

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 @ Exeter, NH
Phillips Academy 115 @ Phillips Exeter Academy 69

Andover completed its first undefeated dual meet season since 2006 with a convincing win over rival Exeter 115-69, breaking four Andover-Exeter meet records in the process.

Andover entered this dual meet two days into its end-of-season taper, always an unpredictable time for racing. But the first relay performance of Conor Deveney '11, Matt Mahoney '11, Ben Morris '11 and co-captain Curtis Hon '10 left no doubt as to the level of preparation and motivation of the visiting team, winning in a season-best 1:38.77 and breaking the Andover-Exeter mark set by Exeter in 2001.

Andover's winning team was followed by Derrick Choi '12, Didi Peng '12, Alex Nanda '11 and Will Falk-Wallace '10, giving Andover a 12-2 lead after the first event.

Sophomore sensation Jun Oh '12 doubled Andover's record-setting day, breaking Exeter's Grady Snyder 2002 meet record with a 1:44.50 in the 200 Freestyle. Co-captain Conor McAuliffe '10 finished third in a season-best time of 1:47.01.

Exeter got its first of two wins of the day with Adam Lebovitz '10 taking the 200 Individual Medley in 1:58.66, closely followed by Deveney in 2:01.82, and Mahoney in 2:03.62. Hon dominated the 50 Freestyle event in 22.15, before Tommy Kramer '11 won the diving event with an all-time best performance of 217.60 points.

When swimming resumed, Morris led a 1-2 finish for the boys in blue in the 100 Butterfly event, touching the wall in 54.30 ahead of teammate Alex Smachlo '11 in 54.93. Hon continued on his winning ways, pulling away in the 100 Freestyle in 48.10, while Nanda finished third in a season-best time of 49.78.

Oh recorded his second individual win of the afternoon, pushing back a strong challenge from teammate McAuliffe and Exeter's Parker Moody with a 4:43.80 time that left him just a few tenths short of another Andover-Exeter record. McAuliffe followed in a season-best 4:46.49.

Oh got right back on the blocks after the 500 Free, anchoring the winning Andover 200 Freestyle relay of Jon Leung '12, Nanda, Falk-Wallace and Oh in 1:31.56. The 100 Backstroke provided the backdrop for some of the best racing of the day, with Exeter's Lebovitz once again winning his event in an excellent 52.98, followed by club teammate and prep school rival Deveney in an all-time best performance of 53.33. Choi finished third for Andover in an all-time best time of 55.03.

Peng raced away from the field at the start of the 100 Breaststroke event, which he won in with a season-best 1:01.97, followed by 4-year senior Randy Li '10 in 1:05.67.

The last event provided more fireworks for the visiting team, with Hon leading off the 400 Free Relay with a record-breaking performance of 47.56, erasing from the record board the time established by Andover legend David Mainen back in 1988. Hon's teammates Mahoney, McAuliffe and Oh followed his lead, and established a new Andover-Exeter mark of 3:14.13, more than 2.5 seconds faster than the previous record set by Exeter in 2001.

Andover will travel to Hotchkiss in Lakeville, CT for the New England Championships to be held on Sunday, March 7. For full results of this and other meets, visit www.nepssa.org and click on "Dual Meets>2010". For Andover's season results, and an historical perspective of swimming at Andover dating back to 1912, visit www.andoveraquatics.net.