

The owners of the last six New England Championships met today in their annual dual meet, and Andover was fortunate to secure the win against the squad from Deerfield, 108-78.

For Andover, the importance of the meet—and the pressure to perform—emerged from two factors. First, by opting to attend the Eastern Championships and not defend its title at the New England Championships this year, this dual meet was the only opportunity for Andover to face the entire Deerfield team. Second, although Andover rarely focuses on this statistic, its dual-meet streak was on the line. Since 2005, Andover is 55-4 overall and 55-1 in league competition. The program's last in-league loss? In 2008. To Deerfield.

Despite the lopsided final score, today's was a closely contested competition. Both teams saw season-best times as well as great mid-season performances, but just about everything came together in Andover's favor.

The meet began as it should: both teams' best line-ups facing off in the 200 Medley Relay. Andover's squad of Tim Wynter '14, Aaron Teo '15, Captain Joe Faller '14, and Scott Simpson '14 put together a blazing 1:36.85, the 12th-fastest performance in the history of New England and a mark that would have stood as the school record until 2011. Deerfield's excellent relay of Quinn Smith '14, Ben Wood '13, Miles Smachlo '16, and Oscar Miao '13 swam 1:38.20 for second while Andover's "B" relay of Charlee Van Eijk '14, Andrew Yang '14, Alex Li '15, and Darren Ty '16 was third in a fast 1:43.74. Andover's "C" relay—Connor Fraser '13, Chris Li '15, David Cho '14, and Andrew Xuan '13—was fourth in 1:47.82.

In the 200 Freestyle, Travis Bouscaren '14 led his friend, and another excellent Deerfield swimmer, Matt Hrabchak '15, at the halfway point 51.76 to 52.24 with Faller—the man who always seems to swim back-to-back events—at 53.85. Bouscaren's aggressiveness did not quite pan out as Hrabchak surged by the 150, but Bouscaren's final time, 1:48.34, was an in-season best and secured second. Faller was third in 1:48.96, and Marcello Rossi '16 was fifth in a season-best 1:53.36.

Swimming the 200 Individual Medley for the first time in his Andover career, Teo faced Deerfield's Smith and Smachlo, and he finished second in an impressive 2:00.30 and already become the 11th fastest performer in school history. Yang was fourth in 2:05.99, and Alex Li was fifth in a season-best 2:06.53.

The 50 Freestyle is always unpredictable, and today's was no exception. Deerfield's Miao, among the fastest sprinters in league history, won, but Andover was able to secure more points than Deerfield by placing second, third, and fourth: David Cao '14 in 22.72, Heson Oh '14 in 22.98, and Simpson in 23.03. At the end of the 50 Freestyle, Andover led Deerfield 34-28.

Andover Pool Record Holder and Deerfield great, Taylor Clough '13 dominated the diving competition, but Andover's contingent held its own. Kade Call '14 secured

third with 1:63.75 points while rookie Graham Johns '14 was fourth with 126.65 points. Rookie Thomas Bakken '14 was sixth with 100.60 points. These were great—and helpful—performances from Andover's divers.

As the meet returned to swimming, the team score was tied: 39-39.

To once again seize the momentum for Andover, Wynter not only won the next event, the 100 Butterfly, by swimming 50.79, but he also crushed his own Pool Record of 51.81, established last year against Exeter. And, his performance was the second fastest in school history. Not to be outdone, Alex Li swam a season-best 53.79 to secure third, and Cho swam 58.37 for fourth.

As Bouscaren had attempted in the 200 Freestyle, Faller attempted in the 100 Freestyle: going right after Deerfield's Miao—leading 22.93 to 23.17 at the 50. Miao out-split Faller in the second half, winning 47.90 to 48.16, the latter a season-best and good enough for second. Oh was third with a season-best 49.97, and Cao was fourth in 50.67. At the end of the 100, Andover led 59-51.

In the 500 Freestyle, Bouscaren again faced Hrabchak, but recognizing the strength of the top Deerfield swimmer, he focused his attention instead on swimming a brilliant race that secured second place in a season-best time of 4:56.38. Yang was fourth in a strong 5:06.65, and Thomas Choi '16 was fifth in 5:16.17. Entering the final four events of the meet, the score was still close, with Andover leading just 66-60.

By unexpectedly securing first and second in the 200 Freestyle Relay, Andover suddenly placed the meet out of reach: 78-62. Oh, Ty, Cao, and Simpson came together to win in 1:31.29, and Xuan, Cho, Rossi, and Alex Li swam 1:33.97 to out-touch Deerfield by .10!

With the team victory secure, Wynter cruised to a 54.18 in the 100 Backstroke—he's one of the few high-school swimmers in the nation who can do that—while Van Eijk and Fraser both swam season-bests to secure second and third: 57.89 and 59.39 respectively. With sweeps in consecutive events, Andover led 91-65.

Teo and Smith returned to the pool for a fantastic race in the 100 Breaststroke. Smith led 28.43 to 28.96 at the 50, but Teo fought back, narrowly missing the win 1:00.03 to 1:00.21. As with the IM, this was Teo's first time swimming this event for Andover, and with one swim, he became the ninth-fastest performer in school history. Ty swam a season-best 1:06.11 for fourth place, and Wang swam 1:06.47 for fifth.

In the 400 Freestyle Relay, Faller, Bouscaren, Simpson, and Wynter swam 3:14.05 for the win. This tied what would have been the school record as recently as 2009. Yang, Oh, Rossi, and Cao were third in 3:25.59, and Chris Li, Choi, Cho, and Xuan were 3:32.45, with the senior anchoring—as a coach always wants, in his career-best 51.75.

Despite the structure of these highlights—our natural tendency to focus on the “winners” and the fastest performances—today’s meet showed Andover’s program at its best: the meet was not won by a handful of elite performers, although those performers did well, but rather by every member of the team in position to score points actually doing so. As the team knew entering the competition, the meet would not be won or lost in the middle lanes where the fastest swimmers are but rather in the outer lanes.

This coming week, Andover continues to adjust its training in preparation for the Eastern Championships in Philadelphia, now just four weeks away. And on Saturday, the squad gets another chance to prepare by facing Hopkins at home.