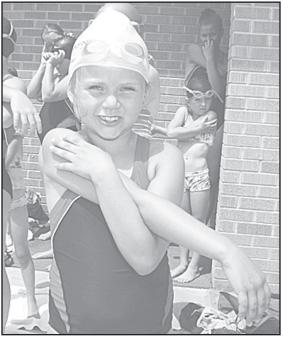


ATTHE OBERLIN SWIMMING POOL last Wednesday, swim-team practice. Gracie Tate (below left) and Gabrielle Daniel Jordan (above) stretched before he got into the pool for Johnson held hands while they walked to the pool.





Swim team prepares for last two meets, league

Three times a day, kids stretch coach Stephanie Blau, learn the So far the team is doing well, with their arms and legs and do "ab" work on the concrete next to the responsibility, teamwork and discishimmery blue water.

at noon and once more at 5 p.m. to some cases, all of the practices round out the day.

About 45 kids from 4 to 18 participate on the Oberlin Swim Team. The swimmers use the Oberlin City Pool for these practices, joining minutes before it starts, stretching out on the concrete between the bathrooms and the pool to get ready for their laps.

Swimmers on the team, said

basics, including how to swim, lots of kids placing in the top six in pline. Practices aren't required, she They stretch their muscles and said, so it's up to the kids to show up not reflect what the swimmers re-

The swimmers have four regularseason meets and the league meet during the summer. Meets in Wray and Burlington, Colo., are already over. The two left are in Goodland on Saturday and Oakley, on Saturday, June 26. The league meet will be in Colby on Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 10.

Meets last all day, said Mrs. Blau. Kyleana, all swim.

their events. The team places in meets may

warm up before jumping or diving and work. How much they put into ally do, she said, because Oberlin into the cool water. The first session practice, she added, will determine just doesn't have the numbers that starts at 6:30 a.m. with mostly older how they do at a meet. Some will other teams do. While Oberlin has kids, 13 and up. There are practices show up for one of the three, or in 45 swimmers, Colby has over 100. Fewer swimmers mean fewer team points, so the overall scores don't really reflect how well the swimmers are doing.

Mrs. Blau said Oberlin has had a swim team as far back as she can remember. She said she swam on it as a kid for 15 years. She's coached the team now for seven seasons and her kids, Kiah, Keagen, Jakobi and



IN THE WATER, Jamie Soderlund (above) took a break before she swam more laps. Mackenzie Urban (left) stretched her arms before practice.