

Andover “Three-Peats” and Shatters Thirteen Records at the New England Championships

In a season marking its 100th anniversary, the Andover Boys’ Swimming and Diving Team faced and overcame many obstacles: the pressure to remain undefeated for a third-consecutive year; the loss of the Class of 2011, which scored more than 50% of Andover’s points at the 2011 championship; and changes to the championship meet adopted by the swimming coaches over the objections of Andover and Exeter. These changes divided the meet into three classes, diluting the depth of the league, and limited the number of entries per team per event from four to three, diluting the depth of individual teams and disenfranchising 32% of Andover’s swimmers, all of whom would have been in position to score at the championship had they been given the opportunity.

But throughout the season, Andover remained focused on performing its best at the New England Championships, and yesterday, the team did just that.

In the 200 Medley Relay, the squad of Co-Captain Derrick Choi ’12 (24.45), Didi Peng ’12 (26.53), Tim Wynter ’14 (21.86), and Michael Camarda ’14 (21.04) achieved the team’s goal time by swimming a 1:33.97. This mark shattered the school and pool records set last year by Andover in 1:35.46 and was well under the New England record of 1:34.88 set by Suffield in 2009 and also earned All-American status. Andover’s time would have placed it 2nd at this year’s Eastern Championships and 27th in the nation last year. Despite this extraordinary performance, the squad was out-touched by Deerfield, which swam 1:33.92.

In the un-scored “B” relay, Co-Captain Lorenzo Conte ’12 (27.12), Chris Li ’15 (31.00), David Cho ’14 (25.02), and Andrew Xuan ’13 (22.32) placed 3rd in 1:45.46.

Jun Oh ’12 broke his own school record, established in the preliminaries, and won the 200 Freestyle in 1:40.22, which earned him All-American consideration. This time would have placed 3rd at this year’s Easterns and 79th nationally last year. Travis Bouscaren ’14, swimming in his first New England final, was 6th in 1:46.21, and Eric Benca ’12 was 7th in 1:47.18.

In the 200 Individual Medley, Andover again placed all three entrants into the top 8. Andrew Wilson ’12 placed 5th in 1:59.76 (1:58.94 in the preliminaries); Choi ’12 was 6th in 2:00.82; and Andrew Yang ’14 was 8th in 2:04.00 (2:01.41 in the preliminaries). David Cao ’14 won the consolation heat and placed 9th in the 50 Freestyle by swimming 22.41. Peng ’12 returned to the pool to place 8th with a 22.84 (22.30 in the preliminaries), and Camarda ’14 was 5th in 22.32 (21.86 in the preliminaries).

At the end of the 50 Freestyle, Andover led with 151 points, followed by Deerfield with 134 and Exeter with 115.

Rookie diver, Kade Call ’14, had to forgo a family ski vacation when he performed well enough in the preliminaries to qualify for the final round of diving. He also had to learn and perform three new dives! Kade was successful and placed 15th, earning his team a valuable points.

At the end of diving, Deerfield led with 175 points, followed by Andover with 153 and Exeter with 130.

Returning to swimming with the 100 Butterfly, Wynter '14 swam a 50.09, which broke his own school record set in the preliminaries of 50.72, which had broken Rob Hill's school record of 51.23 set in 1990. Wynter earned All-American consideration with this swim, and his time would have broken the pool record, but he placed 2nd. Wynter's time would also have placed 2nd at this year's Eastern Championships and 71st nationally last year. Joe Faller '14 placed 5th with a 52.94, and Alex Li '15 placed 10th in 55.10.

In the 100 Freestyle, Camarda '14 returned to action with a 47.95 and placed 6th. Faller '14—yes, he swam back-to-back events—was 8th after having swum a 48.46 in the preliminaries, and Cao '14 was 10th in 49.94.

