

Urbi is busy guy for Kennedy swimmers

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 16 January 2014 22:57 -

Don't be alarmed if you see Brennan Urbi dashing from one end of Kennedy High School to the other. And then back again.

He might be hustling to swimming practice. Or racing to show choir rehearsals. Or joining the speech club for improv. Or trying to squeeze in a few minutes for homework.

"The north end of our building, the south end of our building, he's a very talented young man," Kennedy swim coach Shawn Thomsen said Thursday night.

Urbi won three events Thursday and helped the Cougars slip by Jefferson, 92-75, in a Mississippi Valley Conference meet at Kennedy. He graciously had time for a quick interview before heading to his next activity ... or perhaps a nap.

He's a busy boy.

"Oh yeah, I stay nice and busy," he said with a smile. "It's a handful."

From all accounts, the multi-talented sophomore is doing just fine with all his activities and has a 3.9 GPA to boot, but there are some extremely long days.

"I get here at 5:45 every morning, swim, go to school, have afternoon practice and then I'm here until about 9 every night to do show choir and speech," he said. "It's what I love to do, so I just try to make as much time as I can. I just love it."

"Any little snippet of 10 minutes I can find, I'm doing homework. I was thinking of maybe putting my homework on a kickboard."

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Urbi won the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke Thursday and swam a swift anchor leg on the triumphant 400 freestyle relay to finish the meet.

Paul Hummell of Jefferson also won three events, making them the only three-time winners.

Urbi's father is a doctor and his mother is a teacher. He's just a sophomore and is not sure what he'd like to do after high school and with the rest of his life.

"It's totally up in the air right now," he said. "I guess I'm just going to see where everything falls. Maybe swim, maybe act. I could be a doctor. Just whatever I feel like at the time. I just want to see where life takes me."

Urbi competes against swimmers who focus on one activity at a time, but that's not for him, even if it might make him a little faster.

"I think I'm giving it all I have in swimming right now," he said. "I don't think it would be worth it to give up the other things that I love."

Urbi helped the Cougars break the school record in the 200 freestyle relay last year as a freshman and he's set his sights on snapping the school mark in the backstroke this year.

"He has his goals set high and he works hard to achieve them," said Thomsen.

Urbi is extremely proficient at time management, but admits he sometimes needs to push himself to get moving in the morning.

"Every day," he said. "It's a battle between me and my alarm. I have to set like three alarms to actually get here. But I always end up here, so that's got to tell you something."

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There are inevitable conflicts among swimming, show choir and speech, but he's able to work it out with his coaches and instructors.

On one particular Saturday, he performed with the Kennedy show choir at Prairie High School, drove to Dubuque for a swimming meet and then returned to Prairie for the show choir awards. "So I'm all over the place," he said.

Kennedy won six of 11 events Thursday on Senior Night. Stefan Kitsos and Cade Schoenauer were double-winners for the Cougars.

Paul Hummell won the 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke for Jefferson and swam on the victorious 200 medley relay. Max McChesney captured the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle for the J-Hawks.

KENNEDY 92, JEFFERSON 75

200 medley relay

1. Jefferson (Schmuecker, P.Hummell, Homan, L.Hummel) 1:47.15
2. Kennedy (Urbi, Kitsos, Gibson, Schoenauer) 1:47.75
3. Jefferson (Templton, Hoogestraat, Martin, French) 1:56.90

200 freestyle

1. Max McChesney (CRJ) 2:01.69
2. Evan Batterson (CRK) 2:04.13
3. Luke Hummell (CRJ) 2:04.79

200 IM

1. Stefan Kitsos (CRK) 2:11.29
2. Noah Hoogestraat (CRJ) 2:19.38
3. Brady Gibson (CRK) 2:19.70

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50 freestyle

1. Brennan Urbi (CRK) 22.73
2. Evan Bednar (CRK) 25.12
3. Cade Schoenauer (CRK) 25.18

100 butterfly

1. Cade Schoenauer (CRK) 1:03.58
2. Nate Homan (CRJ) 1:05.42
3. Alec Hanson (CRK) 1:12.47

100 freestyle

1. Paul Hummell (CRJ) 52.23
2. Luke Hummell (CRJ) 53.57
3. Evan Batterson (CRK) 55.94

500 freestyle

1. Max McChesney (CRJ) 5:28.23
2. Tim Zange (CRK) 5:45.00
3. Bryce Buresh (CRJ) 5:57.21

200 freestyle relay

1. Kennedy (Ruzicka, Kitsos, Bednar, Schoenauer) 1:37.79
2. Kennedy (Lyon, Linder, Zange, Batterson) 1:41.56
3. Jefferson (Hoogestraat, Templton, Schmuecker, McChesney) 1:42.63

100 backstroke

1. Brennan Urbi (CRK) 57.67
2. Austin Schmuecker (CRJ) 1:03.32
3. Evan Bednar (CRK) 1:04.79

100 breaststroke

1. Paul Hummell (CRJ) 1:03.71

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2. Stefan Kitsos (CRK) 1:06.60
3. Noah Hoogestraat (CRJ) 1:10.37

400 freestyle relay

1. Kennedy (Gibson, Zange, Batterson, Urbi) 3:35.46
2. Jefferson (Martin, Homan, L.Hummell, P.Hummell) 3:37.69
3. Kennedy (Ruzicka, Stecker, Bednar, Lyon) 3:49.93