

## **More Great Mid-Season Performances for Boys' Swimming & Diving**

Big Blue gains win against Pelicans (104.5-81.5)

At the start of the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, the Phillips Academy Boys' Varsity Swimming & Diving Team traveled to Connecticut to face a strong squad from Loomis for the only short-course meters meet of the season.

Loomis seized an impressive early lead by going first and third in the 200 Medley Relay. Andover's Richard Zhong '17, co-captain Darren Ty '16, Jack Warden '19, and Nick Faulkner '16 were second in 1:52.39. Michael Najem '16, Jacob Hudgins '19, Sarp Orgul '16, and Thomas Choi '16 were fourth in 1:57.92, and Nate Smith '18, Harvey Zheng '19, Rick Ono '19, and Jonathan Xue '17 placed fifth in 2:02.19.

Andover quickly made a dent in the six-point deficit with co-captain Marcello Rossi '16 winning the 200 Freestyle in 1:58.33, Nick Isenhower '18 placing second in 1:58.91, and Dan Tran '17 tying for fifth in 2:07.25.

Ty returned to the pool to win the 200 IM with a commanding performance of 2:13.66 with Warden following in fourth at 2:22.23, and Orgul in fifth at 2:28.10.

In the 50 Freestyle, Christian Alberga '17 had his best technical performance of his career and won in 24.47. Choi was third in 26.13, and Faulkner was sixth in 26.52.

Once again, the diving event concluded in Andover's favor with Jack Belluche '16 placing second with 201.10 points, Matt Grottkau '17 placing third with 190.90 points, and Rob DeLaus '16 placing fourth with 157.05 points. At the end of the diving event, Andover led 41.5 to 36.5.

Rossi won the first 100 Butterfly event of his career in an impressive 1:00.86, and Andover's lead appeared solidified with Zheng's 1:05.13 for third, and Ono's 1:07.24 for fifth.

Loomis was not finished, though, and the Pelicans then outscored Andover in consecutive events--the only individual events of the day in which they would outscored the Big Blue. In the 100 Freestyle, Alberga won in 53.92, Warden was fifth in 58.23, and Faulkner was sixth in 59.61. In the 400, Isenhower was second in 4:18.62, Tran was fifth in 4:29.97, and Choi was sixth in 4:30.76. At this point, Andover led 63.5 to 62.5!

Andover responded in the 200 Freestyle Relay. Rossi, Ty, Faulkner, and Alberga combined to win in 1:40.07, and Zheng, Ono, Orgul, and Isenhower were third in 1:46.12. Hudgins, Grottkau, Xue, and Tran swam 1:54.13.

By placing first, third, and fourth in the 100 Backstroke, Andover built an insurmountable lead in the team race. Zhong swam 1:02.42, Najem 1:07.34, and Smith 1:07.75.

Ty won his second event of the day with a 1:07.23 in the 100 Breaststroke. Hudgins placed third with a 1:10.64, and Xue placed fifth with a 1:13.67.

In the day's final race, the 400 Freestyle Relay, Andover's squad of Isenhower, Choi, Rossi, and Alberga swam 3:39.60 for the win. Tran, Ono, Zheng, and Warden swam 3:52.45 for third, and Najem, Zhong, Smith, and Hudgins swam 4:13.50 for sixth.

Following the 104.5 to 81.5 victory, Andover will spend two days away from the pool and then return for a few weeks of heavy training and only two meets: NMH next Saturday and Deerfield the following one.