

STATE SWIMMING/DIVING THIS WEEKEND

The 56th KHSAA Swimming & Diving State Meet is scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23-24, at the University of Kentucky's Lancaster Aquatics Center in Lexington.

Friday's Preliminary competition begins at 10:15 a.m., with doors opening for warm-ups at 7:15 a.m. For Saturday's finals, doors open at 8 a.m., with competition beginning at 11 a.m.

General Admission is \$5 per day. Children under 6 will be admitted free.

Friday's preliminary entries are posted on the KHSAA website. Results from both days will also be available on the website.

Defending champions St. Xavier (boys) and Sacred Heart (girls) each won their regional competition and look to repeat as State Champion. St. Xavier has captured the last 12 boys' state titles and 13 of the last 14. The Tigers have 36 titles, which rank second in the nation for overall titles. Honolulu Punahou (HI) holds the record with 39.

Sacred Heart has an impressive streak of titles to its credit as well. The Valkyries own six consecutive girls' titles and have won 17 of the last 23. Overall, SHA has 19 girls' championships, ranking tied for fifth in the nation for overall titles. Punahou (HI) also holds the girls' record with 40.

ST. XAVIER CAPTURES STATE WRESTLING TITLE

St. Xavier, after finishing runner-up last year to Woodford County by just 2.5 points, picked up its second State Wrestling title in the last four years at the 38th KHSAA State Wrestling Championships held Friday and Saturday in Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in Frankfort.

The Tigers, boasting a qualifier in each of the 14 weight classes, finished with 158.5 points. The mark was the eight-highest ever recorded at the State Championships and just 2.5 points behind the mark the team scored en route to the 1998 title.

LaRue County was second at 124, while last year's champion Woodford County finished third at 120.

Sheldon Clark picked up the most individual titles with three (Derrick Mollette-145; Josh Muncy-189; John Dials-215). St. Xavier had two individual champions (Isaac Knable-140; Zack Steinbrock-152) as well as Woodford County (Tyler

Baldwin-112; Eric Slugantz-171). Knable was named Outstanding Wrestler.

Following are the individual champions and Top 10 Teams. Complete bracket results are posted on the KHSAA website.

Final Top10 Team Standings: 1. St. Xavier 158.5; 2. LaRue Co. 124; 3. Woodford Co. 120; 4. Simon Kenton 103; 5. Wayne Co. 102.5; 6. Sheldon Clark 90.5; 7. Campbell Co. 87.0; 8. Trinity (Louisville) 77.5; 9. South Oldham 63; 10. Henry Clay 61.5.

Individual Weight Class Champions

103 – Doug Upchurch (Wayne Co.); 112 – Tyler Baldwin (Woodford Co.); 119 – Brad Cooper (St. Xavier); 125 – Jason Daviaux (Scott); 130 – Neal Crawford (Seneca); 135 – Jordan Blackmore (Ryle); 140 – Isaac Knable (St. Xavier); 145 - Derrick Mollette (Sheldon Clark); 152 – Zack Steinbock (St. Xavier); 160 – Todd Allen (LaRue Co.); 171 – Eric Slugantz (Woodford Co.); 189 – Josh Muncy (Sheldon Clark); 215 – John Dials (Sheldon Clark); 275 – Mike Ramsey (Campbell Co.).

BOYS' BASKETBALL NOTES

(Taken from Member Schools' stats reports)

Caldwell County's Dustin Cash broke Michael Fraliex's school record of nine three-pointers made set in 1992 with 10 in a recent win over Providence. In the contest, Cash "cashed" in for a career-high 48 points.

Caverna's C.C. Woodard has posted 10 double-doubles (points/rebounds) in 21 games on the year. He leads the team in scoring at 18.6 ppg. and rebounding at 9.1 rpg.

Central Hardin connected on a school-record 13 three-point field goals in a recent win over Bardstown. The effort eclipsed the previous school record of 11 made last year against Caverna.

