

New England Championships 2010
Sunday, March 7, 2010 @ Hotchkiss

Andover won its second league championship in history last Sunday, with a dominating team performance that showcased the team's depth of talent in each and every event. Andover's all-time high scoring total of 436 points surpassed second-place Deerfield's tally of 298 points by a full 138 points, while Exeter finished third with 242 points.

Along the way, Andover broke three school records (200 Medley Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay and 200 Freestyle), three pool records (200 and 500 Freestyle, 400 Freestyle relay), earned two individual and one relay title, and set no fewer than eight All-American time standards on the season (four automatic, four consideration).

The morning's preliminaries were marked by a remarkable team effort that saw swimmer after swimmer recording personal best times, and earning the right to come back in the evening for Finals or Consolation Finals. In fact, of Andover 32 entries in individual swimming events, an incredible 28 ended up scoring points as one of the 16 best performances in the league at the meet.

With such depth of talent in every event, Andover came back for the evening session as heavy favorites for the title, but knowing full well that an all-out effort would be needed to earn the points needed to clinch the championship.

The finals started auspiciously for Andover, when its 200 Medley relay featuring Conor Deveney '11, Didi Peng '12, Ben Morris '11 and co-captain Curtis Hon '10 broke the school record in the event in 1:36.86, only missing winning the event by 0.18 seconds to the surprise team from Kent School. This new mark in the event was also an automatic qualifier for All-American Honors.

In the 200 Free, Jun Oh '12 narrowly escaped a strong challenge from eventual Babcock award-winner Jack Pretto of Hotchkiss with a time of 1:40.71 to Pretto's 1:40.76, in the process breaking David Mainen's 20 year-old school record that had stood at 1:40.89, and earning automatic All-American Honors. Co-captain Conor McAuliffe '10 followed in 4th place, while Jon Leung '11 (8th) and Alex Smachlo '11 (10th) also scored for the boys in blue. The result propelled Andover into an overall first place it would not relinquish for the rest of the meet.

The 200 Individual Medley is traditionally a strong event for our team, and this year again our swimmers placed extremely well in this demanding discipline. Matt Mahoney '11 finished 4th in 1:57.38, with two teammates Deveney (6th) and Morris (7th) joining him in the finals. Peng finished 16th to earn an extra point for the boys in blue.

The 50 Freestyle is often a race difficult to predict, but there was little doubt that Deerfield's Lee, who again reset the league record in the morning preliminaries, was the favorite in this event. And while Lee captured the sprint event for the second year in a row, Andover's Will Falk-Wallace '10 emerged from a tight group of contenders to claim 2nd place overall with an excellent 22.11 time. Alex Nanda '11 also

made the final 8, and finished 7th in 22.37. Austen Novis '11 and Derrick Choi '12 added to Andover's points total with 15th and 16th place finishes respectively.

In the diving event, Tommy Kramer '11 improved by more than 100 points over his performance last year, finishing 6th overall.

The 100 Butterfly saw Morris and Smachlo representing Andover in the Finals. Morris finished third in the league with an excellent 52.67, while Smachlo was 5th in 53.63. Both swimmers will be the top two returning flyers in the league next year. Cameron Phillips '11, in his first championship competition, dropped 4 seconds in the morning preliminaries to make consolations, and then proceeded to drop another second in the evening to win the heat and take 9th place overall in 54.06.

Andover lined up three swimmers in the Finals of the 100 Freestyle, and came away with a third place for Hon in 47.20 (46.82 in the morning prelims, All-American consideration), ahead of Nanda in 5th place, and Falk-Wallace in 6th place.

In the 500 Freestyle, Oh and McAuliffe led from the beginning of the race over Exeter's Parker Moody, and finished one-two in the event with times of 4:35.55 and 4:39.22 (All-American consideration). Jun's time set a new pool record, and just missed the school mark he had established earlier in the season in 4:34.90 (Automatic All-American). In the previous heat of the 500, Lorenzo Conte '12 improved on his performance from 2009 in that event with a 5:01.41 good enough for 14th place.

For the 200 Freestyle relay, Andover lined up the team of Falk-Wallace, Novis, Nanda and Oh. Falk-Wallace led the way in a personal best time of 22.04, setting up the team's third place overall with a 1:28.26 that earned consideration for All-American honors.

Deveney was the lone swimmer representing Andover in the 100 Backstroke, which this year was clearly the fastest and most hotly contested individual event of the meet. Both Hotchkiss' Pretto and Kent's Adams broke the 50 second barrier and the league record, followed by Exeter's Lebovitz in a time that would have won this event on most years. Against such formidable opposition, Deveney held his own and improved on his morning swim with a 52.57 that earned him consideration for All-American honors. Choi and Conte competed in the consolation finals of the event, and earned 11th and 14th place finishes respectively.

