

## Fab 4 lead Washington swimmers

Written by Jim Ecker

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Cedar Rapids Washington Coach Chris Cruise used the word "struggle" a few times while talking about his boys swimming team.

He talked about how the Warriors "struggled" last year and might continue to "struggle" again this season if they don't improve in a couple of key events.

Keep in mind, Washington finished fourth at the state meet last year and has an excellent chance of competing for high honors again this season.

A lot of schools would like to "struggle" like that, but Washington has established a level of excellence with 27 state team championships and 48 straight district crowns. Sometimes, fourth in the state meet is not quite good enough.

"The guys have set some really high goals for themselves this year, as we always do around here," Cruise said. "I think we have a good chance to realistically achieve those goals."

When Cruise mentioned "really high goals," he was talking primarily about individual and state titles. That's where Morgan Barnes, Ian Ford, Scott Allison and Josh Hughes enter the conversation.

Barnes placed second in the 200 freestyle and third in the 500 freestyle last year, finishing behind seniors both times. Ford grabbed fourth in the 100 backstroke and seventh in the 200 individual medley.

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