

Phillips Academy Boys' Swimming & Diving Wins 6th New England Championship

25 Personal Bests Out of 29 Preliminary Swims Set Stage

At the end of its 104th season, the Andover Boys' Swimming & Diving Team traveled to Deerfield for the New England Championships and what was anticipated to be a very close meet with the defending champions from Deerfield. After hours of swimming and diving—and many, many outstanding performances from members of both squads as well as from swimmers and divers throughout New England—the meet that was anticipated to be very close finally came to an end with Andover defeating Deerfield 340.5 to 337.

As it has throughout the season, Deerfield was led by a highly motivated group of seniors, particularly Babcock Award Winner Miles Smachlo '16, brother of Andover's Alex '11 and Julia '13. Smachlo established New England records in the 100 Freestyle (44.78) and the 200 Freestyle (1:38.10). Of the eight individual swimming events, he now holds four of the records! The meet's only other New England record was Suffield's 1:23.55 in the 200 Freestyle Relay; yes, that is averaging 20.8.

Andover's narrow team victory over such tremendous talent demonstrates the importance of every swim and of every dive, something former head coach Jacques Hugon '79—the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the New England Coaches Association—always preached. Once again, his mantra paid off.

Although every moment matters, a few highlights are worth mentioning.

Andover's diving trio of Jack Belluche '16, Rob DeLaus '16, and Matt Grottkau '17 performed admirably during the diving championships last Wednesday and allowed the team to enter the swimming portion of the competition with a 23-point advantage over Deerfield.

After a fourteen-year drought, an Andover swimmer captured the title in the 200 Individual Medley: co-captain Darren Ty '16. Moreover, recognizing what was best for the overall team strategy, both Darren and his fellow co-captain, Marcello Rossi '16 swam in events in which they had never before competed at the championships, and they both placed third. Darren swam the 100 Breaststroke, becoming only the second Andover swimmer to ever break 58:00, and Marcello swam the 100 Butterfly in a time making him the fourth-fastest swimmer in school history.

During Friday's preliminaries, Andover swimmers competed in 29 events. Of those 29 swims, 25 were personal best times, while the remaining four were not only season bests, but also just a few tenths-of-a-second off a personal best.

After the preliminaries, all six seniors were in position to score points: not only Rossi and Ty, but also Thomas Choi '16, Nick Faulkner '16, Michael Najem '16, and Sarp Orgul '16. Unfortunately, under the league rules, Najem had to scratch the 100 Backstroke, despite his being the 12th-fastest swimmer in the preliminaries, because teams are limited to only three finalists per event. Also worthy of note, this championship marks the final swimming competition for the Faulkner family: Katie '06, Andrew '07, William '09, Kristen '11, and Nick '16.

Each of Andover's rookies—Jacob Hudgins '19, Nick Isenhower '18, Will Kantaros '18, Rick Ono '19, Jack Warden '19, Harvey Zheng '19—scored points at the championships. Hudgins and Warden established new Junior records. Isenhower shot to fourth on the all-time list in the 200 Freestyle, and Kantaros, who had competed in only informal summer leagues before joining our JV team in December, split a 21.8 in the 200 Freestyle Relay.

Finally, Christian Alberga '17 continues his assault on the Andover record board, breaking David Mainen's '89 Upper record in the 50 Freestyle by swimming 21.30.

Diving

Jack Belluche '16 / 340.80 / 5th place
Matt Grottkau '18 / 316.30 / 6th place
Rob DeLaus '16 / 299.20 / 10th place

200 Medley Relay

Richard Zhong '17 / 25.84
Jacob Hudgins '19 / 27.99
Jack Warden '19 / 23.66
Nick Faulkner '16 / 22.16
1:39.65 / 5th place / 17th all-time

Michael Najem '16 / 26.59
Jonathan Xue '17 / 28.63
Sarp Orgul '16 / 24.92
Will Kantaros '18 / 22.02
1:42.16 / exhibition

200 Freestyle

Nick Isenhower '18 / 1:42.68 / 2nd place / 4th all-time
Marcello Rossi '16 / 1:43.29 / 4th place / 1:42.77 prelims is 5th all-time
Thomas Choi '16 / 1:47.60 / 11th place / 1:47.22 prelims is 24th all-time

Dan Tran '17 / 1:52.88 / 19th place

200 Individual Medley

Darren Ty '16 / 1:54.45 / 1st place / 3rd all-time

Harvey Zheng '19 / 2:01.60 / 13th place

Sarp Orgul '16 / 2:02.90 / 17th place

Jacob Hudgins '19 / 2:03.18 / 18th place

50 Freestyle

Christian Alberga '17 / 21.33 / 4th place / 21.30 prelims is 3rd all-time / Upper Record

Will Kantaros '18 / 22.64 / 13th place / 22.58 prelims

Nick Faulkner '16 / 22.98 / 16th place / 22.67 prelims

Jonathan Xue '17 / 23.27 / 22nd place

100 Butterfly

Marcello Rossi '16 / 51.85 / 3rd place / 4th all-time

Jack Warden '19 / 53.35 / 7th place / 52.82 prelims is 6th all-time / Junior Record

Sarp Orgul '16 / 55.86 / 16th place / 55.03 prelims

Richard Zhong '17 / 55.63 / 18th place

100 Freestyle

Christian Alberga '17 / 47.01 / 6th place / 6th all-time

Nick Isenhower '18 / 47.64 / 8th place / 11th all-time

Nick Faulkner '16 / 49.76 / 18th place

Harvey Zheng '19 / 50.59 / 21st place

500 Freestyle

Thomas Choi '16 / 4:54.92 / 9th place / 17th all-time

Rick Ono '19 / 5:02.97 / 14th place

Dan Tran '17 / 5:05.54 / 18th place

200 Freestyle Relay

Darren Ty '16 / 21.74

Marcello Rossi '16 / 21.39

Nick Isenhower '18 / 21.59

Christian Alberga '17 / 20.76

1:25.48 / 2nd place / All-American Consideration / 2nd all-time behind squad's 1:25.30 from January

Michael Najem '16 / 23.57
Rick Ono '19 / 23.79
Sarp Orgul '16 / 23.51
Will Kantaros '18 / 21.88
1:32.45 / exhibition

100 Backstroke

Jack Warden '19 / 54.68 / 6th place / 54.41 prelims is 14th all-time
Richard Zhong '17 / 54.91 / 7th place
Nate Smith '18 / 55.49 / 9th place / 20th all-time
Michael Najem '16 / 56.36 / 12th in prelims but forced to scratch to three entrants

100 Breaststroke

Darren Ty '16 / 57.81 / 3rd place / 2nd all-time
Jacob Hudgins '19 / 1:00.50 / 7th place / 1:00.09 prelims is 10th all-time / Junior Record
Jonathan Xue '17 / 1:02.40 / 13th place / 1:02.32 prelims is 18th all-time
Rick Ono '19 / 1:06.23 / 21st place

400 Freestyle Relay

Marcello Rossi '16 / 47.59 / 11th all-time
Nick Isenhower '18 / 48.00
Darren Ty '16 / 47.37
Christian Alberga '17 / 45.98
3:08.94 / 3rd place / 4th all-time / All-American Consideration