

# Sisters share 1 sport at 2 C.R. schools

By K.J. Pilcher

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Christina and Alexandra Scharmer bring a twist to sibling rivalries.

The sisters are on rival swim teams. Alexandra is a sophomore on Cedar Rapids Kennedy's squad, and Christina is a senior for Cedar Rapids Washington. The two teams battled Tuesday at Kennedy when the Cougars came out on top, 110-76. The Scharmers exchanged some good-nature debate about which team was better before

the meet.

"We're usually not competing directly against each other," said Christina, who decided to transfer from Kennedy to Washington after her sophomore year. "The team rivalry is a lot more intense than the individual rivalry. We're always comparing our teams rather than comparing ourselves,"



**Christina Scharmer**  
Wash senior



**Alexandra Scharmer**  
Kennedy sophomore

"We're pretty competitive when we talk about it," Alexandra said. "(Tuesday) we were both cheering for each other."

It went beyond just cheering. The pair decided to switch team swim caps. Alexandra held Christina's lap cards while

she swam the 500 free. They had to clear it with a meet official, who

said he couldn't think of a rule against it, creating a special moment.

"You usually choose a supporter," Christina said. "She's one of my biggest supporters."

Christina was fourth in the 500 free (6:09.41) and third in the 200 free Tuesday. Alexandra had a little more success with runner-up finishes in the 100 fly (1:02.47) and 100 back (1:04.58) and contributing to two relay wins.

## West GRANDIC's best

Iowa City West is off to a strong start at 6-0 over-

all and 5-0 in the Mississippi Valley Conference.

West is seventh in the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union power rankings, one spot behind Decorah. West is led by seniors Grace Murray and Megan Hingtgen, junior Sarah Weihe, Kathleen Bowman, a sophomore and freshman Savannah Butler.

Murray, a multiple state medalist, ranks fourth in the 100 fly (1:00.68) and 10th in the 200 free (2:00.78). Bowman is 10th in the 500 free (5:27.00). Weihe,

Butler, Murray and Bowman team for the state's eighth-fastest reported time in the 200 medley relay (1:56.45).

## Cougars host invite

Kennedy hosts the competitive Cougar Invitational this Saturday with diving at 9 a.m. and swimming at noon.

The 10-team field includes third-ranked Johnston, No. 5 Cedar Falls, No. 6 Decorah and 10th-ranked Linn-Mar. The diving competition could have six of the top 10 divers in the state.