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Lamorinda's Fastest Swimmers Take on County Competition

LMYA hosts 54th annual County Meet

By Clare Varellas



Tori Yee of Orinda Country Club finished in seventh place overall with 45 points overall.

Photos Gint Federas

Barefoot 6-year-olds clad in tiny racing swimsuits and clutching snow cones squeezed past muscled high school swimmers on their way to the pool at the 54th Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet on Aug. 16-17 at Acalanes' Heaston Aquatic Center. The meet, hosted by LMYA Swim Team at the end of every summer season, once again featured the fastest recreational swimmers between the ages of 3 and 18 years old from 54 teams in the county. "The really neat thing is that you have 6-and-unders competing at the same time as 15-18's, so you have these sessions of the top 6-year-olds, the top 7-8's, the top 9-10's," said meet director Jeff Miller. "It does create that exciting environment."

Exciting it was as race after race of "County swimmers" took to the blocks and then to the water, crossing the pool in shockingly fast times. Though the Crow Canyon Country Club Swim Team ultimately won the overall meet

with the highest number of total points for the tenth consecutive year, all 15 teams from the Lafayette Swim Conference and the Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) sent swimmers to the meet. The teams of Springbrook, Orinda Country Club, and Sleepy Hollow did especially well, securing fifth, sixth, and seventh place respectively in the Division I grouping.

For most swimmers, the opportunity to swim at the meet was more important than the results. Said Rancho Colorados parent Sam Darin, "It's great just to see the different levels of competition and just to be invited. It's a pretty big honor, and the kids are all excited."

Only recreational swimmers who achieve certain times in their events over the course of the summer season qualify to race. These swimmers make up the top 10-20 percent of their teams.

"Obviously it's exciting just to get these kids to achieve this level of time

standard," said Rancho Colorados Swim Team assistant coach Tommy Rotticci. "You're giving them an experience they're going to remember for the rest of their lives, regardless of how they do."

Swimmers agreed that exposure to the fastest level of recreational competition in the county was nerve-racking but also motivating, inspiring an even higher level of performance from some. In fact, Miller described this year's meet as one of the fastest County Meets ever. Out of 82 events, 21 meet records were broken.

For some Lamorinda swimmers coming off of climactic league championship meets in the past few weeks, achieving personal best times was more of a challenge. Though 14-year-old Meadow Swim and Tennis Club swimmer Michael Dakis achieved an impressive third place finish in his 100-yard individual medley, he expressed disappointment at

not having beaten his personal best time in the event.

"The league meets [are] kind of what you train for, so coming to

County is hard," said Dakis. "But it's kind of a good challenge to have after your big meet, to have another big meet. It's hard, but it's still fun."

Lamorinda Top 20 Individual Finishers:

Girls:

Swimmer	Place	Age	Team	Points
Sophia Kosturos	1	13	Orinda Country Club	48
Jewel Roemer	1	12	Sun Valley Rays	48
Natalie Ung	7	10	Orinda Park Pool	45
Tori Yee	7	17	Orinda Country Club	45
Natalie Aiken	7	8	Sleepy Hollow	45
Sadie Suppiger	15	6	Springbrook	43
Eloise Engs	18	12	Orinda Country Club	42
Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri	18	10	Orinda Country Club	42

Boys:

Swimmer	Place	Age	Team	Points
Anthony Bradley	18	12	Sleepy Hollow	42

Lamorinda Record Breakers:

Sophia Kosturos, 13, Orinda Country Club,

Girls 13-14 Fly, 25.93 (previous record 26.31)

Sleepy Hollow, 7-8, Girls 100 Freestyle Relay, 57.58 (previous record 57.99)

Swimmers: Natalie Aiken, London Menard, Maren McDonald, Mollie Appel

Sleepy Hollow, 11-12, Boys 200 Freestyle Relay,

1:41.98 (previous record 1:42.89)

Swimmers: Grayson Meckfessel, Anthony Bradley, Dominic Bradley, Jackson Oxner

Lamorinda Team Top 10 Finishers:

Division I:

Team	Place	Points
Sprinbrook	5	1,190.5
Orinda Country Club	6	1,150
Sleepy Hollow	7	1,090.5

Division II:

Team	Place	Points
Rancho Colorados	2	519
Meadow	4	393
Moraga Country Club	5	343
Sun Valley	9	326.5



Sadie Suppiger made a splash at the County meet, finishing in 15th place.



They're off! The boys dive into the pool.



Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri prepares for her next race.