Christian Academy's Josh Pittman had a big recent three-game stretch. In wins over Highview Baptist, Evangel and Portland Christian, Pittman connected on 11 of 20 three-point attempts and 13 of 23 attempts inside the arc for 56% in scoring 85 points during the run.

Cumberland County's Patrick Hamilton had a pair of back-to-back impressive games. Hamilton scored 44 points in a 76-72 win over Allen Co.-Scottsville and then followed the performance with a 37-point effort in a 75-66 win over Adair County.

Fairdale coach Lloyd Gardner picked up his 200th career win in the Bulldogs' 76-59 win over Waggener last Tuesday. In his 10th season, Gardner has a 200-96 record.

Holy Cross (Covington) had two career-high performances last week. Jason Hinzman poured in 20 points last Tuesday against Newport while Ray Arlinghaus had 29 points against Lloyd Memorial.

June Buchanan's Zack Bentley posted his 1,000th career point last Tuesday in a game against Breathitt County. He is only the sixth player in the 17-year history of the Crusaders' program to accomplish the feat.

Madisonville-North Hopkins star Michael Haney continues to post strong numbers. Haney posted a double-double in an 87-56 win over Lyon County last Tuesday. He had 28 points, 20 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 blocks, 3 steals. Haney connected on 12 of 16 field goals and was 4-for-4 from the free throw line.

Marshall County's Aaron Lyles became just the ninth player in school history to score 1,000 points in a recent win over Fulton County.

Pikeville's Chase Gibson scored his 2,000th career point in a recent game against Pike Co. Central. Gibson is only the second player in school history to score 2,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds. The only other was Dickie Prater who played from 1948-50. Gibson stands third on the school's all-time scoring list, trailing only Prater and Mark Myers.

South Laurel's Richie Riley set a school record with 16 assists in a recent game against Whitley County. His effort ranks tied for fourth among state records.

Berea is enjoying a successful year. Through 24 games, the Pirates had held opponents to just 36.1% from the field en route to a 15-9 record.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL NOTES

(Taken from Member Schools' stats reports)

Belfry attempted a state-record 72 free throws in a 91-82 win over Johnson Central last Monday. The Lady Pirates were 50 of 72 from the line while Johnson Central was 19 of 30. Belfry's 50 free throws made was also a state record.

Boone County's Ciara Henderson had a strong outing in a recent win over defending region champion Highlands. Henderson was 4-of-5 from beyond the three-point arc and connected on all six of her free throws to tally 22 points. She also had 10 rebounds, an assist and a steal in the 58-32 win for the Rebels.

Estill County's Jessica Puckett scored her 1,000th career point in a game last Monday against Madison Southern.

At 21-4, two-time defending 11th Region champ Lexington Catholic has surpassed the 20 wins mark for the fifth consecutive year. Second-year coach Greg Todd has now had nine consecutive 20-plus coaching wins seasons.

Mercer County's lone senior Allison Pearson posted her 1,000th career point with a 22-point effort in an 89-40 win over Burgin last Monday. Pearson is one of only seven girls to accomplish the feat for the Scotties. In the same game, freshman Courtney Watts set a school mark with 15 assists.

Kristi Porter has become the first player to score 1,000 points and pull down 1,000 rebounds for Muhlenberg South.

Adair County's Samantha Grider has become the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,422 career points.

Pikeville's Jill Kimberlain recently surpassed 2,000 career points.

Jessie Rickels of Rockcastle County recently scored her 1,000th career point.

Russell's Samantha Nester, a freshman, scored her 1,000th career point last Monday in a game against Morgan County.

Scott's Amanda Matraccia and Colleen Pairan are making it difficult for opponents to get off shots. Matraccia set a school record with 11 blocks last Monday against Boone County. Pairan has 60 blocks on the year and tied the school record with 285 career blocks.

