

## **Boys' Swimming & Diving Defends Home Pool**

With Personal and Season Best Times, Boys defeat Choate

Five weeks after its first meet and with much mileage in between, the Boys' Swimming & Diving team hosted Choate today for its first home-meet of the 2016 season. The Wild Boars always provide excellent competition, and this year's squad did not disappoint.

As always, the meet began with the 200 Medley Relay. Rookie Jack Warden '19, co-captain Darren Ty '16, co-captain Marcello Rossi '16, and Christian Alberga '17 partnered to win the event in 1:39.61, and Richard Zhong '17, rookie Jacob Hudgins '19, Sarp Orgul '16, and Nick Faulkner '16 were third in 1:44.32.

Coming fresh off his first 200 Medley Relay ever, Rossi battled rookie Nick Isenhower '18 throughout the 200 Freestyle. Isenhower got the better of him at the end this time, in 1:48.29, and Rossi finished in 1:48.81. Thomas Choi '16 swam 1:54.81 for fourth.

In the 200 Individual Medley, one of Choate's star sprinters, Tristan So '17, got the better of Ty, who swam a strong 1:59.80, followed by Warden in 2:07.45 for third and Orgul in 2:11.41 for fifth. In exhibition, three 9<sup>th</sup> graders all posted impressive performances: Rick Ono '19 swam 2:08.78, Hudgins swam 2:09.00, and Harvey Zheng '19 swam 2:09.19.

The 50 Freestyle turned out to be the day's most competitive event, and the only individual event in which Choate outscored Andover. Alberga came in second in 21.90 followed by Faulkner in fifth with a 23.40 and Jonathan Xue '17 in sixth with a 23.96. Entering the diving competition, Andover led Choate 35 to 27.

Choate's Kobe Tray '19, who broke Choate's school record in his first time competing for the Wild Boars, won the diving event with 283.75 points. Andover's divers, as always, fared well with Jack Belluche '16 placing second in 218.45, Matt Grottkau '17 placing third in 183.40, and Rob DeLaus '16 placing fifth in 149.50.

With the score 43 to 35, the swimming competition resumed, and Ty led Andover's efforts in the 100 Butterfly, winning the event in 52.65 followed by Zhong in 59.45 for fourth and Orgul in 59.50 for fifth, which increased Andover's lead to 10.

In the 100 Freestyle, Andover began seizing control: Alberga won in 48.29 followed by Rossi in third with a 49.51, and Choi in fourth in 50.60. Swimming exhibition, Faulkner posted a 51.90 and Nate Smith '18 a 55.68.

Isenhower faced Choate's So in the 500 Freestyle, and the pair pushed themselves to strong early-season times. Isenhower placed second in 4:54.87, Zheng placed third in 5:11.28, and Dan Tran '17 placed fourth in 5:13.58.

With an 18-point lead, Andover entered the 200 Freestyle Relay and posted a strong result. Ty, Rossi, Isenhower, and Alberga raced to victory in 1:28.80 and Choi, Xue, Tran, and Michael Najem '16 swam 1:35.50. (Yes, Isenhower and Tran completed their relay obligations immediately following the 500).

Zhong (57.30), Warden (58.04), and Smith (1:01.28) placed second, third, and fourth in the 100 Backstroke to win the event, and Najem swam 1:00.69 in exhibition.

In his first career victory, Hudgins swam 1:03.37 in the 100 Breaststroke, with Xue fourth in 1:06.94, and Ono fifth in 1:08.09.

In the final even of the day, the 400 Freestyle Relay, Andover's depth helped the squad place second, third, and fourth. Tran, Choi, Warden, and Isenhower combined to post a 3:24.59, while Ono, Zheng, Faulkner, and Xue swam 3:33.80, and Orgul, Najem, Smith, and Zhong swam 3:39.80.

With a final score of 106 to 80, Andover ended the day pleased with its performances and ready for a week of hard training before traveling to Loomis next Saturday to face the Pelicans.