

iew: Part III

ries on cross-country and swimming. A complete list of EPHS sports schedules can be found at www.edenprairie.org.

Girls swim/dive team looking for title, be it Lake, Section 6AA, or state

By Daniel Huss

The 2008 version of the Eden Prairie High School girls swim and dive team features 46 swimmers, eight divers, two swimming coaches, and one diving coach.

When looking at who the Eagles return (only everyone who scored points at last year's state meet), Eden Prairie has a chance to be very good-- very, very good actually.

"I'd expect this year's state team to be about the same size," said Eden Prairie Head Coach Dan Tripps, "but to be more powerful."

As an example, he mentions Megan Cummings. "Last year," he said, "she qualified for state in the 100-yard butterfly, but just barely. During the club season, she shattered those times.

"Now, he adds, "I'm thinking she has top eight potential."

Tripps would add that Stephanie Solfelt, Katie Bootsma and Rachel Bootsma would also have outstanding club cam-

paigns.

The same can be said for others as well.

Top three?

Assuming that everyone stays healthy, Tripps says this year's team has top three potential.

"We placed seventh last year," he explains.

But when asked for who he thinks will win it all, he's at a loss.

"It could be any one of five teams," he said, while mentioning Maple Grove, last year's state champion, Edina, Stillwater, and Minnetonka before naming his own squad.

The trick is to get his swimmers/divers on the same page.

"Some of them need a little help," he said, "as I'm not sure they think they can be this good."

In his next breath, he said that that's not the case for everyone.

"Some of the girls," he said, "know exactly how good they

can be, and they've been talking about it all year."

First things first

With the section and state meets coming at the end of the season, Eden Prairie's focus now is on winning a Lake Conference title.

Calling winning the conference "doable," Tripps lists his reasons.

"Reason No. 1," he said, "is that our meet with Burnsville, last year's conference champion, isn't at the beginning of the season. Last year, and being a new coach and all, I didn't even know who some of these girls were. Reason No. 2 is that this year's meet is at home, meaning our dive points count."

Last year, Burnsville defeated Eden Prairie during the second meet of this season. This year, the two teams meet Oct. 14, making that date the first of three circles on their calendars.

The other two are Nov. 13-15, Section 6AA meet dates, and Nov. 20-22, state meet dates.



PHOTO BY DANIEL HUSS

Molly Senske, Kelsey Goetz, Steph Solfelt, Jenny Nilson, Claire Ritzen and Anne Wachutka are the captains of this year's Eden Prairie High School swim and dive team.