

Andover Breaks Pool Record in Final Event to Defeat Deerfield 96-89

For the third week in a row, the Andover Boys' Swimming and Diving Team put together a relay that broke a pool record. This time, it was in the 400 Free. This time, it was at Deerfield. This time, it was necessary in order to win the meet against an excellent Deerfield squad.

In the opening event, Andover took a gamble in the 200 Medley Relay with the team of Co-Captain Derrick Choi '12, Andrew Wilson '12, Tim Wynter '14, and David Cao '14 swimming an impressive 1:38.58 for second place and the relay of Jun Oh '12, Didi Peng '12, Alex Li '15, and David Cho '14 swimming 1:40.73 for third. Andover opened the meet down 6-8.

Andover's Joe Faller '14 prevented Deerfield from going first and second in the 200 Free by swimming a strong 1:46.15. He was followed by Eric Benca '12, fourth, in 1:50.15 and Travis Bouscaren '14, fifth, in 1:50.20. Connor Fraser '13 also had an impressive swim in 1:54.07.

Jun Oh '12 won the 200 IM, swimming a fantastic 1:56.04. Andrew Yang '14 was fourth in 2:05.11, and Heson Oh '14 was fifth in 2:07.79. Swimming exhibition, Justin Wang '14 swam 2:09.75. Andover placed second, third, and fourth in the 50 Free: Michael Camarda '14 (22.34), Choi (23.14), and Peng (23.19). Andrew Xuan '13 swam 24.37. With these strong performances, Andover entered the diving competition tied 31-31.

Showing remarkable improvement, Kade Call '14 had the best performance of his young career to place fourth and score a crucial two points in diving.

As the competition returned to swimming, Andover found itself behind 33-44, but the Big Blue seemed to start to crawl out of its deficit with the 100 Fly by placing second, third, and fourth: Wynter (53.51), Faller (54.94), and Alex Li (55.42). In addition, Cho swam a 55.99. In the 100 Free, Camarda was second in 48.69; Benca was fourth in 49.94; Heson Oh was fifth in 50.75. Chris Li '15 was 53.72.

With the score now 49-60, Andover had yet to make a run against Deerfield, but the turning point came in the 500 free. Jun Oh placed first in a great 4:38.42 with Bouscaren third in a personal best 4:54.88 and Yang sixth in 5:09.62. Score: 58-67.

By placing first and third in the 200 Free Relay, Andover brought the score to 68-71. The squad of Wynter, Peng, Faller, and Camarda swam 1:30.27, and the squad of Xuan, Alex Li, Fraser, and Cho swam 1:34.93. With strong performances in the 100 Back—Wynter first in 52.45, Choi third in 54.32, and Cao fifth in 58.76; Co-Captain Lorenzo Conte '12 swam exhibition in 1:00.07—Andover took its first lead of the day, 78-77, with only two events left.

In the last individual event of the meet, the 100 Breast, Wilson and Peng raced head-to-head with another great Deerfield swimmer, and they placed second and third in 1:02.11 and 1:02.16; Wang was fifth in 1:06.08. Score: 86-85.

The meet came down to the final relay: the team that won the relay would win the meet. The excellent and determined Deerfield team put together an extraordinary performance that pushed the Andover relay to perform much faster than anticipated. In the first leg, Deerfield's Austin Bridges split 48.82, and Andover's Faller split 48.61. Next, Deerfield's Matt Hrabchak touched at 1:36.93, and Andover's Benca touched at 1:37.87. Then, Deerfield's Henry Lee hit the wall in 2:25.93, and Andover's Camarda hit in 2:25.21, having split an impressive 47.34. With a bit of a lead, Andover's Jun Oh hit the water and held off Deerfield's Oscar Miao for the win: 3:12.34 to 3:13.25. These are both incredible performances; Andover's setting a new pool record, which had previously been held by Choate in 3:12.49. Moreover, this was the fourth fastest swim in Andover history: the program had never broken 3:14 until 2009. Now it is able to break 3:13 in a mid-season dual meet.

Andover's "B" relay had a comparably close race for third. The squad of Bouscaren, Cho, Heson Oh, and Choi were great in 3:22.72, and the "C" relay of Yang, Fraser, Conte, and Alex Li had several strong individual swims to finish in 3:33.79.

Having just completed the most difficult week in the last eight years of Andover Swimming and Diving, the boys were ecstatic to have had some great swims and races today and to have fought through the incredible challenge posed by the excellent team from Deerfield.

Next week, Andover travels to Hopkins.