

Orinda Aquatics hosts the 2017 Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics

By Karl Buscheck



Zach Le-Nguyen placed 3rd in the individual medley

Photo Gint Federas

Beginning on July 7, Orinda Aquatics hosted the 2017 Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics at the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga.

The meet, which featured approximately 1,000 swimmers, was the championship event for the top athletes, aged 14 and under, from across Northern California.

"We try to do a good job for the swimmers and the parents and for the coaches," said Don Heidary, coach and co-founder of Orinda Aquatics. "So, it's an honor, but it's also a great responsibility to present the best competitive environment for the kids."

Orinda Aquatics has put on the meet, which is awarded by a bidding committee, in the past, and will host the Far Westems, a five-day meet which will take place at the end of July 2018.

Heidary credited the parent volunteers who help the Orinda Aquatic coaches with organizing and staffing the three-day meet for making it a success.

"Our parent community does a great job in trying to make the meet work, make it efficient and make the accommodations as positive as possible for the coaches," Heidary said.

"You can't run a meet like this without a strong parent-support group," Heidary added. "It's definitely not the coaches that do this, it's the parents."

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