

Orinda, Moraga Swim Teams Start Summer Season **First Meets of Season Garner Medals, Prove Might**

By Jack Fernbacher



After kids get out of school, they dive into swim season to cool off during this year's scorching hot summer. With temperatures in the hundreds already this summer, the cool pools are a nice place to be in.

"I like jumping into the swimming pool after playing tennis in the hot sun all day," said 8-year old Moraga-resident Jake O'Balle. "I can stay in the cool water all day and would if my parents didn't make me get out."

Though many kids just like to cool down in the pool during the summer, many others are competing in the recreational OMPA league that is comprised of swim teams from Orinda and Moraga. The teams compete against one another each week in head-to-head meets and then the teams race in

the OMPA meet at the end of the season.

In last year's final OMPA meet, Orinda Country Club came out on top to capture first place. Following close behind, Moraga Country Club took second and Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis got third place.

At one of their first meets against Moraga Ranch Swim Club (MRSC) on June 21, Orinda Country Club swim team men and women each took first place in 20 events, including younger swimmers Katie Klein, age 8, in the 100 meter IM (1:45.09), Ashley Abramson, 6, in the women's 25 free (20.69) and Scott Reugg, age 5, in the freestyle event with 24.70. Standouts included 12-year-old Andrew Zolintakis, who took first in the men's 100 IM and the men's

50 freestyle, and Stephen Schmidt, age 9, the men's 50 backstroke and the 50 breaststroke.

MRSC men and women had eight first place finishes respectively, with standout Nicky Erickson, age 10, taking first in the men's 100 IM (1:24.30) and the 50 fly at 33.74.

The swimmers will work to perfect their form and make a county time by the end of the season, so that they can go to the esteemed Contra Costa County Meet.

The County meet separates the teams into three divisions based on the size of the swim club. Last summer, Orinda Country Club got an impressive third place finish at the county meet in the first division.