Jessica Schmidt became Walton-Verona's all-time leading scorer in last Thursday's win over Pendleton County. Schmidt had 28 points and 25 rebounds. She has 2,128 points, surpassing Sharri Clinkenbeard's mark of 2,103.

Wolfe County's Jessica Dunn enjoyed a stellar game in last Monday's win over Letcher. Dunn had 38 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals and 3 assists. She hit on 12-of-16 from the field and 4-of-6 from beyond the three-point arc.

BASKETBALL POSTSEASON SITES

Basketball enters the postseason with district basketball tournaments scheduled to begin next Mon., Feb. 26. Following are the sites of the tournaments. Tournament schedules are posted on the internet on the Riherd's KHSAA Scoreboard.

District Tournament Sites (Scheduled for Feb. 26-March 3)

1. Hickman County, 2. Heath, 3. St. Mary, 4. Calloway County, 5. Caldwell County, 6. Webster County, 7. Madisonville-North Hopkins, 8. Christian County, 9. Owensboro Sportscenter, 10. Butler County, 11. Hancock Co., 12. Grayson County, 13. Franklin-Simpson, 14. Greenwood, 15. Barren County, 16. Cumberland County, 17. Elizabethtown(boys) / North Hardin(girls), 18. Hart County, 19. Washington County, 20. Adair County, 21. Portland Christian(boys) / Presentation(girls), 22. Pleasure Ridge Park, 23. Fairdale, 24. DeSales(boys) / Holy Rosary(girls), 25. DuPont Manual, 26. Trinity (Louisville)(boys) / Assumption(girls), 27. Highview Baptist, 28. Christian Academy-Louisville, 29. Bullitt East, 30. Henry

County, 31. Trimble County, 32. Walton-Verona, 33. St. Henry, 34. Villa Madonna, 35. Covington Catholic(boys) / Notre Dame, 36. Bellevue, 37. Harrison County, 38. Campbell County(boys) / Bishop Brossart(girls), 39. Mason County, 40. George Rogers Clark, 41. Frankfort, 42. Lexington Catholic, 43. Bryan Station, 44. Eastern Ky. University (Model), 45. Boyle County, 46. Garrard County, 47. District Champion, 48. Pulaski Southwestern, 49. Jackson County, 50. Knox Central, 51. Middlesboro, 52. Harlan, 53. Jenkins(boys) / Fleming-Neon (G), 54. Perry County Central, 55. Breathitt County, 56. Wolfe County, 57. Sheldon Clark, 58. Betsy Layne, 59. Pike Co. Central, 60. Phelps, 61. Menifee County, 62. East Carter, 63. Raceland, 64. Paul Blazer.

Regional Tournaments (Scheduled for March 5-10)

Boys' Tournaments

1. Murray State University, 2. Hopkinsville, 3. Breckinridge County, 4. Western Ky. University, 5. Nelson County, 6. Louisville Gardens, 7. Louisville Gardens, 8. Henry County, 9. Holmes, 10. Mason County, 11. Eastern Ky. University, 12. Pulaski County, 13. Cawood, 14. Knott County Central, 15. Shelby Valley, 16. Morehead State University.

Girls' Tournaments

1. Murray State University, 2. Madisonville-North Hopkins, 3. Hancock County, 4. Allen Co.-Scottsville, 5. Green County, 6. Louisville Gardens, 7. Louisville Gardens, 8. Shelby County, 9. Conner, 10. Campbell County, 11. Paul Dunbar, 12. Russell County, 13. Cawood, 14. Powell County, 15. Shelby Valley, 16. Morehead State University.

SWEET 16® TOURNAMENT DRAWS

Following are the draws for the upcoming State Basketball Tournaments.

The Boys' State Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 14-17 at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

(All Times Eastern & Local To Site)

Wed., March 14

Region 9 Winner vs. Region 4 Winner, 1 p.m.

Region 15 Winner vs. Region 13 Winner, 2:30 p.m.

Region 10 Winner vs. Region 12 Winner, 7 p.m.

