

From Switzerland to State

■ Plymouth senior Mehmetaj, a foreign exchange student, to swim in Division 2 meet in Waukesha

Plymouth senior Elea Mehmetaj did not know there was a high school state swim meet until the first week of the season.

"When people found out I was not bad at swimming," the foreign exchange student from Switzerland said. "I was very excited."

Mehmetaj will compete in two events at the Division 2 championship Friday at Waukesha South, and host parents Nikki and Jason Jaeckels will cheer her on, like they have at every meet this season.

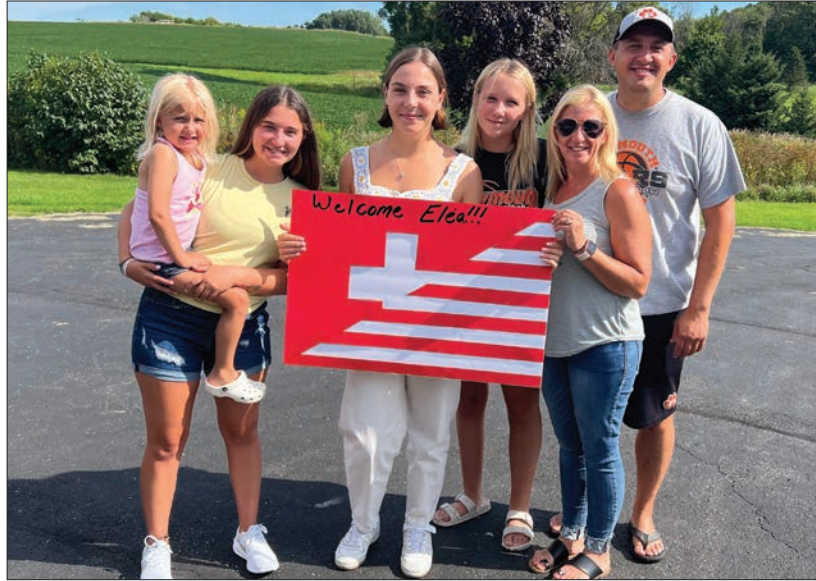
"Like our own child, for sure," she said.

Mehmetaj enters the 100-yard freestyle with the ninth-fastest qualifying time, and she says her goal is to be in the top six to earn a medal.

She will also swim in the 200.

"Elea has been flexing her swimming skills all season and we are very excited for her to have an opportunity to shine at the state meet," coach Dave Coley said.

Mehmetaj, who plans on practicing with the boys team because she enjoys the sport so much, had to wait a bit over the weekend to see if her 200 time was fast enough to make it to state.



ELEA MEHMETAJ (holding the flag) and the Jaeckels (from left to right: Ellison, Kaleigh, Ava, Nikki and Jason) will be at the state swim meet on Friday. - Submitted photo

"(Daughter) Ava, who's closest to her age, quite frankly I think, was the giddiest when we found out Elea qualified for her 200," Jason said.

"We were all pretty confident based on her seed times that she was going to get in the 100 and she was kind of on the fence with the 200. When Ava found out she got in the 200, you thought she opened a Christmas present or something."

Ashwaubenon Sectional

Mehmetaj advanced thanks to her time of 54.91 seconds in the 100 free and a 2:00.35 in the 200. She finished third in both races on Saturday, helping the Panthers to a sixth-place showing in the 13-team meet.

Two sophomore divers just missed out joining her, as Lauren Cantwell finished fourth with 291.70 points and Hope Southworth was fifth with a score of 282.45.

The 400 free relay, which consisted of Kaitlyn Levsen, Celia Struve, Cadence Seymour and Mehmetaj, came in fifth in 4:06.32.

Those four were also on the seventh-place 200 free relay team that touched in 1:50.37.

Hoops games begin

The girls basketball season is underway, and Plymouth's first game will be at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday at New Holstein.

The Panthers' home opener is at 7 p.m. Thursday against Sheboygan North.

Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah's opener is also Tuesday, at Living Word Lutheran at 7:15 p.m.

Howards Grove has to wait until next Friday for its first game, when it visits Kiel at 7 p.m. The Resorters and Tigers meet at 7:15 p.m. on Nov. 22 for a Big East Conference contest.

On Monday, boys basketball, wrestling and swimming start practicing.

(Previews of winter sports will run in the next issue)



HOWARDS GROVE'S volleyball team celebrates after beating St. Croix Falls for its fourth straight volleyball championship Saturday in Green Bay. - Photo by Dave Boehler

Four years, four state titles for Tigers

In the history of WIAA state tournaments in the fall, only seven girls teams have won more than four consecutive championships:

| School | Sport | # in row |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Waupun | Volleyball | 5 |
| Madison Edgewood | Swim | 7 |
| Arrowhead | | 5 |
| Brookfield Central | Tennis | 5 |
| Nicolet | | 5 |
| Homestead | | 5 |
| Madison West | Golf | 5 |

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