Jun Oh '12 returned to the pool for the 500 freestyle as the two-time defending champion, and he did not disappoint. By swimming a 4:30.74, he broke his school record of 4:34.90 set in 2010, and he earned All-American status. His time would have placed 5th at this year's Easterns and 55th last year nationally. Oh concludes his three-year career at Andover having *never* lost an individual event in a dual or championship meet; it is no coincidence that his team has not lost during that stretch either. Bouscaren '14 swam a 4:48.71 for 4th place, and Justin Wang '13 swam a 5:03.42 for 12th.

With four events to go, Andover led with 262 points, followed by Deerfield with 245 and Exeter with 214.

In the 200 Freestyle Relay, Faller '14 (22.10), Cao '14 (22.33), Peng '12 (22.09), and Jun Oh '12 (21.81) placed 2nd in 1:28.33. Andover's non-scoring "B" Relay—Heson Oh '14 (23.22), Chris Li '15 (23.95), Connor Fraser '13 (22.61), and Xuan '13 (22.90)—placed 1st in 1:32.68.

In the morning preliminaries of the 100 Backstroke, Tim Wynter '14 had, arguably, the performance of the meet. His 49.06 shattered the New England record of 49.82 set in 2010 by Jack Pretto. Until last weekend, Andover's school record had sat at 51.44 since 1999. Wynter's 49.06 earns him All-American status, and his performance would have placed 1st at Easterns this year—in fact, his time is faster than anyone has ever swum at Eastern's, which is historically the fastest high-school meet in the nation—and would have placed him 14th last year among all private and public high-school students in the nation.

In the finals, Wynter '14 swam 50.06 to secure the win in the 100 Backstroke. Choi '12 was third in 53.29 (52.84 in the preliminaries), and Benca '12 was 5th in 54.16 (53.79 in the preliminaries).

Wilson '12 returned to action in the 100 Breaststroke and secured 3rd place in 1:00.22 after swimming 59.42 in the morning. Peng '12 was 5th in 1:01.17, and Yang '14 was 10th in 1:02.72.

Swimming in the un-scored "B" heat of the 400 Freestyle Relay, Heson Oh '14 (50.49), Lorenzo Conte '12 (53.71), David Cho '14 (51.66), and Connor Fraser '13 (50.16) swam

3:26.02 and secured 1st place.

In the final event of the meet, the three top teams—Andover, Exeter, and Deerfield—were poised for a great battle in the 400 Freestyle Relay, and it turned out to be a most impressive race with all three teams breaking the New England record set last year by Exeter in 3:08.34.

<u>Andover</u>	<u>Exeter</u>	<u>Deerfield</u>
Faller '14 (47.52)	Shepley '14 (45.98)	Bridges '12 (47.36)
Camarda '14 (46.96)	A. Reavill '12 (45.84)	Vallar '12 (47.48)
J. Oh '12 (45.96)	Rafter '12 (48.63)	Hrabchak '15 (47.16)
Wynter '14 (46.21)	B. Reavill '12 (45.68)	Miao '13 (45.57)
3:06.65	3:06.13	3:07.57

Andover placed 2nd, and its 3:06.65 crushed the school record of 3:09.41 set last year. This time would have placed 2nd at this year's Easterns as well as 27th in the nation last year.

Andover's performances in the 200 Medley and 400 Freestyle Relays demonstrate the program's drastic improvement during the last eight years. In 2007, the school record in the 200 Medley Relay was 1:37.80—set in 1971; now it is 1:33.97. In 2006, the school record in the 400 Freestyle Relay was 3:14.05; now, it is 3:06.65.

The final team standings at the end of the meet were Andover with 417 points, followed by Deerfield with 360 points, Exeter with 313.5 points, and Suffield with 274.5 points. In addition to the team win, Jun Oh '12, in a tie with Avery Reavill of Exeter, earned the prestigious Babcock Award, given annually to an exemplary performer and sportsman at the New England Swimming Championships.

After receiving the team trophy and swimming a few victory laps, the members of the Andover Boys' Swimming and Diving Team of 2012—a team worthy of the program's storied history—boarded the bus home and began to prepare for final exams.

Complete results may be seen at www.andoveraquatics.net or www.nepssa.org.