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// Senior **Caleb Gaylor** swims the 100 yard butterfly at the 2018 IHSAA State Swimming Championships in Iowa City. This was his first year competing at state. "I thought it was an amazing experience. Overall, I think the meet went well because I went from no state events last year to four this year with two top ten finishes," said **Caleb Gaylor**.

Bravo's True Colors

Bravo performed their show this year with the theme of colors at Benton on February 10. The show starts with the singers dressed in black, white and gray, but then their costumes become more colorful during the show. They are showing their true colors.

The team won fifth place overall, and freshman **Sam Burrows** won the award for best male soloist.

"Sometimes we have dreams that we swear are reality at the time, but this was one of those real moments that you swear is a dream at the time it happens," said **Burrows**. I'm typically confident enough with my singing abilities, but never have I ever expected to actually win anything like that."



// Sophomore **Sadie Beal** performs on stage. This is her second year with Bravo. "It was definitely a hard competition. Every year we go knowing it'll be tough, but we always try our hardest," said **Beal**.

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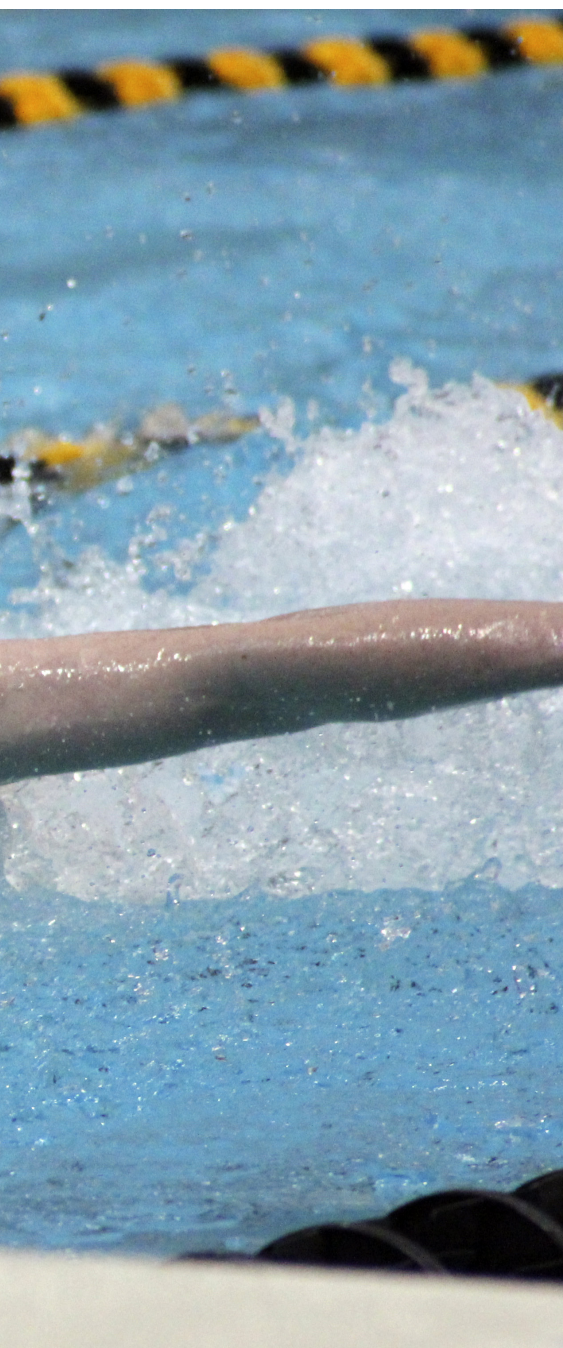
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State Swimming



The Pella High boys swim team sent three swimmers to the state meet held in Iowa City at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center on February 10. This year there were 36 high school teams that attended the meet with a total of 195 swimmers. It was the first year the meet has been held at the CRWC at the University of Iowa. In the past, the meet was held in Marshalltown.

The CRWC is known as one of the fastest pools in the state. The pool is an eight lane 50-meter pool with two bulkheads that turn the pool into two eight lane 25-yard pools. For the state meet, one half of the pool was used for the warm-up and cool-down and the other half held the competition. The use of the bulkheads creates less waves that come back on the swims unlike the pool in Marshalltown. The CRWC pool is around eight feet deep creating the optimal depth to reduce drag and resistance on the swimmers. The depth of the pool, college level blocks and timing systems, warm-up and cool-down pool, and water temperature all played a role in moving the state meet to the CRWC.

"It's always a fun experience to swim at the University of Iowa in the CRWC," said junior **Carter Briggs**.

The meet consists of eleven events with the top 24 swimmers in each event determined at the district meet the weekend before state.

Senior **Caleb Gaylor**, junior **Carter**

Briggs, and sophomore **Jacob Nedder** attended the meet for the first time along with Newton swimmers Mason Lee and Jacob Knoll. **Gaylor** swam four events, the 200 yard medley relay, 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly, and the 200-yard freestyle relay. **Briggs** swam both of the relays along with one individual, the 100-yard breaststroke, and **Nedder** swam on the 200 yard freestyle relay.

Gaylor went in seeded first in the 50-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100-yard butterfly. He ended up eighth in the 50 yard freestyle and ninth in the 100 yard butterfly.

"It was my first time at state, so I was very nervous. I ended up getting a bit discouraged after my races because I didn't get the times I had hoped to get, but I still enjoyed state a lot," said **Gaylor**.

The 200 yard medley relay placed 21st overall, and the 200 yard freestyle relay placed 15th with a time drop.

"I dropped time in the event I swam, and I gave it my all for the team. I've got some improvements to make for next year, but I'm proud of what I accomplished this season," said **Jacob Nedder**.

Briggs placed 24th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

"It's a great feeling knowing that I accomplished the goals that I set for myself individually and the goals that we set as a team," said **Briggs**.

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Senior Night

Seniors from the boys' basketball team were acknowledged during the halftime of the Dallas Center Grimes game.

The five seniors on the basketball team were **Travis Aldrich**, **Joseph Bacon**, **Landon VanderLeest**, **Avery VanZee**, and **Lucas Warner**. **VanderLeest** appreciated the experience.

"I thought it was a really cool experience. It doesn't seem like very long ago that I watched everybody else do it, so finally getting the chance to do it ourselves was pretty special," said **VanderLeest**. "Getting to experience it with my parents made it even better."

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LEFT // Senior **Landon VanderLeest** hands his mother a carnation while being acknowledged at senior night. "It is amazing how fast time goes by, and I'm glad I could share the moment with some of my best friends and family," said **VanderLeest**.

RIGHT // Senior **Travis Aldrich** escorts his mother and is accompanied by his father as he walk sto be honored. "Senior night was a great experience to be honored for all the work I've done in the basketball program over the years," said **Aldrich**.

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