

09/10/2007

Martin Earns Weekly Honor as Swimmer

By BOB MONTGOMERY , Bristol Press Correspondent

BRISTOL - If she's anything like her mom, Meegan Wright Martin, Faith Martin, this week's pick as "Athlete of the Week" for summertime sports, will not go unnoticed in high school.



Mom was a record-breaking swimmer two decades ago for Bristol Eastern who went on to earn All-American honors in college at both the University of Miami and Texas A&M. Asked where she is today compared to her mother as a freshman just entering high school, Faith Martin admitted to being just a step ahead.

"She started U.S. Swimming at age 16 and I started when I was 13," said Faith Martin. "That's the difference."

Taking up the sport at age four, the younger Martin has steadily grown in it to where she hopes to qualify for the Olympic Trials next year in the 200 breaststroke, her best event. She has a 2:43 best and to qualify she needs to bring it down eight seconds this fall.

"It's qualifying for 2008 or having to wait until 2012," Martin explained.

Swimming for the U.S. Cougar Aquatic team (CAT) out of Wallingford, she has traveled to and competed in different parts of the country as well as in Connecticut.

She recently returned from Olympic swimming headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo. where she attended a swimming camp, and has competed as far as in Ohio, where she finished fifth in sectional competition for the 200 breaststroke.

As far as Connecticut goes, she captured first place in the 200 breaststroke this spring in competition with girls from both the high school and college levels. This event took place at Wesleyan University.

She added that she was unaware of what her mother's accomplishments were when she first began competing herself, but now has a better understanding of what they were.

And, she'll benefit from her mother's experience because she is her coach this fall swimming season at St. Paul.

As far as this season will go, she hopes to be able to try different events.

"I want to mix it up this season," said Martin.

The family is no stranger to "Athlete of the Week" selections this summer because she is the second family member to be selected for the recognition during this period. Her sister, Lilly, was outlined as the female "AOW" pick in the July 30, 2007 edition of the Bristol Press as a member of the Bristol's 9-10 all-star softball team.

NOTE: Male and female "Athlete of the Week" selections during the 2007-2008 school year will only come from the pool of area high school athletes.

Ad