

SPORTS

Is there a better fit for Silverton in OSAA league?

Pete Martini
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

For almost three decades, Salem-Keizer schools saw little change to the old Valley League.

Since 2006, however, schools have bounced around leagues and classifications statewide, resulting in the Salem-Keizer schools seeing seven schools move in and out of their league and the league undergo three name changes.

This has hurt traditional rivalries and created extra travel with opponents such as the Bend schools, a 264-mile round trip.

It has also made scheduling more difficult with a small league, like they'll have starting in the fall.

It's important to know how it got to this point, and if there is any hope of bringing stability back to Salem-Keizer's league in the future.

Moving from league to league

There are many former athletes and coaches who look back fondly on the old Valley League.

From 1979-2002, the 10-school league remained unchanged, with North Salem, South Salem, Sprague, McKay, McNary, Lebanon, West Albany, South Albany, Corvallis and Crescent Valley.

A small change was made in 2002 when newly built West Salem replaced Lebanon, which was moved to the Mid-western League.

Then came the 2005-06 OSAA re-classification cycle and a push statewide to expand the classifications to assure similarly sized schools played one another.

In the 2005-06 school year, the last with four classifications, the breakdown

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Silverton's Jordan McCarty carries the ball during the first quarter of the 5A state playoff game against North Salem. BRIAN HAYES/STATESMAN JOURNAL

OSAA 5A SWIMMING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Silverton's Catherine Hyde swims in the 100-yard butterfly during the OSAA 5A swimming state championships in Tualatin. PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL DOLLINS/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Central, Silverton swimmers win medals

Edith Noriega
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mid-Valley schools took home medals at the OSAA 5A swimming state championships at Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center.

Silverton's Catherine Hyde, who competed in four events, finished second in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 58.25.

"I have been sitting at a 59 (minute mark) for several years," Hyde said. "It was exciting to finally get the time that I have been working for."

"And then to know that I came out here after a season that was a complete rollercoaster in a lot of ways and place second in state is exciting."

The junior finished fourth in the 100-yard butterfly, seventh in the 200-yard medley relay and ninth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

"It was really just to have fun," Hyde said on competing at state. "I missed out on it last year, and I had so many goals. We have so many new freshmen coming in and I just wanted to go out, leave my mark and then come back next year and do it all over again."

Central's Gentry Hagedorn and Taylor Hagedorn also had successful swims.

Gentry finished second in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 53.88 and third in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:57.40.

Taylor finished second in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:13.43.



Central's Taylor Hagedorn leads in the 500-yard freestyle.



People gather to watch the OSAA 5A Swim Finals on Feb. 18.



Spectators watch the OSAA 5A Swim Finals on Feb. 18.

OSAA 5A STATE SWIMMING RESULTS

The OSAA swimming state championships were held at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center with the Class 5A events.

Below are the finals results, with the state champion of each event, as well as Mid-Valley swimmers.

5A Swimming Results

Girls 200 medley relay
Winner: Churchill (Kylie Taylor, Kelsey Wasikowski, Emily Ashton, Lauren Larsen) 1:49.83

Locals: 4. Willamette (Jossey St. Clair, Grace Oster, Emily Phillips, Lilly Hughes) 1:56.58; 5. Springfield (Kassandra McLennan, McKenzie Galloway, Saryah Judish, Emily Waddell) 1:59.75; 7. Silverton (Libby Grogan, Evie Smith, Catherine Hyde, Lucy Fronza) 2:01.23; 12. North Bend (Abby Woodruff, Gillian Baxter, Rebecca Witharm, Emma Slade) 2:03.79.

Boys 200 medley relay
Winner: Crescent Valley 1:42.51
Locals: 5. Willamette (Joseph Simmons, Timothy Pelkey, Evan Dickens, Joshua Phillips) 1:48.33; 7. North Bend (Trenton Parrott, Finley Cheal, Maverick Macalino, Henry Hood) 1:48.90; 12. Silverton (Micah Hurley, Nathan Barnes, Landon Miller, Grant Nealon) 1:55.43.

Girls 200 freestyle
Winner: Lauren Larsen (Churchill) 1:54.59
Locals: 3. Gentry Hagedorn (Central) 1:57.40; 6. Rebecca Witharm (North Bend) 2:04.14; 8. Kaitlyn Landis (Central) 2:05.54; 12. Anh Roemen (Springfield) 2:08.58.

Boys 200 freestyle
Winner: Thomas Olsen (Parkrose) 1:41.38
Locals: 7. Aidan Bolton (Churchill) 1:53.37; 8. Makani Buckley (Silverton) 1:54.28; 9. CJ Hollis (Silverton) 1:57.76; 11. Cash Hagedorn (Central) 2:07.15.

Girls 200 IM
Winner: Kylie Taylor (Churchill) 2:09.29
Locals: 2. Taylor Hagedorn (Central) 2:13.43; 4. Lonny Stork (Dallas) 2:18.70; 6. Kassandra McKennan (Springfield) 2:20.93.

Boys 200 IM
Winner: Marcus Gentry (Crater) 1:49.60
Locals: 4. Finley Cheal (North Bend) 2:01.06.

Girls 50 freestyle
Winner: Helena Jones (Wilsonville) 22.96
Locals: 7. Hope Mikkelsen (Dallas) 26.45; 8. Reese Wyatt (Thurston) 26.59; 9. Kaitlyn Landis (Central) 26.64; 10. McKenzie Galloway (Springfield) 26.65; 11. Emily Waddell (Springfield) 26.99; 12. Emily Phillips (Willamette) 27.15.

Boys 50 freestyle
Winner: Charley Page-Jones (Churchill) 20.39
Locals: 4. Joshua Phillips (Willamette) 22.03; 6. Maverick Macalino (North Bend) 22.70; 7. Benjamin Thompson (North Eugene) 22.75; 8. Kellen Hayter (Silverton) 23.24.

Mixed 50 freestyle para-athletes
Finals: 1. Adam Smith (Pendleton) 38.02; 2. Elizabeth Woodruff (North Bend) 45.22.

Girls 100 butterfly
Winner: Willow Messner (Redmond) 57.96
Locals: 3. Lauren Larsen (Churchill) 59.64; 4. Catherine Hyde (Silverton) 1:00.42; 7. Emily Ashton (Churchill) 1:03.88; 9. Saryah Judish (Springfield) 1:04.67.

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