

ECICs - Girls Swimming

North's depth wins 'AA', Flames place second

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North's 60-member roster paid huge dividends at last week's ECIC Championships at Sweet Home High School.

North won Division AA with 347.5 points, 45.5 more points than second place Williamsville East. The Lady Spartans only won one event (1-meter diving) and took only one second place (200 free relay) but was top in Class A because several swimmers placed in the top 16 and scored points.

"Our depth has been our strength all year," said North coach Doug Cassidy. "We only took one second place. Everything else was third place or below but we had kids who scored in every event which really helped."

Here are several examples:

In the 200 IM, Kelly Battaglia took third (personal best 2:18.45), Abigail MacDonald was fifth (personal best 2:21.11) and Clare Battaglia was 12th (2:26.40).

In the 100 butterfly, Battaglia was fifth (1:04.32), Erin Cavagnaro was eighth (1:06.62) and Kerri Bubar was 15th (1:10.70).

In the 100 free, Cammy Farkas was third (personal best 57.82). Talty was 10th (59.64) and Abby Zwierchowski came in 11th (1:00.41).

In the 50 free, Talty and Zwierchowski came in seventh (26.71) and tied for 12th (27.40), respectively.

In the 500 free, Becky Akers was fourth (personal best 534.47), Clare Battaglia was ninth (6:00) and Nicole Malkowski came in 13th (6:09.08).

In the 100 back, MacDonald was third (1:04.15) and Maggie Schmidt was sixth (1:07.23).

In the 200 free, Farkas placed sixth (2:06.99) and Schmidt was eighth (2:08.13).

In the 100 breast, Akers was eighth (1:17.15), marking the first time a North swimmer had placed in the top eight in five years. Cavagnaro was ninth (1:17.27).

North went into Friday's swimming finals with 44 diving points from Casey Matthews (first, 497.60), Krissy Flierl (sixth, 258.25) and Dana Gradl (eighth, 245.70).

All of North's relays had season-best times. The 200 free relay of Battaglia, Schmidt, Zwierchowski and Farkas came in second in 1:45.49. The 200 medley relay of MacDonald, Cavagnaro, Sarah Bachwitz, and Britney Talty were fourth in 2:01.94. The 400 free relay of Battaglia, Farkas, MacDonald, and Schmidt was third in 1:56.90.

"Despite being so big, our team is very close," said Cassidy. "I've had teams in the past where we've gotten all of the ribbons but this year has been probably the most satisfying championship I've ever had. It's a whole lot of fun."

Williamsville East

Several records fell for the Lady Flames.

Division AA MVP Jennifer Anthone set a new school record in the 200 free (158.80) and Janelle Munroe broke her own records in the 100 fly (59.44) and 100 back (101.42). Anthone and Munroe also teamed up with Bailey Woodling and Tori Mayer in the 400 free relay to set a school and Sweet Home pool record of 3:42.65. All were first place finishes. Anthone won the 100 free in 54.43.

Mayer was third in the 500 free (personal best 534.25) and fourth in the 200 free (205.25). Kelsey Bradbury came in fifth in the 500 free (539.75) and sixth in the 200 IM (222.76). Kelsey Crawford was seventh in the 100 back (107.83). Kristen Ostanski was 10th in the 100 breast (personal best 117.50).

East's 200 medley relay of Crawford, Ostanski, Munroe and Woodling was second (157.77). The 200 free relay of Bradbury, Ostanski, Mayer and Anthone came in fourth (147.04).

Eighth grader diver Taylor Castle finished seventh (248.40).

"We swam very well and were very proud of them," said East coach Mike Doerfler. "North swam very well. We just didn't have enough to beat them."

East won its fifth straight ECIC II title, albeit abbreviated, with a 6-0 record.

Sweet Home

Bethany Fried and Paige Gutowski helped lead host team Sweet Home to a fifth-place finish in Division AA.

Fried won the 500 free (5:18.28) and was second in the 200 free (2:00.87). Gutowski

took first in the 200 IM (2:12.13) and second in the 100 breast (1:08.51). Fried and Gutowski helped the team's 400 free relay to a second place finish (3:49.17) and 200 free relay to a third place finish (1:45.83).

Kaitlin Mergler and Sarah Mazuchowski also comprised the 400 free relay; Mergler and Caitlin Schwinge were on the 200 free relay team.

