

Drake, Jenks sisters not swimming for L-M

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Linn-Mar girls swim team had a chance to compete for the state title this fall, but not anymore.

Kelsey Drake, Jennifer Jenks and Stephanie Jenks will not be swimming for Linn-Mar this season, stripping the Lions of the firepower that helped them finish fifth at the state meet in 2014.

Drake won two individual titles at the state meet last year as a sophomore, but she's told the Metro Sports Report she plans to train for the U.S. Olympic Trials in June and will not compete for the Lions this year.

Drake has qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 100 meter butterfly.

Jennifer Jenks placed second in two individual events at the state meet last year as a sophomore, but her mother said she had a rotator cuff injury last year and will not be swimming for Linn-Mar.

"She took some time off to heal and discovered there was a life outside of swimming," Deb Jenks told the Metro Sports Report. "She has just decided to pursue other interests."

Stephanie Jenks helped Linn-Mar place third in the 400 freestyle relay at the state meet last year as a junior - along with Drake and her sister - but she is one of the top distance runners in the country and will be busy this fall with college visits.

Stephanie Jenks joined the Linn-Mar swim team (in part) to help improve her performances in the swim portion of the triathlon, but she has set triathlons aside to focus on running. She won the silver medal in the triathlon at the Junior Olympics in China last summer.

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Drake won the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly at the 2014 state meet. She transferred to Linn-Mar last year after spending her freshman year at Jefferson. She plans to train with the Linn-Mar club team in preparation for the Olympic Trials.

Jennifer Jenks placed second in the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle at the state meet last year.

Linn-Mar Coach Chad Derlein-Hoffman could not be reached for comment Monday morning. High school swimming practice began Monday.