

Jan. 5 Swimming



Hamilton's Autumn Sharkey continues to drop times in her butterfly event and took third in today's 200 IM while also swimming on the winning 400 free relay team (Photo by Kim Walter)

Banner day for Nottingham as boys and girls both come up victorious

**By Rich Fisher
Fish4Scores.com**

Jan. 5: It was a stellar day for the Nottingham High swimming program, as the boys won their meet over Ewing, 98-63, while the girls beat the Blue Devils, 87-81. Both teams raised their records to 2-4.

Nottingham's boys had four different individual winners, including Jeremy Oiler (200 free, 2:21.14), Michael John (100 free, 1:05.52), Eric Cougan (5:37.47) and Jawad Shah (100 back, 1:22.10).

Those same four teamed up to win the 400 free relay in 4:29.14, while Tom Padulchick, Oiler, John and Max Wackerman won the 200 medley relay (2:21.14).

Despite the fact the Blue Devils have just one win, it still felt good for Nottingham.

"It feels pretty nice to know that we can be rewarded with a win," Oiler said. "The swim team is very hard working and has a lot of potential.

"Most swimmers on the team have only been swimming competitively for a year or two, so to me it is clear that we needed a win to keep our morale up."

Second-place finishes for the Northstars came from Frank Gonzalez (200 free), Joe Oliver (200 IM, 100 free), John (100 breast), Cougan (50 free), Oiler (100 fly) and Padulchick (100 back), while finishing third were Anthony Tafraw (200 IM), Edgar Sarat (50 free), Ramon Ramos (100 fly), Wackerman (500 free) and John (100 breast).

It was those seconds and thirds that helped make a difference for the Northstars, as Ewing won five of 11 events.



Joe Oliver picked up two second-place finishes to help the Northstars to their second win of the season over Ewing today (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

“This meet definitely came down to having more depth than Ewing,” Oiler said. “We have a lot of new swimmers that will surely get even faster as the season goes on, and having this depth helped us during this meet and will help us greatly in the future.”

The girls meet was a thriller that came down to the 400 free relay, and Nottingham came through when Bridget Doolittle, Sam Williams, Theresa Henry and Lisa Mazukewicz teamed to swim a winning time of 5:00.57.

It capped a banner day for Mazukewicz, who also won the 200 IM (2:48.13) and 100 backstroke (1:17.06). Williams also had a huge day, winning the 500 freestyle (5:26.66) and 200 free (2:40.30). Alex Morante won the 50 free for Nottingham (32.82).

Chipping in with second-place points was Doolittle (200 free, 500 free), while finishing third were Theresa Henry (200 free), Amanda Ritardi (100 fly) and Harlee Murphy (100 free).

Hopewell too tough for Hamilton despite some strong Hornet efforts

Hamilton West entertained Hopewell Valley today and the Bulldogs were a little too tough to tame.

The girls took a 99-68 victory over the Hornets, despite two first-place finishes by Maddie Uram in the 100 breast (1:31.26) and 200 free relay (2:20.28) along with Alyson Courtney, Abi Wagner and Sofi Walter.

The Hornets also won the 400 free relay in a 5:29.52 behind Autumn Sharkey, Courtney, Christine Carbone and Walter.

Second-place finishers featured Wagner (100 fly) and Walter (500 free), while finishing third were Wagner (200 free), Sharkey (200 IM), Amanda Beym (50 free), Uram (100 free) and Courtney (500 free, 100 back).

“Autumn Sharkey is still having a good, standout year for her,” coach Kyle Schulke said. “She’s dropped a ton of time in the 100 fly and is now starting to be really good in the 200 IM.

“She’s a sophomore and I think swimming more over the summer helped out. She’ll really be something to look for over the years.”

The W&W girls continue to chip in with points, as Walter and Wagner keep improving.

“We’re real strong in the distances,” Schulke said. “We have a few girls that can go decent times. It’s good at practice, they can push each other, and it’s the same in meets. They’re around the same times so it’s good for them.”

In the boys meet, Hopewell took a 106-62 victory, but Zack Hutton picked up two more wins and neither was in his best race, the 400-yard freestyle. Hutton won the 200 IM (2:24.80) and 100 free (58.71)

“Hutton was pushing for that 200 IM,” said Schulke, who oversaw the boys with Dan Seeth tending to a commitment. “He had real strong fly time, he has to work a little on the breaststroke but it’s phenomenal watching him swim.”

The Hornets got second-place finishes from Aleks Henson (100 fly), Jacob Torres (500 free) and Sam Markos (100 back), while third-place finishers included John Novak (200 free), Torres (50 free) and Austin Jenkins (1:35.51).

“Sam Markos had a pretty good swim in the backstroke,” Schulke said. “That’s good for him, he’s been pushing hard at practice so it’s good to see some results coming in from that. It can motivate him throughout the year.”