

Kevin & Leslie Gourde
2301 34th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104

October 5, 2011

North Dakota High School Activities Association
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are the parents of a son who attends Fargo Davies High School and is a member of the swim team. This is our fourth year associated with high school swimming (three years at Fargo South), and our son is looking forward to competing at a new school this sports season. As parents, we have become avid fans not just of our Fargo swim teams, but all swimmers throughout the state, and we are looking forward to watching them compete during the high school season as well as the state swim meet.

We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the location of the 2011-2012 North Dakota boys' swimming and diving state meet. As we understand, the meet is currently scheduled to be held at the Jamestown high school pool. We have attended high school meets at this pool, and though we would agree that it is a nice facility, we feel that it is completely inadequate for hosting a high school state swim meet. There simply is not enough seating to accommodate the spectators that will be attending.

Rumors are circulating as to how seating will be handled. We are trying to treat them as just that – rumors. But the idea that we wouldn't be able to watch the entire meet poolside with our family and friends is not acceptable. The state meet must be held at a location that is able to accommodate the spectators expected to attend the event. In our experience, the only the pools capable of providing adequate poolside seating for a state meet are located at UND and Bismarck State College. Even with the size of those facilities, seating is at a premium, especially at UND. Ideally, the state meet should alternate between these two sites. In addition, we are concerned about the availability of hotel rooms in Jamestown. The state meet is held at the time of year when weather is a factor and parents should not be expected to drive home between the days of competition.

We are sure that the NDHSAA wants the athletes to have the full support of their families, friends, and community supporters. It would be unthinkable to put any other state championship event in a facility too small to seat the fans. State hockey tournaments are always held at the Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks and state basketball tournaments are held at venues such as the Fargodome or Bismarck Civic Center. The state swimming championship should be treated in the same fashion, with enough room for spectators.

Please consider changing the location of the state meet. We appreciate your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin & Leslie Gourde

Parents of Davies swimmer