



Mike Breitstein of Air Academy swims to a second-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly against Cheyenne Mountain High School on Friday at Liberty High School. JAY JANNER The Gazette

Strike unwritten rule

Cheyenne Mountain sinks Air Academy at Liberty High pool

By Nick Walter
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The rules at Liberty High School's swimming pool are simple: No food or drink. Do not run. No swimming without supervision. And no horseplay.

And for four years there has been an unwritten rule: No beating the Air Academy boys in a dual meet.

Not anymore. Cheyenne Mountain defeated Air Academy on Friday 120-66, the Kadets' first loss in a dual meet since they fell to Rampart in April 1996.

"I thought it would be more of a brawl," said Air Academy's Brian Densmore, a senior who experienced his first dual-meet loss in high school. "We just need to get better and better. We'll be flying at state."

Against Cheyenne Mountain,

however, the defending Class 4A state-champion Kadets paled in comparison. The Indians took first place in the first seven events, showing they are the team to beat in the area, if not the state.

This may have been the beginning of an Air Academy-like winning streak.

"We're going to be a solid team for the next four or so years," said Cheyenne junior Blake Foltz, who took first place in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. "We'll lose only a couple seniors this year."

Which should be no problem considering Cheyenne has "millions of people," as Densmore put it.

The Kadets' only first-place finish was achieved by sophomore Matt Karmondy.

Earlier, Karmondy watched as Cheyenne's Chris Holmes passed him in the last 12 yards of the 200 freestyle to take first place.

In the 500 freestyle, he again was matched up with Holmes, who had beaten him in the 500 at the Metro League Championship last season. Karmondy also was determined not to give up another lead to Holmes.

"When I hit the 250-yard mark, I looked back," Holmes said, "and he was two body lengths behind me. That's when I knew he wouldn't catch me."

And Air Academy would not catch the Indians as Cheyenne won every relay event. Stephen Maxfield won the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke, and Holmes won the 200 freestyle and placed second, behind Karmondy, in the 500.

"I knew we would have to get by them if we were going anywhere," said Cheyenne coach Pete Nichols, who predicted a 117-69 Cheyenne victory earlier. "There were no surprises, except the slow times because it was a slow pool."

Combined, the teams had 33 state qualifiers competing. Air Academy's Mike Breitstein, who was involved in a serious head-on car accident before the season, qualified in the 100 butterfly, placing second.

"Maybe when I go home later I'll feel like we lost, but I don't think so," said Air Academy coach Sharon Wood. "I don't feel like this was a loss because there were so many wins."

Nick Walter may be reached at 636-0250 or gtsports@gazette.com.

Boys
swimming

Chey. Mtn 120
Air Academy 66

THE FACT:
Cheyenne ended Air Academy's four-year dual meet win streak. The Kadets last lost to Rampart in April 1996.