athletes could finish their season.

Sincerely,

Rick Loeffelholz
President, Iowa High School Swim Coaches Association