

Boys Swimming and Diving: Andover 112, Hopkins 66
Saturday, February 14, 2015

The Hopkins meet always marks a turning point in our season. After many weeks of winter weather, hard practices, and the academic term starting to wind down, this meet often finds our athletes swimming slower than they have previously in the season, and in fact often slowest of the season. The Exeter meet that heralds the end of the dual meet season is a week away, and the traditional taper to the New England Championships just around the corner. At this stage of the season, swimmers start thinking about which events they will swim at the championships, and/or try different events in which they want to race at least once in the season.

The combination of tired legs, plus the absence of a couple of key contributors to our team meant an opportunity for many team members to step up and grab some of the scoring spots traditionally occupied by others, as well as feature different relay combinations. All of this made for an interesting afternoon full of discoveries, and confirmations, ahead of the final push for the last three weeks of the season.

The 200 Medley relay saw two swimmers from the JV team, Nate Cruz Walma '18 and Paul Kinard '15, join co-captain Aaron Teo '15 and Won Woo Kim '15 in winning the event in 1:47.93. Marcello Rossi won the 200 Freestyle in 1:48.22 in front of Darren Ty '16 in 1:50.21, and would later record another win with a 49.14 in the 100 Freestyle.

The 200 Individual Medley saw Richard Zhong '17 win in 2:11.26, in front of Sarp Orgul '16 in 2:13.64. Jonathan Xue '17 won the 50 Free by just three one-hundredths of a second in 23.97. Our three divers competed unopposed, with Jack Belluche '16 winning with 196.90 points in front of Robert Delaus (167.75) and Matthew Grottkau (145.90).

Ty won the 100 Fly in 53.65 when the swimming resumed. After the 100 Free, Hopkins' Ross pulled away from Dan Tran '17 and Thomas Choi '16 to win the 500 in 5:07.45.

The 200 Freestyle offered another competitive finish, with the team of Nick Faulkner '16, Cruz Walma, Kinard and Rossi win in 1:34.46 ahead of Zhong, Felix Liu '15, Orgul and Ty in 1:35.52.

Andover dominated the Backstroke, with Nate Smith '18 taking the win in 58.66 ahead of Michael Najem '16 in 1:01.66 and Liu 1:01.90. Swimming in exhibition, Andover swept the event with Teo (1:01.33), co-captain Alex Li '15 (1:04.46) and Xue (1:06.46).

In the final event, Andover's three relay entries raced to a close finish. The fastest time was recorded by Matt Li '18, Smith, Teo, and Rossi in 3:31.45.

Several of our athletes recorded all-time best performances, among them: Darren Ty '16 (50 Free: 21.81R, 200 Free: 1:50.21), Nate Cruz Walma '18 (50 Free: 23.79R, 100 Free: 54.53R), Sarp Orgul '16 (50 Free: 24.10R), Thomas Choi '16 (100 Free: 51.53), Ben Janoscheck '16 (100 Free: 55.26R), Nate Smith '18 (100 Back: 58.66), Richard Zhong '17 (100 Fly: 57.30, 200 IM: 2:11.26), Felix Liu '15 (100 Fly: 1:00.54), Michael Najem '16 (200 IM: 2:16.96), Matt Li '18 (500 Free: 5:32.01).

Andover will host Exeter for its final dual meet of the 2015 season on Saturday, February 21 in Andover, starting at 2 pm. For full results and an historical perspective of our program, consult www.andoveraquatics.net. League results are posted on www.nepssa.org.