The 100 Breaststroke once again featured three Andover swimmers. Hon finished third in a personal best time of 59.93, breaking the minute barrier for the first time in his career. He was followed by teammate Mahoney, 4th in 1:00.03, who had also gone under the minute earlier in the morning in 59.80, while Peng was 7th in 1:02.18. Randy Li '10, who had earlier qualified for his first consolation final, finished 14th in his final swim for the team, ensuring that all seniors on the team contributed to the school's points total.

In the final event of the day, the quartet of Oh, McAuliffe, Nanda and Hon pulverized Andover's 400 Freestyle relay school record, breaking the 3:10 barrier with a final time of 3:09.75. This tightly contested event pitted Andover against Exeter, Hotchkiss and Suffield. Oh led the way for Andover in

47.70 against a very close field that included some of the league's best sprinters. McAuliffe followed and kept Andover in the running. Nanda took over during the third leg of the race, and his dominating 47.34 split broke the field and gave Hon a solid lead going into the final stretch. Hon delivered a 46.46 split that held back a furious comeback from Exeter's Lebovitz (46.10), with both schools only separated by 0.3 seconds at the end of the race.

Team performances:

200 Medley Relay:

- "A": 2nd, 1:36.86 (Conor Deveney '11, Didi Peng '12, Ben Morris '11, Curtis Hon '10), School Record, Automatic All-American
- "B": 2nd, 1:45.63 (Calvin Aubrey '12, Andrew Wilson '12, Cameron Phillips '11, Nick Camarda '12)

200 Freestyle:

- 1st: Jun Oh '12, 1:40.71, School record, Automatic All-American
- 4th: Conor McAuliffe '10, 1:44.61 (1:44.53 prelims)
- 8th: Jon Leung '11, 1:47.48 (1:46.69 prelims)
- 10th: Alex Smachlo '11, 1:48.53

200 Individual Medley:

- 4th: Matt Mahoney '11, 1:57.38
- 6th: Conor Deveney '11, 1:59.15 (1:58.76 prelims)
- 7th: Ben Morris '11, 1:59.26 (1:57.90 prelims)
- 16th: Didi Peng '12, 2:09.17 (2:08.19 prelims)

50 Freestyle:

- 2nd: Will Falk-Wallace '10, 22.11
- 7th: Alex Nanda '11, 22.37 (22.27 prelims)
- 15th: Austen Novis '11, 22.73
- 16th: Derrick Choi '12, 22.99 (22.73 prelims)

1-meter Diving:

- 6th: Tommy Kramer '11, 335.65 points
- 22nd: Sam Berner '12, 139.40 points

100 Butterfly:

- 3rd: Ben Morris '11, 52.67 (52.55 prelims)
- 5th: Alex Smachlo '11, 53.63
- 9th: Cameron Phillips '11, 54.06

- 20th: Andrew Xuan '13, 58.46

100 Freestyle:

- 3rd: Curtis Hon '10, 47.20 (46.82 prelims), All-American Consideration
- 5th: Alex Nanda '11, 48.21
- 6th: Will Falk-Wallace '10, 48.51 (48.49 prelims)
- 17th: Jon Leung '11, 50.02

500 Freestyle:

- 1st: Jun Oh '12, 4:35.55 (earlier in the year, 4:34.90 was a School Record, Automatic All-American)
- 2nd: Conor McAuliffe '10, 4:39.22, All-American Consideration
- 14th: Lorenzo Conte '12, 5:01.41
- 21st: Cameron Phillips '11, 5:07.43

200 Freestyle Relay:

- "A": 3rd, 1:28.26 (Will Falk-Wallace '10, Austen Novis '11, Alex Nanda '11, Jun Oh '12), All-American Consideration
- "B": 1st: 1:32.82 (Nick Camarda '12, Andrew Wilson '12, Andrew Xuan '13, Jon Leung '11)

100 Backstroke:

- 5th: Conor Deveney '11, 52.57, All-American Consideration
- 11th: Derrick Choi '12, 55.42 (54.84 prelims, 54.91 swim-off)
- 14th: Lorenzo Conte '12, 57.83 (57.15 prelims)
- 17th: Andrew Xuan '13, 58.47

100 Breaststroke:

- 3rd: Curtis Hon '10, 59.93
- 4th: Matt Mahoney '11, 1:00.03 (59.80 prelims)
- 7th: Didi Peng '12, 1:02.18 (1:01.78 prelims)
- 14th: Randy Li '10, 1:04.36 (1:03.69 prelims)

400 Freestyle Relay:

- "A": 1st, 3:09.75 (Jun Oh '12, Conor McAuliffe '10, Alex Nanda '11, Curtis Hon '10), School Record, Automatic All-American
- "B": 2nd: 3:29.27 (Jon Leung '11, Calvin Aubrey '12, Andrew Wilson '12, Andrew Xuan '13)

For full results of this and other meets, visit www.nepssa.org. For Andover's season results, and an historical perspective of swimming at Andover dating back to 1912, visit www.andoveraquatics.net.