

Andover Makes Final Preparations for New Englands and Defeats Exeter  
Warden '19 Establishes New 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Record

Since 1919, the Andover Boys' Swimming and Diving Team's annual dual-meet season has concluded with a competition against Exeter. During those last 97 years, both programs have experienced long stretches of wins and losses. After enduring a 32-year drought, Andover defeated Exeter in 2006, and last year marked its tenth victory in a row.

This year's meeting brought Andover (7-1, 6-0 New England) and Exeter (4-6, 4-5 New England) together for a fun and exciting competition that served as a final rehearsal for the upcoming New England Championships.

In the 200 Medley Relay, four Exeter seniors combined to post an impressive 1:37.57, but Andover's Richard Zhong '17, co-captain Darren Ty '16, Jack Warden '19, and Nick Faulkner '16 were able to post a 1:42.06 for second. Michael Najem '16, Jacob Hudgins '19, Sarp Orgul '16, and Thomas Choi '16 swam 1:46.10 for fourth, and Nate Smith '18, Jonathan Xue '17, Harvey Zheng '19, and Will Kantaros '18 swam 1:46.22 for sixth. Kantaros and Zheng both had season-best splits. (Andover 4 – Exeter 10).

Co-captain Marcello Rossi '16 led Andover's efforts in the 200 Freestyle, winning in an impressive 1:44.80, just off his personal best from last year's championships. Dan Tran '17 was fourth in 1:53.53, also just off his best, and Thomas Choi '16 was 1:55.60 for fifth. (Andover 13 – Exeter 17).

Not to be outdone by his co-captain, Ty returned to the pool to win the 200 Individual Medley in 2:00.71. Warden was third in a season-best 2:04.89, and Zheng was fifth in 2:05.43. Swimming exhibition, Rick Ono '19 swam 2:09.64; Hudgins swam 2:08.92; and Orgul swam 2:12.57. (Andover 23 – Exeter 23).

The 50 Freestyle saw the day's most exciting race: after a dominant start from Exeter's Will Belmont '16, Andover's Christian Alberga '17 was able to catch-up for a tie in 21.50. Nick Isenhower '18 swam 23.26 for third, and Faulkner swam 23.87 for sixth. In exhibition, Kantaros posted a 23.49 and Najem a 24.18. Alberga, Kantaros, and Najem had season bests. (Andover 31 – Exeter 31).

As they have all along, Andover's divers contributed mightily to the team's performance. Matt Grottkau '17 won the event with 235.45. Jack Belluche '16 was second with 234.35, and Rob DeLaus '16 was fourth with 202.35. All three divers posted season-best performances. (Andover 43 – Exeter 35).

Rossi returned to the pool for the 100 Butterfly and secured the win in a personal best of 53.45. Warden placed third in a personal best of 54.16, which broke Jimmy Brenner's (Class of 2010) Junior Record set in 2007. Zhong was fourth in a season best of 57.58, and Orgul swam 59.81 in exhibition. (Andover 54 – Exeter 40).

The 100 Freestyle saw a rematch between Alberga and Belmont, but this time, Belmont got

the clear win in 47.49, finally breaking the thrice-held Andover-Exeter record of Andover's Curtis Hon '10 and Michael Camarda '14 and Exeter's Avery Reavill in 47.56. Alberga placed second in 47.98, and Zheng placed third in 51.04, a season best. Faulkner swam 52.33 for fifth. (Andover 62 – Exeter 48).

In a last-minute substitution, Isenhower entered the 500 Freestyle and secured the win in 4:59.15. Tran swam a personal best of 5:06.31 for second, and Ono swam a personal best of 5:08.87 for fifth. (Andover 73 – Exeter 53).

The 200 Freestyle Relay saw school-record holders Ty, Rossi, Isenhower, and Alberga cruise to a win in 1:28.41. Xue, Kantaros, Warden, and Faulkner were second in 1:31.64. Kantaros and Warden posted personal bests, and Xue a season best. (Andover 85 – Exeter 55).

Despite the score, the Big Red was not finished and absolutely dominated the final two individual events of the day. In the 100 Backstroke, Zhong swam 56.55 for second. Smith swam a season best 59.50 for fifth, and Najem swam a season best 59.87 for sixth. (Andover 90 – Exeter 66).

In the 100 Breaststroke, Ty was third in 1:00.97; Hudgins was fourth in 1:02.62; and Xue was fifth in 1:05.42. (Andover 96 – Exeter 76).

For the 400 Freestyle Relay, Rossi, Isenhower, Zheng, and Alberga swam 3:16.69 for the win. Zhong, Ono, Tran, and Xue swam 3:35.41 for fourth, and Kantaros, Orgul, Smith, and Najem swam 3:35.62 for fifth. Kantaros and Tran had personal bests. Orgul and Smith had season bests. (Andover 104 – Exeter 82).

With only two weeks left before the New England Championships at Deerfield, Andover will need to sweat the details in order to fulfill its potential.