



ADVERTISEMENT

NISSAN CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED
BEST CPO VALUE IN AMERICA

Based on Vincentric 2016 CPO Awards analysis and applicable 2012-2016 model year passenger cars in the U.S. CPO market.

NISSAN CERTIFIED Pre-Owned

LEARN MORE >

CIRCULARS

Highlands senior Bailey Bonnett sets career and state record in 100 breast stroke finale

March 18, 2017 12:24 AM



By Keith Barnes / Tri-State Sports & News Service

Highlands senior Bailey Bonnett always rates her personal performance against her personal best time.

With that in mind, it's not a surprise she was looking to drop her number one final time when she stepped onto the block Friday for her final 100 breast stroke high school race.

She didn't just set a personal best. She ended her career with a state record.

Bonnett, a senior at Highlands and a Kentucky recruit, hit the pool and immediately pulled away from the field as she finished in 1 minute, 0.84 seconds to close out her career with a fourth individual state title and second this year in the PIAA Class 2A swimming finals at Bucknell University's Kinney Natatorium. A day earlier she became the first swimmer from the WPIAL since 2010 to win the state championship in the 200 individual medley.

Lauren Barber of Wilmington set the previous record 1:01.09 in 2015, but Bonnett beat it by an impressive 0.25 seconds. The race itself wasn't even a race as she touched the wall 2.25 seconds ahead of second-place Abby German of Fairview.

"At first I thought it said 1:01.80 and I didn't think I got it," Bonnett said. "But then I realized that I did, so that was exciting."

Bonnett's previous best was the 1:01.61 she swam two weeks ago in the WPIAL finals at Pitt's Trees Pool. She won that race in record time as well, defeating second-place Heather Gardner of Mount Pleasant by 5.13 seconds.

In addition to the two PIAA titles she won this year, she also took home gold medals in the 500 freestyle in 2015 and 2016 and finished her career with eight individual medals — four golds, one silver and three bronzes.

"I'm excited to be done," Bonnett said. "But I'm also excited to look to the future and starting at Kentucky."

ADVERTISEMENT

LATEST IN

North Allegheny's PIAA boys swimming championship celebration on hold
about 11 hours ago

Highlands senior Bailey Bonnett sets career and state record in 100 breast stroke finale
2 days ago

Indiana High School's Madison Barker makes history as goalie in boys Penguins Cup Championship
2 days ago

Gateway freshman now focuses on PIAA gold
3 days ago

High school swimming notebook: North Allegheny looks to leave mark at the state level
3 days ago

PIHL playoffs preview: Franklin Regional the only team looking to defend its title
3 days ago

Bonnett was one of three swimmers to go home with two individual titles. "Swimmer of the meet" Courtney Harmish of West York won the 200 freestyle and the 100 backstroke and Ellwood City senior Taylor Petrak encored her Thursday night win in the 50 freestyle to claim the title of fastest sprinter in the state with a victory in the 100 freestyle.

Petrak's time went up slightly from her 50.33-second-seed time from her WPIAL championship performance, but she still came away with a 50.42 seconds that beat Northgate sophomore Karen Siddoway by 1.11 seconds.

"It was awesome to finish out my last year of high school with two wins, especially for a school that doesn't even have an actual team," Petrak said. "It shows that a person can do that even if they don't have an actual team behind them."

Petrak won't have that problem next year. She will be going from independent to Ohio State, which has a massive squad competing in the Big Ten Conference.

"It's definitely going to be cool to look back on and see what I have done," Petrak said. "I'm definitely happy with my 50 free time and my 100 and I can't wait to get to work this summer and go to OSU."

Shady Side Academy finished second in the 400 freestyle relay and is currently in second place in the team standings. Team standings will not be official as yet because the diving portion, which was moved back to next weekend to accommodate the winter storm that hit the central and eastern parts of the state earlier this week, counts as an actual event in the standings.

No WPIAL swimmers won titles on the boys side, but there were a couple of close calls.

Springdale's Kevin Kondrit, a Pitt recruit, came from nearly two lengths back on the final lap and nearly captured the 500 freestyle. But his late surge came up a handbreadth short as sophomore Danny Berlitz of Marian Catholic touched the wall in 4:33.66 and beat the Dynamos senior by 0.03 seconds.

Obama Academy junior Sead Niksic had the lead after the final turn of the 100 backstroke, but Lower Moreland junior Connor Killian, who swam the 500 freestyle a year ago, came on late and finished in 49.64, beating Niksic by 0.64 seconds.

Niksic is the first Obama Academy swimmer to get a silver medal at the PIAA meet. Thursday, he earned the school's first bronze with a third-place finish in the 100 butterfly.

Four Quick Questions

Do you think Justin Hunter is right for the Steelers?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

Next

Post-Gazette Question

Pro Football

NFL: Tom Brady's missing Super Bowl jersey found

NFL women's symposium to address operations jobs

Dwight Clark says he has ALS, suspects football a cause

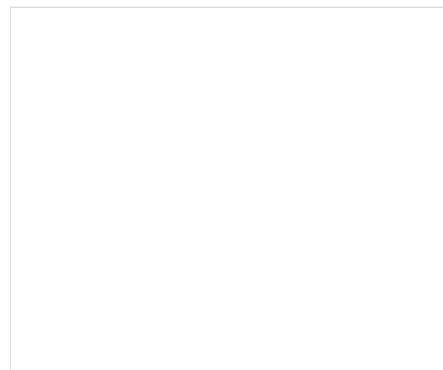
Jets sign former Cowboys CB Morris Claiborne to 1-year deal

Buffalo Bills reach deal to sign receiver Andre Holmes

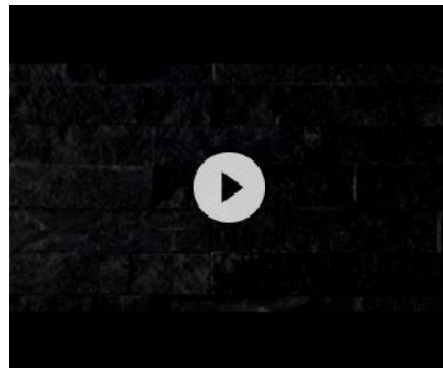
MORE

HOME

ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT



Related Media:

[Mars, New Castle boys face big scorers in PIAA quarterfinals](#)

Sign up for free newsletters and get more of the Post-Gazette delivered to your inbox

Most Read : Sports

1. The Steelers should follow the lead of their offensive line (<http://www.post-gazette.com/sports/steelers/2017/03/19/Steelers-offensive-line-Maurkice-Pouncey-Ramon-Foster-David-DeCastro-Alejanrdo-Villanueva-Marcus-Gilbert/stories/201703190052>)
2. Jaromir Jagr talks tribute video, warming relationship with Penguins

Most Emailed : Sports

1. Robert Morris falls to Notre Dame, 79-49 (<https://www.post-gazette.com/sports/rmu/2017/03/17/Robert-Morris-Colonials-falls-to-Notre-Dame-Fighting-Irish-79-49-NCCA-women-s-basketball-tournament/stories/201703170250>)
2. Jaromir Jagr talks tribute video, warming relationship with Penguins