

105th Season Begins with New England and Pool Records

Boys' Swimming & Diving Defeats Choate 104-77

After eight practices, the members of the Boys' 2017 Varsity Swimming Team travelled to Choate Rosemary Hall to face the Wild Boars in their 25-meter pool. Despite the limited training time, the Boys took advantage of the opportunity to race at the 25-meter distance, the only opportunity they will have this season.

In the season's first event, the 200 Medley Relay, the Andover squad of Jack Warden '19 (27.98), rookie Neil Simpson '19 (30.25), rookie Arnold Su '20 (25.33), and captain Christian Alberga '17 (23.66) swam 1:47.22, breaking the pool and New England records, the latter was set by Deerfield in 2014. This is the first New England record for each of these swimmers, although the seventh for the Simpson family; Neil's brother, Scott, was part of establishing six different New England records during his senior year.

Also in the 200 Medley Relay, Richard Zhong '17 (30.64), Jacob Hudgins '19 (32.08), rookie Adam Vlasic '20 (27.22), and Will Kantaros '18 (25.26) swam 1:55.20 for third-place, and Nate Smith '18 (30.56), Rick Ono '19 (34.43), rookie Lance Freiman '19 (26.94), and Dan Tran '17 (25.94) swam 1:57.87 in non-scoring exhibition.

Andover swept Choate in the next event, the 200 Freestyle, with Nick Isenhower '18 swimming 1:58.77, rookie Anthony Minickiello '20 swimming 2:04.57, and Simpson swimming 2:06.32. Rookie Riku Tanaka '20 swam 2:10.45 in exhibition.

Vlasic returned to the pool in the 200 IM, winning the first individual event of his career: 2:20.77. Harvey Zheng '19 placed second in 2:21.02, and Freiman placed fourth in 2:23.93. Rookie Sam Donchi '20 swam 2:21.31 in exhibition.

Entering the 50 Freestyle, Andover held a lead of 35 to 11, but Choate's three stars responded by winning the next four events.

Choate's Scott Romeyn '18 won the 50 in 24.07 with Su placing second in 24.52, Alberga third in 24.56, and Kantaros fifth in 26.08.

Choate's defending New England champion Kobe Tray '19 won the diving event in 281.95, and Andover's Matt Grottkau '17 placed second in 164.35.

Choate's Tristan So '17 won the 100 Butterfly with a 58.05 with Warden in second with a 59.45, Donchi in fourth with a 1:02.98, and Freiman in fifth with a 1:04.36.

Romeyn returned to win the 100 Freestyle in 53.81 followed quickly by Isenhower in 54.27, Alberga in third in 55.40, Zheng in fifth in 56.51, and Tanaka in exhibition in 1:00.25.

With the score now 62 to 45, Andover responded by sweeping the 400 Freestyle. Minickiello had the first win of his career in 4:18.24. Ono was second in 4:32.98, and Vlasic was third in 4:33.57. Swimming exhibition, Tran completed the race in 4:34.01, which would have placed fourth.

In the 200 Freestyle Relay, Freiman (26.06), Zheng (25.44), Isenhower (24.86), and Kantaros (24.62) sprinted to a victory in 1:40.98. Donchi (27.04), Hudgins (27.62), Tanaka (26.87) and Minickiello (26.86) were third in 1:48.39.

Choate's So won the 100 Backstroke, with Warden second with a 1:01.21, Simpson third with a 1:02.10, and Zhong fifth with a 1:06.13. Smith swam 1:07.52 in exhibition.

In the 100 Breaststroke, Su narrowly missed the pool record by swimming an impressive 1:07.22. Hudgins was second in 1:10.12, and Ono was fifth in 1:16.09.

With the victory in hand, 104 to 65, Andover swam exhibition in the 400 Freestyle Relay and posted several great performances. Su (55.31), Warden (54.89), Isenhower (54.93), and Alberga (53.41) swam 3:38.54. Simpson (56.71), Zheng (57.72), Vlasic (57.18), and Minickiello (59.71) swam 3:51.32. Donchi (58.53), Zhong (1:05.00), Tanaka (59.69), and Tran (58.04) swam 4:01.26.

After another week of training, Andover will host a strong Loomis squad next Saturday.