

Boys Swimming and Diving: Andover 108, Exeter 78  
Saturday, February 21, 2015

Renewing an annual tradition of interscholastic competition that dates back to 1920 ([http://www.andoveraquatics.net/boys\\_team\\_pics\\_1920s.html](http://www.andoveraquatics.net/boys_team_pics_1920s.html)), the boys' swimming and diving team hosted Exeter on Saturday, emerging with a win 108-78. In the past decades, both teams have posted long winning streaks, first with Exeter winning 31 years in a row between 1974 and 2005, and now Andover winning for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year (2006 to the present).

As expected, both teams squared off for the first relay of the day with well-matched teams, and the red team of Andrew Eigner '15, Thomas Gallup '16, Will Belmont '16 and Graham Hazlett '16 narrowly took the first event in 1:39.97, ahead of Andover's Richard Zhong '17, co-captains Aaron Teo '15 and Alex Li '15, and Chris Li '15 in 1:40.52. (A:4, E:10)

As it turned out, this early lead by Exeter would be its last, with Andover responding emphatically in the 200 Freestyle with Marcello Rossi '16 winning in 1:46.38, while Thomas Choi '16 (1:51.44) and Dan Tran '17 (1:54.74) finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. (A:15, E:15)

Darren Ty '16 pulled ahead of the field in the 200 Individual Medley, winning in 1:59.19, giving Andover's first lead of the day. Sarp Orgul '16 and Richard Zhong '17 took 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. (A:24, E:22)

Christian Alberga '17, just recovered from a hand injury, continued Andover's streak of individual wins, sprinting the 50 Freestyle in 22.40. Chris Li added another point with 5<sup>th</sup> place to Andover's total, and both teams were tied going into the diving event. (A:31, E:31)

Jack Belluche '16 remained undefeated for the season on the boards, with a season-best total of 261.60 points, while Robert Delaus '16 took third and Matthew Grottkau '17 took fifth. When swimming resumed, Andover was back up in front. (A:41, E:37)

Exeter's Belmont recorded what would be Exeter's only individual win of the day in the 100 Fly, winning in 52.38. But Alex Li (53.66), Chris Li (55.81) and Orgul (58.27) took the next three spots, increasing Andover's overall points lead. (A:50, E:44)

The next event would prove decisive in tilting the result of the meet toward the home team, with Alberga (48.66) and Ty (49.09) going 1-2 in the 100 Freestyle, and Choi taking 5<sup>th</sup> (51.51). (A:61, E:49)

Rossi (4:54.73) and Teo (5:01.11) followed suit in the 500 Freestyle, both swimming smart tactical races to do just enough to earn their team the maximum points in the event. Tran took 5<sup>th</sup> in 5:09.68. (A:72, E:54)

Coming from behind, the team of Chris Li, Ty, Rossi and Alberga gave Andover its first relay win of the day, capturing the 200 Freestyle relay in 1:30.15. The team of Jonathan Xue '17, Nick Faulkner '16, Michael Najem '16 and Choi added 2 points with third place. (A:82, E:58)

The Backstroke event resulted in a very tight finish, with the top three competitors separated by just half of a second. But Andover's Zhong continued Andover's string of individual top finishes, out-touching the competition in 56.52. Nate Smith '18 finished fifth in 1:00.30. (A:89, E:67)

Completing the difficult 500 Free / 100 Breast double, Andover's Teo earned a thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 100 Breast, edging Exeter's Gallup by 8-100ths of a second in 1:00.92. Won Woo Kim '15, swimming in his first Varsity contest of the season after a long absence due to illness, performed beyond expectations with a 1:04.48 and 4<sup>th</sup>, while Alex Li was 5<sup>th</sup> in 1:04.77. (A:98, E:74)

With the outcome of the meet no longer in question, both teams squared off for the last event, with Andover's Rossi, Choi, Ty and Alberga winning in 3:20.18, while the team of Xue, Felix Liu '15, Tran and Michael Najem '16 pushed Exeter's top team to the end of the race, eventually settling for third. The final score was Andover 108, Exeter 78.

Despite having just completed the main portion of the season's training, and taper starting in a couple of days, several swimmers still managed to record all-time best results (R stands for relay start): Ty (50 Free: 21.74R), Choi (50 Free: 23.26R), Faulkner (50 Free: 23.26R, 100 Free: 53.51), Najem (50 Free: 23.70R, 100 Free: 51.85R), Xue (100 Free: 51.83), Orgul (100 Free: 52.76R, 50 Fly: 25.68, 100 Fly: 58.27, 200 IM: 2:11.00), Tran (200 Free: 1:54.74, 500 Free: 5:09.68), Smith (50 Back: 27.56), Belluche (Diving: 261.60).

Andover will travel to the NEPSAC D.I championships in Exeter the weekend of March 7 and March 8. For full results and an historical perspective of our program, consult [www.andoveraquatics.net](http://www.andoveraquatics.net). League results are posted on [www.nepssa.org](http://www.nepssa.org).