

Cougars eye spark from divers

By K.J. Pilcher

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CEDAR RAPIDS — Cedar Rapids Kennedy has a strong tradition in girls' diving.

PREP SWIMMING

Savannah Schott and Liz Hayes will try to carry on that tradition in the Mississippi Valley Conference meet tonight at Loras College in Dubuque. The meet begins at 5 with diving and resumes Saturday noon with swimming.

Schott is seventh in the IGHSU power rankings for six and 11 dives. Hayes is 10th and eighth, respectively.

According to Kennedy diving coach Leslie Nelson, they motivate each other but have reached



Savannah Schott
Kennedy diver



Liz Hayes
Kennedy diver

this point via different paths.

Schott, a gymnast until injury forced her to stop competing, is in just her ninth week of diving and has amazed her coaches with her ability to catch on. She has advanced to dives with 2.5 degree of difficulty.

"It's gone surprisingly well," said Schott, a senior. "I never thought I'd do this well, getting first or second. It's really ex-

citing. I enjoy it."

Hayes, an established all-Metro diver, has qualified for the state finals the last two seasons and placed 12th last year.

"One of my main goals is to qualify for state again," Hayes said. "Also to make the podium this year."

Kennedy has been the top team in the Metro this season and will battle Cedar Falls and Iowa City West, the MVC's Valley and Mississippi Division leaders. The Cougars are hoping for a boost from tonight's diving.

"Our divers have been really consistent and have scored very well," said Kennedy Coach John Ross. "We're definitely going to get started on the right foot. There's no doubt about that."