Mergler took fourth in the 100 free (58.22) and seventh in the 200 free (2:07.54). Mazuchowski (5:54.97, seventh) and Schwinge (6:03.19, tenth) placed in the 500 free. Mazuchowski was ninth in the 200 free (2:10.52); Schwinge came in 12th (2:13.14).

Sweet Home finished fifth overall with 179 points.

Williamsville South

Stephanie Amadeo's fourth place in diving (275.35) highlighted the Lady Billies' performance.

South finished ninth in Division AA with 116 points.

Jennifer Rogers was eighth in the 200 IM (2:28.78).

Alaina Laszweski came in ninth in the 100 back (1:09.41) and 10th in the 100 fly (1:07.41).

The Section VI Championships will be held Thursday through Saturday at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center.

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Amherst places fourth in Division 'A'

Amherst Central's girls swimming team splashed to a fourth place finish out of 13 teams at the ECIC "A" finals held last Friday at Sweet Home High School.

"After being out of the water for eight days because of the storm, the girls did a fantastic job," commented coach Ann Crittendon.

"Most of the girls posted personal best times at this meet, which is incredible given the circumstances."

The Lady Tigers were led by Sarah Masters with a first in 1-meter diving and Eva Lankes, who touched out last year's champ Jessica Peronne of Starpoint in the 50 free in a school record time of 25.52.

In one of the most exciting races of the night, Amherst's 200 free relay team of Lankes, Kaelyn Sullivan, Michelle Niblock and Brianne Burton fought off eventual team champions Starpoint and runner-up East Aurora on the last leg to finish first in a fast 1:45.67. This same foursome

also touched second in the 200 medley relay.

"It's nice to see these four have some success at this level, especially Burton, a senior who will have some nice memories to take with her," said coach Kim Skomra.

Some fine individual swims were also turned in by Burton (second 100 free; third 200 IM), Niblock (third, 100 fly) and Lankes (fourth, 100 back).

Personal best times were turned by Ellie Polean (200 free), Emily Call (200 and 500 free), Melissa Tschamler (200 IM, 100 fly) Emma O'Connor (50 and 100 free), Larissa Kumm (100 back), Sullivan (50 free, 100 breast) and Niblock (200 IM).

"We hope this trend continues next week at sectionals," said Skomra. "We have to go back into the pool to try and fine tune a few things."

The Section VI Championships will be held Thursday through Saturday at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center.

Swim records fall at Sacred Heart

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

You only have to look at the school record board to see how well Sacred Heart's girls swimming team is doing this season.

"I've been so happy with the season," said Sharks coach Kristy Michalek. "We had girls breaking records in our second meet. In our first meeting with Nardin, we broke four or five records alone. Even though we didn't achieve our goal of beating Nardin in dual meets, so many girls have gotten best times and school records. The school record board is, with the exception of one or two events, broken this year."

Records which have fallen include Liz Subjeck in the 100-yard freestyle (56.46) and 100 backstroke (1:05.81), Laura Savattieri in the 100 breast (1:13.64), and the 200 free relay (Subjeck, Laura and Sarah Savattieri, and Caitlyn Fields, 147.72) and 200 medley relay (Christina Ruggiero, Laura Savattieri, Fields, and Subjeck, 1:58.34).

Michalek also said Caitlyn Steele has swam well in the 100 fly and is doing well in relays.

"We have good depth," she added. "A bunch of our seniors have really surprised like Michelle Rua in the 500 free."

Sacred Heart is 5-2 as of this writing. Both losses are to Nardin. All-Catholics are Nov. 8 at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center.

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Sports Briefs

Emily Warren, a freshmen for the Mercyhurst College Lakers field hockey team, scored four goals in her team's 9-2 win over Houghton College on Oct. 31. She ended her season by tying for the most number of game-winning goals (2) as well as tying as a leadingscorer for the team (7). She also tied the school record for most goals scored in one game (4).

Sophomores Jessica Ortman and Jenna Ortman, both of Williamsville, registered top-10 finishes for the University at Al-

bany at the America East Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Oct. 28 hosted by the University of Maine. Jessica Ortman paced the Great Danes' women, covering the course in 17:36.60 and coming in sixth place. Jenna Ortman finished eighth in a time

of 17:47.90. The women's all-conference team, which is made up of the top 10 finishers in the event, included both Ortmans.

The Great Danes will compete at the NCAA Regional meet in Bronx, N.Y., on Saturday, Nov. 11.

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