

# 2023 State Journalism Championship



## **#12 Yearbook Sports Feature Writing** **Time Limit – 1:15**

**Directions:** Using the background information, facts and quotes, write a sports feature story that would appear in the sports section of the yearbook. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. Entries will be evaluated on accuracy and quality of writing.

**When you are finished:**

1. **Type you first and last name at the top of the document.**
2. **When you are finished save your document as a PDF with the filename: yourfirstlastname\_YBsportsfeature\_Class (For example: SusieSmith\_YBsportsfeature\_ClassA).**
3. **Notify the proctor when you are finished.**

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For the second time in school history, the Sheridan County High School girls' swimming team is the Fox River Classic Conference (FRCC) champions.

In a tight finish at the conference swimming and diving meet, Sheridan County (504 points) edged Pearson (503.5) at the Sheridan County High School pool on April 10.

Sheridan County Swim Coach Kari Klecka was named conference coach of the year.

The Longhorns won eight of the 11 swimming events — five individual titles and three relays.

Sheridan County's Bri Klecka and teammate Brandy Klecka combined to break four conference records in the meet.

Bri Klecka, a senior who was named the conference swimmer of the year, won the 100-yard freestyle in the record time of 52.27 seconds. She also captured the 100 backstroke with a conference-record time of 57.91.

Brandy Klecka, a senior, took home first in the 200 freestyle (1:54.49) and 50 freestyle (24.07) — both record times.

That Sheridan County duo was also instrumental in helping win two relays. Bri Klecka, Brandy Klecka, Berritt Herr and Kelly Vyskocil won the 200 medley relay in 1:52.22. The 400 freestyle relay team of Erin Schuch, Nadia Perez, Liz Witt and Brandy Klecka took first in 3:41.64.

Schuch won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:17.65 and was also second in the 100 butterfly (1:02.60).

Kari Klecka was on the original Conference Champion team as an athlete. She now coaches and her twin daughters swim for Sheridan County. Both swimmers were individual conference champions.

Pearson nabbed seven second-place finishes that aided them in finishing second as a team.

**Bri Klecka, Sheridan County athlete**

“Our team really banded together today. We went into our conference meet with the goal of earning the team championship. We did it and it was so amazing. All those early morning practices really paid off and I am so proud of our team.”

**Michael Dominguez, Sheridan County Principal**

“So incredibly proud of these girls. They have worked hard all season, and to come out with a win was a perfect way to finish their conference meet.”

**Kari Klecka, Sheridan County Coach**

“I am so proud to be these girls’ coach. They have done everything asked of them this season. They show up hungry and ready for practice day in and day out. Bri had an amazing day and to be named the conference swimmer of the year is a perfect ending to her amazing season. It is pretty special to coach your own children. This year has been something I’ll never forget.”

**Brandy Klecka, Sheridan County Athlete**

Mom told our team we would be competitive coming into the conference tournament. Bri had an awesome day and really dominated. I was proud of my sister. She rocked it today. And my mom got conference coach of the year. And don’t think because my coach is my mom that she takes it easy on me. Sometimes it’s brutal, but totally worth it in the end.