

Andover Launches 2014 Campaign with Pool Record and Win

Andover defeats 2013 New England Runner-Up Suffield and Achieves Personal Bests

After nine practices spread across twenty-seven days, the Andover Boys' Varsity Swimming and Diving team traveled to Suffield for simultaneous dual meets against Suffield and Peddie. Because Andover did not attend last year's New England Championships, this was the first meeting between the schools since 2012.

Andover's "A" 200 Medley Relay of co-captain Tim Wynter '14, Scott Simpson '14, Alex Li '15, and Michael Camarda '14 set the tone for the season in the opening event by swimming a remarkable 1:36.61, which not only shattered the Suffield pool record but was also the 5th fastest performance in school history and the 12th fastest in New England history. The "B" relay of Charlee Van Eijk '14, Andrew Yang '14, Chris Li '15, and Christian Alberga '17 was fourth in 1:46.20.

In the 200 Freestyle, co-captain Joe Faller '14 swam an impressively paced 1:45.40 for the win, followed by Marcello Rossi '16 in 1:49.74 for third. Travis Bouscaren '14 swam 1:55.09 for sixth while Thomas Choi '16 swam 1:56.27 in non-scoring exhibition.

Simpson placed second in the 200 IM in 2:02.15 while Darren Ty '16 was third in a personal best of 2:04.22, and Yang was fifth in 2:05.51. Chris Li '15 swam 2:10.96 in exhibition.

In his first Andover dual meet in two years, Camarda won the 50 Freestyle in a quick 21.60. Alberga was second in 22.49, and David Cao '14 was fourth in 22.97. Jonathan Xue '17 swam 24.01 in exhibition.

In the diving event, rookie Jack Belluche '16 won the event with 171.35 points. Thomas Bakken '14 was third with 129.55 points, and Graham Johns '14 was fourth with 127.35 points.

After the diving event, Andover led Suffield 48 to 30.

Returning to the swimming events, Wynter won the 100 Butterfly in 52.50 while Alex Li was third in 53.32, and Chris Li was fourth in 55.41.

Andover went first and second in the 100 Freestyle with Faller in 48.61 and Camarda in 49.65. Cao was fourth in 50.70, and Richard Zhong '17 was 51.95 in exhibition.

The 500 Freestyle was a different story with Suffield's impressive group of middle-distance swimmers sweeping Andover. Bouscaren was fourth with a 5:05.47; Rossi was fifth with a 5:10.75; and Choi was sixth with a 5:21.78.

Suffield appeared to be building momentum when it won the 200 Freestyle Relay, but Andover was able to place second and third, minimizing the damage. Faller, Alberga, Alex Li, and Cao swam 1:30.22, and Yang, Chris Li, Xue, and Rossi swam 1:33.73--with Rossi splitting 22.91 three minutes after finishing the 500 Freestyle.

In the 100 Backstroke, Wynter won his second event of the day, cruising to a 52.30. Ty was third in a personal best 56.13, and Van Eijk was fifth in 58.25. Zhong swam 58.58 in exhibition.

Simpson's 1:02.07, Xue's 1:05.05, and Yang's 1:05.30 were second, third, and fourth in the 100 Breaststroke. Alberga was 1:10.25 in exhibition.

In the final event of the day, the 400 Freestyle Relay, Faller, Bouscaren, Wynter, and Camarda swam 3:16.12 for the win while Alex Li, Ty, Cao, and Simpson swam 3:22.65 for third.

With this 109-77 victory over a talented squad from Suffield, Andover enters into some much-needed training and returns to competition in January against Loomis.