Region 7 Winner vs. Region 8 Winner, 8:30 p.m.

Thurs., March 15

Region 16 Winner vs. Region 14 Winner, 1 p.m.

Region 3 Winner vs. Region 5 Winner, 2:30 p.m.

Region 1 Winner vs. Region 11 Winner, 7 p.m.

Region 6 Winner vs. Region 2 Winner, 8:30 p.m.

Fri., March 16

Quarterfinals at 1, 2:30, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Sat., March 17

Semifinals at 10 and 11:30 a.m.

Championship at 8 p.m.

The Girls' State Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 21-24 at Western Kentucky University's E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green.

(All Times Central & Local To Site)

Wed., March 21

Region 7 Winner vs. Region 10 Winner, 12 p.m.

Region 4 Winner vs. Region 15 Winner, 1:30 p.m.

Region 8 Winner vs. Region 3 Winner, 6 p.m.

Region 5 Winner vs. Region 16 Winner, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., March 22

Region 6 Winner vs. Region 13 Winner, 12 p.m.

Region 11 Winner vs. Region 1 Winner, 1:30 p.m.

Region 12 Winner vs. Region 2 Winner, 6 p.m.

Region 14 Winner vs. Region 9 Winner, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., March 23

Quarterfinals at 12, 1:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Sat., March 24

Semifinals at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Championship at 7 p.m.

FINAL WEEK OF SWEET 16® TICKETS AT KHSAA

Tickets to both the Boys' & Girls' Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournaments remain on sale through the KHSAA and via the Association's internet site at www.khsaa.org through Feb. 23. Beginning March 1, tickets sales for both tournaments move to the host arena box office.

This special note, walk-up tickets purchased the day of the game at the gate will incur a \$1 per ticket charge at both tournaments.

Tournament package tickets (one ticket to each of the eight sessions) remain at \$96 for lower arena and \$48 for upper arena seating for the boys and \$96 for lower side arena and \$48 for endzone and upper arena seating for the girls' tournament.

"SWEET 16®" & "SWEET SIXTEEN®" TRADEMARKS

Please note the words "Sweet 16®" and "Sweet Sixteen®" are registered trademarks of the KHSAA and are to be used only for KHSAA sanctioned state championships, such as the boys' and girls' basketball tournaments played in March.

Included in the registration and restrictions are the words and any logo(s) designed to represent the state basketball tournaments. In addition, the Association has sublicensed the marks to the NCAA for postseason play. Media outlets are asked to give due diligence to the observance of the restrictions and to seek additional clarification from the KHSAA if desiring to use such marks.

HOW TO GET INFO IN THE WEEKLY RELEASE

The KHSAA requests assistance from member schools and media outlets to aid in the compilation and dissemination of notes of interest, coaches association polls and upcoming events in all sports. Information should be forwarded to the KHSAA, attention Butch Cope, by 1 p.m. (ET) on Monday of each week. You may e-mail (bcop@khsaa.org) the information or fax it to the KHSAA at (859) 293-5999. Information will be reviewed and published at the discretion of the Association. The KHSAA strives to publicize all of its sports to the fullest extent and appreciates any and all assistance.

REMAINING KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Feb. 23-24 - Swimming & Diving - UK Lancaster Aquatic Center, Lexington

March 14-17 - Boys' Basketball - Rupp Arena, Lexington

March 21-24 - Girls' Basketball - WKU Diddle Arena, Bowling Green

May 11-12 - Slow Pitch Softball - TBA

May 31-June 2 - Boys' & Girls' Tennis - UK Boone/Downing Complex, Lexington

June 1-2 - Track & Field - UK Shively Track Complex, Lexington

June 8-9 - Fast Pitch Softball - Skyview Park, Jeffersontown

June 14-15 - Baseball - UK Cliff Hagan Stadium, Lexington

THE NEXT REGULAR RELEASE WILL BE

MON. FEB. 26, 2001