

Stingrays swim well against Blue Sharks

By The Citizen staff report

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The Auburn YMCA-WEIU Stingrays hosted the Watertown YMCA Blue Sharks in their second home meet of the season Dec. 5, where the Class A, D, and E boys, and Class A, B, and D girls registered wins.

The 8-and-under Class E girls had stiff competition from the Blue Sharks, but Sydney Murinka showed her versatility in her three first-place wins - in the butterfly, the 50 freestyle and the breaststroke. The backstroke proved to be Olivia Rejman's race once again as she took first place.

Things were pretty tough for the Class E boys as well. Sam Carbonaro pushed himself to three first-place wins - in the individual medley, the 50 freestyle and the backstroke. Teammate Joshua Whiting scored a first-place win in the 25 freestyle, while John Buckner, Jack Carbonaro, Trevor Hesse, and Matthew Whiting took first place in the freestyle relay to squeak by Watertown 33#-31.

The 9- and 10-year-old girls started out with a win in the medley relay, with Hannah Gargan, Janessa Brandstetter, Aubrey Connors, and Lindsey Roe. Cassie Brown started the individual races with a win in the 200 freestyle and followed up with another in the 100 freestyle and again in the backstroke. Aubrey Connors took first in the breaststroke. Freestyler Hannah Foster shaved more than a second off her last time and took first in the 50 freestyle, while also joining with Lindsey Roe, Claire Rejman, and Janessa Brandstetter to take first in the freestyle relay. The girls won 56-21.

The Class D boys swam to a 44-33 finish over Watertown, starting and ending with relay wins. Macauley Kolonko, Nick Gavras, and Cannin Springer swam on both relay teams, with Nathaniel Lupo in the medley and Andrew Giannettino in the freestyle relay. Jacob Whiting had two first-place finishes - in the 50 and 100 freestyle races, all with times that qualify for the state championships in Buffalo in March. Lupo also won the breaststroke.

Yasmine Smith, Catherine Moore, Katie Kelley and Michaela Cool started out with a win in the medley relay for the 11- and 12-year-old Class C girls..

The Class C boys went straight to the individual races, with Cory Knapp taking first place in both the 200 freestyle and the backstroke, each with a state qualifying time. Sam Hensel won the individual medley, while Nick LaDuca, Patrick Tehan, Neil Boedicker, and Derrick Allio swam for first place in the freestyle relay.

The Class B 13- and 14-year-old girls bookended their day with wins in the relays, with Lucy Zwigard, Maria Wayne, Kristina Stephens, and Cara Miller swimming the medley and Jenna

Page, Emily Rifanburg, Brigid Cotter and Aimee DelFavero swimming the freestyle. Powerhouses Michaela Elliott, Mary Jane Leja, and Makenzie Hauger each had two first-place wins - Elliott in the 200 and 500 freestyle, Leja in the 50 and 100 freestyle, and Hauger in the individual medley and the breaststroke. All nine were qualifying times for states. Aimee DelFavero and Brigid Cotter qualified for the state championship with second-place finishes in the 200 freestyle and the breaststroke. Emily Rifanburg took third in the butterfly with a state qualifying time.

Jacob and Joshua Herrick started off the medley relay and were followed by Zach Buchberger and Andrew Bauso for the first win of the day for the Class B boys. Collin Mitchell took first in the backstroke. Jeremy Sliss qualified for states with his second-place finishes in the individual medley, the 100 freestyle and the butterfly.

The Class A 15-and-up girls had a good day, with Mallorie Dygert claiming victory in the 200 and 100 freestyle races, as well as the backstroke. Tiffani Chehovich and Ashley King each had two first-place showings - Chehovich in the butterfly and the breaststroke (a state-qualifier) and King in the 50 and 500 freestyle (a state-qualifier). Amanda Falsey took first in the individual medley. Relay teams of Devon Balk, Kathryn Carter, Tiffani Chehovich and Onea Kloster in the medley relay and Jessica Wilkes, Danielle Lang, Amanda Falsey, and Michelle DelFavero in the freestyle relay both took first place, as the Class A girls notched a big victory over Watertown.

Both teams of Class A boys decided to forgo relays to concentrate on the match-up of individual races, with Auburn winning the meet easily. Reid Swartz led the team with three first-place finishes - in the individual medley, the 100 freestyle and the backstroke. Justin Sawran won the 200 freestyle and the butterfly. John Tehan won the 500 freestyle.

The next home meet for the Stingrays is against Cortland on Dec. 19. To learn more about the Auburn Stingrays, visit www.auburnstingrays.org or call the YMCA at 253-5304.