

'Cats rewriting record books

Newark relay sets fast pace for season

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NEWARK — The Wildcats 200 medley relay team started its season out right, with a new school record.

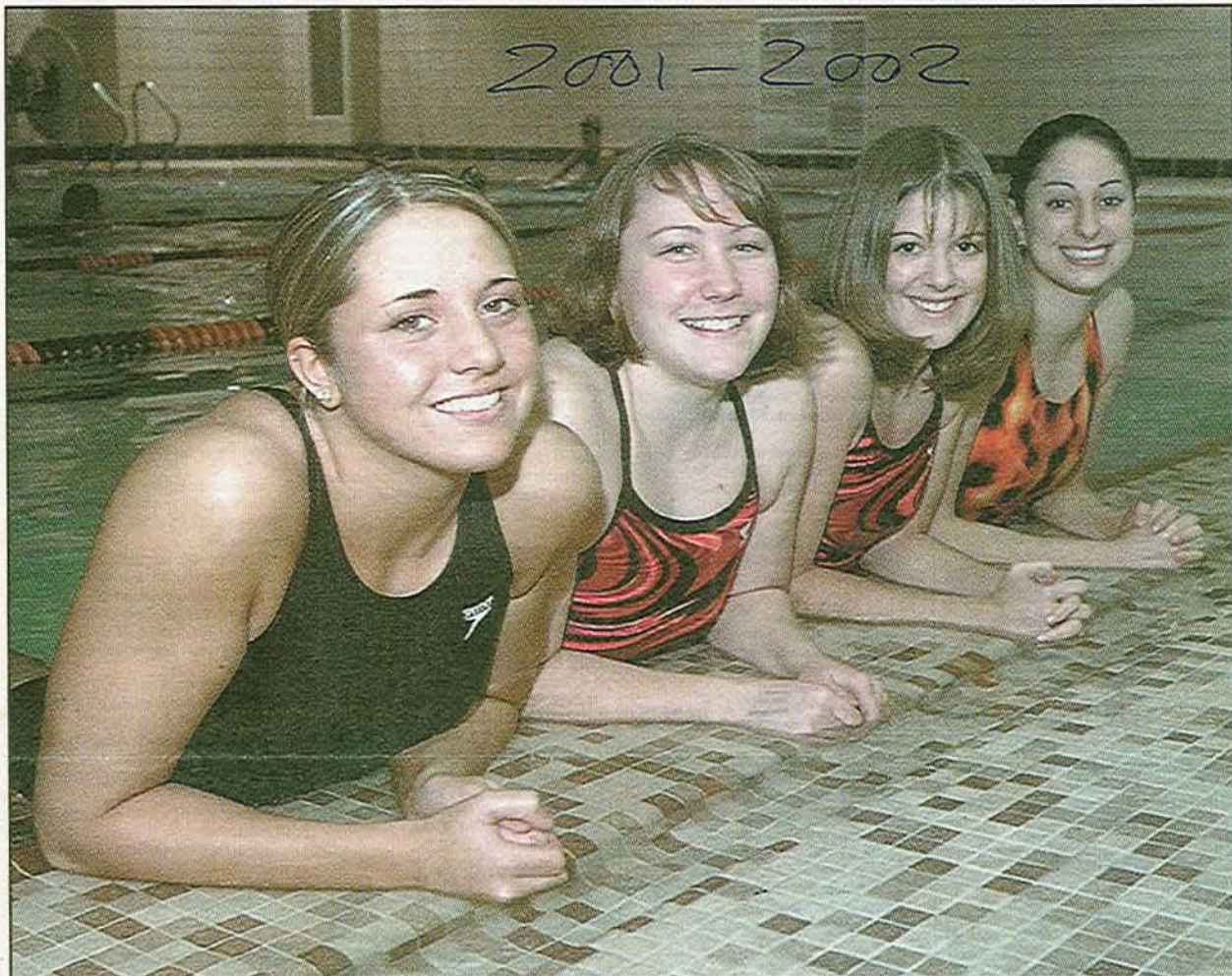
"I knew at the end of last season they would probably be able to break the record the first time around this year, and the girls felt the same confidence and got the job done," Newark coach Maura Horgan said. "This is the first year we have had strong swimmers at each of the four strokes involved in the relay."

Ellen Hacker, Courtney Crist, Carina Hertz and Lindsey Sims downed Newark High's old record by almost an entire second during the first event of the first meet of the season.

"I felt incredibly excited that we broke a record that took us a year to break," Crist said. "Coming out our first meet and already being that fast is great. I cannot wait until districts and state because we might be able to do even better and break the record again."

The old record was set in 1993 at 2:05.14. Hacker, Crist, Hertz and Sims clocked in at 2:04.28 on Nov. 29 to set the new mark at the Rosecrans meet.

"Since it was the first event of the year the kids are really excited. It gives us a good glimpse of what we are capable of for the rest of the year and sets a good precursor for the season," Horgan said.



From left to right: Courtney Crist, Carina Hertz, Lindsey Sims and Ellen Hacker make up the Newark 200 medley relay swim team, which broke a school record set in 1993. (David Rivera, *The Advocate*)

Swimming

The four new record holders should prove to also be the top point getters for the Newark girls squad this year. And, their ability is one of the main reasons Newark will be posting a new time on its record board.

"I have been coaching for nine years and this record was established right before I started my coaching career," Horgan said. "During my time, it was the only record that we couldn't break. This year we just have the right mix of girls. The three seniors and one junior on the relay are good, but this might be

the best year we have had overall for the girls team."

Crist swims the breaststroke, Sims freestyles, Hertz does the butterfly while Hacker and Sims swim backstroke.

The girls have already led the Wildcats to a 4-0 record thus far in the season.

"We can only get better from here," Crist said.

"If we work hard and take the time to perfect ourselves we will be very successful."

If Newark's 200 medley relay team peaks at the right time, it may just make it to the state meet.

That would require the girls placing third or better at the district competition



Carina Hertz practices the butterfly stroke at the Newark Family YMCA. (David Rivera, *The Advocate*)

in February at Ohio State University.

"We have the chance of making it to state because

we are doing so well right now," Crist said. "I feel that we are just starting to peak and we will only get faster."