

## Linn-Mar nips Kennedy in regional swimming

Written by Jake Koolbeck

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By many, few, or just one point a win is a win and the Lions of Linn-Mar will take it.

Linn-Mar won the regional swimming and diving championship Saturday afternoon at Kennedy by just one point. The ninth-ranked Lions edged the No. 8 host Cougars 457-456 to claim the title.

"I honestly had (Kennedy) winning, it was a good surprise (to win)," Linn Mar Coach Chad Derlein said. "Both teams swam lightning fast."

Linn-Mar and Kennedy were joined by 28th-ranked Jefferson in representing the Metro in the regional meet. The J-Hawks finished fifth, behind Muscatine and Bettendorf.

All three Metro schools had swimmers win events and guarantee themselves a spot in the state meet at Marshalltown next Saturday. Winners in each event and the next 18 best times from across the state qualify for the state meet. Cut-off times will be announced later tonight.

Kennedy and Linn-Mar both had a phenomenal day in the pool. Kennedy set a school record in the 200 yard freestyle relay and would have set two pool records if not for the Lions beating them to it. Linn-Mar broke pool records in both the 200 freestyle relay and the 200 medley relay.

"I was really pleased with the girls' efforts, there was some great competition here," Kennedy Coach John Ross said. "It was not quite a lifetime swim, but it was close."

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