

Phillips Academy – Boys Swimming
Saturday, January 09, 2010

Phillips Academy 116 – Choate 64

The boys in blue started their 2010 campaign on a high note with a comfortable victory over the Wild Boars of Choate 116-64. Andover never trailed at the score, and won eight of nine individual events, and two of three relays.

Andover's tactic going into the first relay was to line up three teams of equal strength and let them race each other. After a tight contest in which each of Andover's entries could have won, the quartet of Derrick Choi '12, Didi Peng '12, Ben Morris '11 and Matt Mahoney '11 edged out the competition with a winning time of 1:42.48 against 1:44.47 and 1:44.76 for the other two Andover teams.

New Lower Jun Oh '12 celebrated his first meet in Andover's colors with a 1:45.71 win in the 200 Freestyle, just ahead of co-captain Conor McAuliffe '10 in 1:48.45. Morris then led a sweep of the 200 Individual Medley event for the home team in 2:03.47, just ahead of Conor Deveney '11 in 2:03.82 and Choi in 2:10.85.

Co-captain Curtis Hon closed out a successful first half of the meet with a 22.19 win in the 50 Freestyle, just ahead of Choate's Patrick Li, while Alex Nanda '11 finished third in 23.13.

In the diving competition, Tommy Kramer '11 showed remarkable improvement over last year with a personal best score of 186.50 points to win the competition, with teammate Manwei Chan '11 taking second with 141.80 points.

When swimming resumed, Andover continued its domination of individual events, with Morris capturing the 100 Butterfly in 54.38 in the closest race in the afternoon, defeating Choate's Li in 54.49 and Andover's McAuliffe in 54.76. Hon also grabbed his second individual win of the day, dominating the 100 Freestyle in 48.75, and followed by teammates Jonathan Leung '11 in 51.12, and Will Falk-Wallace '10 in 51.73. Oh also won his second contest of the day with a comfortable win in the 500 Free in 4:46.63, ahead of teammate Lorenzo Conte '12 in 5:09.14.

Andover again approached the 200 Free Relay event with three evenly matched teams, and the team of Morris, Hon, Falk-Wallace and Andrew Wilson '12 eventually won out in 1:32.49, while Andover's other two relay teams finished in 1:33.36 and 1:34.50.

Deveney continued Andover's string of victories with a 55.16 in Backstroke, ahead of Choi in 56.61. Choate won the 100 Breaststroke with Kwan in 1:04.40, with Andover swimmers Mahoney and Peng swimming exhibition respectively in 1:02.11 and 1:03.22.

Choate easily won the last relay event of the day with a 3:24.21 in the 400 Freestyle Relay, while Andover's three teams swam exhibition with evenly matched times of 3:29.35, 3:29.51 and 3:31.28.

All in all, the Andover boys recorded 13 personal best times during the afternoon, showcasing good early season form and great depth of talent in all events.

Coach Hugon '79 commented after the contest: "the team goal today was to focus less on early season times, and more on the technical aspects of each swim, with emphasis on maintaining good form throughout each race, fast turns and long powerful underwaters. Swimmers were asked to treat this day of racing as an extension of their training, and carry to this contest the technical improvements they were making to their stroke during the week of practice."

Andover travels to Windsor, CT next Saturday January 16 to take on the Pelicans of Loomis-Chaffee.

Full league results are available at www.nepssa.org. For results, write-ups, and a historical perspective of swimming at Andover from 1912 to the present day, visit www.andoveraquatics.net.