

Swim Meet Hailed Fastest in NCS History

By Garrett Ley

Schools from throughout Northern California participated in the North Coast Section (NCS) swimming championships on Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24. The meet was hailed as one of the fastest in NCS history, with nearly every event more competitive than previous years.

“It was really tough to final this weekend, times that would have easily been top eight finishes hardly made it into the top sixteen,” Miramonte sprinter Grant Harrison explains. “But that’s what makes this meet so exciting.”

The meet came down to the wire between Las Lomas and Campolindo, but the Knights edged out their DFAL counterpart by 20 points to be crowned NCS champions. Other Lamorinda teams had solid showings; Miramonte finished seventh with 195.5 points and the Acalanes Dons finished 14th with 121 points.

Men’s

The Cougars dominated the men’s side for the fourth year in a row, racking up 262 team points, 71 points better than second-place De La Salle. Campolindo had a solid showing in the relays, coming in second place in the 200-yard medley relay, the 200-yard freestyle relay, and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Individually, the Cougars were led by senior Dana Foster, who finished fifth in the 50-yard freestyle and sixth in the 100-yard freestyle. Shane Tutass improved .45 seconds from his preliminary time to place fourth in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 51.29, and also finished fifth in the 500-yard freestyle.

Other individuals from Campolindo included senior backstroker Nate Erickson, who clocked a 52.02 in the 100-yard backstroke in the preliminaries, but finished seventh in the finals. Junior Tommy Dowley was third in the 200-yard freestyle, earning his first Junior National time.

For Miramonte, it was Sean Haufler who stepped up, placing third in two individual events. He started his day with a time of 1:55.42 in the 200-yard IM, and later clocked a 52.17 in the Men’s 100-yard backstroke to finish behind Jordan Lager (51.64) of



Women’s Relay (Campo): (L to R) Alva, Olivia JR; Holt, Kelley SR; Cleak, Rachel SO; Luchini, Shelbi JR Photo Doug Kohen



Men’s Relay (Campo): (L to R) Foster, Dana SR; Melton, Andrew JR; Ward, Roger SR; Dowley, Tommy JR Photo Doug Kohen

San Marin and Matt Boone (51.98) of Acalanes.

Miramonte captain Zak Dychtwald calls Haufler “the backbone of this team, both in times and rugged good looks.”

Haufler’s teammate, freshman phenom Nick Deaver was a couple body lengths behind Haufler in the 100-yard backstroke, placing eighth with a time of 53.84. That was after his seventh-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly. Deaver was also known as the pioneer of the new Blueseventy racing suit, which became popular for the first time at this year’s meet. The new suit is made out of neoprene, making the swimmer feel as if he or she is floating higher in the water. “It just feels fast, as if I’m swimming right along the surface of the water” Deaver says.

Haufler and Deaver joined teammates Adam Schaffer and Grant Harrison in the final event of the day, the 400-yard freestyle relay. The race came down the final leg, with Las Lomas’s Greg Harper touching out Campo’s Nate Erickson by a mere .07.

After an extraordinary anchor leg from sophomore Grant Harrison, the Mats finished fourth, a mere .98 be-

hind the lead.

Despite the disappointing defeat, Erickson was “proud of his team and happy to be part of such a great race.”

Women’s

Though overshadowed by Las Lomas for much of the day, Campolindo and Miramonte swam well and finished fourth and twelfth respectively.

The Cougars had three top-five finishes in the relays, highlighted by a third-place finish by the 200-yard freestyle relay team, which consists of sophomore Rachel Cleak, junior Olivia Alva, senior Kelley Holt and junior Shelbi Luchini. The Cougars placed fifth in two other relays—the 200-yard medley and the 400-yard freestyle.

Caroline Lukins’ time of 56.96 in the 100-yard butterfly earned her sixth place in the event. Luchini improved more than four seconds in the 500-yard freestyle and placed seventh overall. Both girls have battled injuries throughout their high school careers, yet still continue to dominate their respective events.

Miramonte’s top relay performance was a fifth-place finish by their

200-yard freestyle relay team composed of Sierra Robbins, Meredith White, Christina Vidal and Kimberly Sanguinetti. The 200-yard medley relay team, consisting of seniors Katie Bilotti, Claire Ivry, Kendall Weikert and Lindsey Jackson motored to a ninth-place finish with a time of 1:50.92.

Individually, Bilotti had the highest team finish of any Matador, recording a 58.29 in the 100-yard butterfly to finish tenth overall. Robbins was the only freshman to final in the very competitive 50-yard freestyle, finishing fourteenth.

“It was tough coming back and topping our DFAL performance from two weeks prior, but everyone swam really well and we were able to compete with some of the fastest swimmers in the nation,” Bilotti said.

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The Acalanes women's team accrued 29 points to place 20th. Their highlight was an eleventh-place showing by their 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Las Lomas's Kasey Carlson continued her dominance of the 100-yard breaststroke from the DFAL meet two weeks earlier, becoming the first girl in North Coast history to go under a minute. This summer, she will compete at the US Olympic Trials in Omaha for a spot on the Olympic team.



Shane Tutass

Doug Kohen