

It's too bad they don't have a decathlon for high school swimmers.

If anyone could win 10 events at one meet, it would be Linn-Mar sophomore Kelsey Drake.

Freestyle, butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke. Sprints, middle distances, long distances. It wouldn't matter.

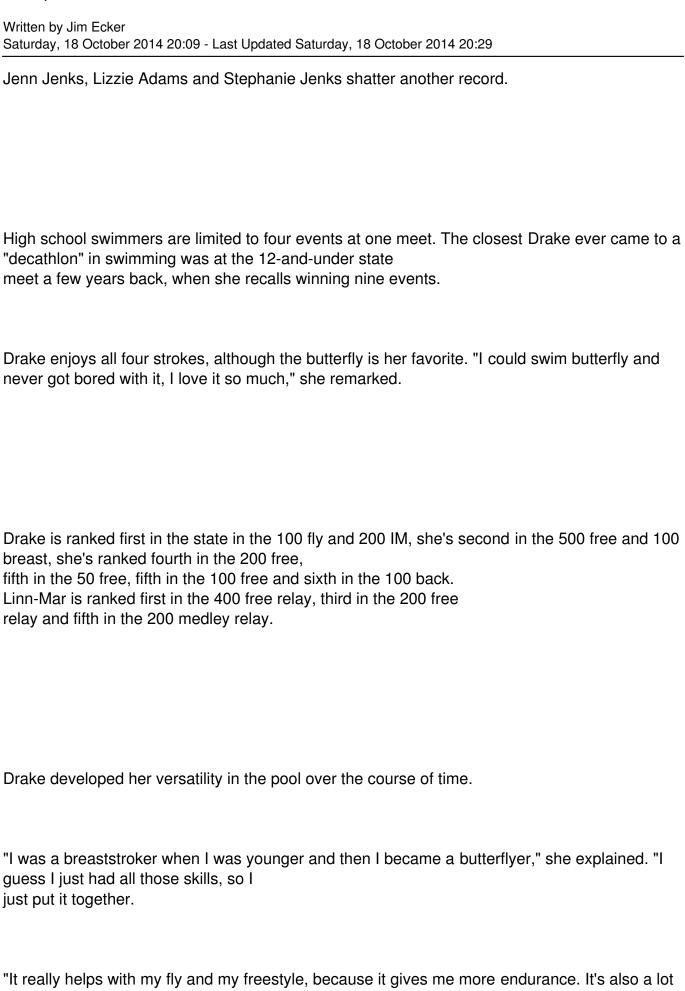
Drake, Drake, Drake.

"It would be her," Linn-Mar Coach Chad Derlein confirmed Saturday. "It doesn't matter, she can swim it. Whatever event.

"She's probably the most versatile swimmer I know."

Drake starred at the Mississippi Valley Conference meet at Kennedy Saturday. She broke meet records in the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly, then had a sizzling anchor on the 400 freestyle relay to help

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more fun, I think, to do that because I get bored swimming one stroke all the time."

Except for the butterfly. She could swim the butterfly all day.

Drake snapped the MVC record in the 200 IM in 2:07.35, breaking the conference meet record of 2:07.90 that had been around since 1996. She topped the MVC standard in the 100 butterfly in 56.16, breaking her old record of 57.19 set last year.

The Lions were clocked in 3:38.95 in the 400 relay, breaking the old mark of 3:39.05 set by Cedar Falls in 1997.

Drake dove into the water for the anchor leg of the 400 relay about a body length behind Cedar Falls star Brittany Moffatt, but she caught Moffatt and won the race by more than a second.

"I wanted to win really bad," said Drake, who flew through the water in that final race. "We really wanted to get that record, so I just went out there and gave it my all. And we did it."

Drake and her teammates were fast Saturday, but they've actually been faster at other times this season. Drake has gone faster in the 200 IM and 100 fly and the Lions have gone faster in the 400 free relay, but you can only set conference records at the conference meet.

"It was an 'average' conference meet for us," said Derlein, who has come to expect fast times from his athletes.

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