

Stingrays register first wins of season

By The Citizen staff report

Monday, December 7, 2009 12:00 AM EST

The Auburn YMCA Stingrays held their first home meet of the season against the Fulton Speed Demons on Nov. 21, with Classes A through E boys and Classes A, C, D, and E girls registering their first team wins of the season.

Sam Carbonaro brought in the first win of the day for the 8-and-under Class E boys in the 100 freestyle, followed by Joshua Whiting's first-place wins in the individual medley and the butterfly. Carbonaro got back in the water for a first-place win in the 50 freestyle before Joseph Angotti came in first in the backstroke. Whiting also took the breaststroke, for a final score of 38-24.

Tehya Kloster stepped up for the 8-and-under Class E girls' team, taking first place in the individual medley and the breaststroke and joining teammates Makenna Wilson, Sydney Murinka, and Olivia Rejman to take first in the medley relay. Murinka followed the relay with strong first-place wins in both the 100 freestyle and the butterfly. Rejman won the backstroke as the Stingrays won 41-24.

The Class D 9- and 10-year-old girls kicked off their day with a first-place win in the medley relay with the help of Amelia Bozak, Janessa Brandstetter, Aubrey Connors, and Hannah Gargan. Hannah Foster followed with a win in the 200 freestyle. Connors followed her relay win to take first place in the 50 freestyle. Cassie Brown contributed the most points for her team with a win in the individual medley. Haley Penird blistered her opponents with a first-place time in the butterfly (51.06) as the Stingrays won 43-30.

The medley relay team of Mac Kolonko, Mathias Ballard, Jacob Whiting, and Andrew Gianettino brought in the first of nine first-place finishes for the Class D 9- and 10-year-old boys in a win over Fulton. Whiting went on to win strong with first-place postings in both the individual medley and the 100 freestyle, Ballard brought in a win in the breaststroke. Nate Lupo and Nick Gavras both had a winning day, with first-place finishes in the 50 freestyle and the butterfly for Lupo, and in the 200 freestyle and backstroke for Gavras.

Michaela Cool swam the first leg of the medley relay, followed by her teammates Catherine Moore, Katie Kelley, and Emily O'Brien Robillard to take first place and put the Class C 11- to 12-year-old girls ahead by seven points to start. Brianna Chehovich had three first-place wins in the individual medley, the 50 freestyle, and the backstroke. Julia Angotti took first in the butterfly while Chehovich won the individual medley. Victoria Bragg finished first in the 100 freestyle.

The Class C 11- to 12-year-old boys managed a victory without a single relay win. Cory Knapp showed his versatility with three first-place finishes - the 200 freestyle, the butterfly, and the

backstroke. Sam Hensel took first in both the individual medley and the 100 freestyle.

Despite a slim loss to the Speed Demons for the Class B 13- to 14-year-old girls, three swimmers finished with state championship qualifying times in five events. Michaela Elliott led the way with first-place finishes in the 200 and 50 freestyle. Jenna Page also had two qualifying times, in the 100 freestyle and the breaststroke. Emily Rifanburg made states with her second-place showing in the butterfly and later took first place in the grueling 500 freestyle. Aimee DelFavero took a first in the individual medley and another first along with her teammates Page, Rifanburg, and Elliott in the freestyle relay.

The Class B 13- to 14-year-old boys came on strong and relentless for a win, starting with the medley relay team of Nicholas Radell, Collin Mitchell, Jeremy Sliss, and Trevor Denson. Sliss swam a state championship qualifying time in first-place finishes in the individual medley and the butterfly. Denson did the same with his one and two in the 50 and the 500 freestyle. Not to be outdone, freestyler Mitchell also qualified for states with his win in the 100 and second in the 50. Andrew Bauso won the 200 freestyle. Zach Buchberger waited until later in the day to slam three first-place wins - in the 500 freestyle (state qualifying time), the 100 backstroke and the breaststroke.

The Class A 15-and-old girls had a big win, starting and ending with wins in the relays. Bethany Schroeder, Michelle DelFavero, Tiffani Chehovich and Allison White won the medley relay and Danielle Lang, Onea Kloster, Kathryn Carter, and Molly Blair took the freestyle relay. Schroeder, White and Chehovich all came back later in the day for two first-place finishes - Schroeder in the 100 freestyle and backstroke, while White took the 200 and 500 freestyle, and Chehovich won the butterfly and breaststroke. Blair came in first in the 50 freestyle and DelFavero came in first in the individual medley. Amanda Falsey completed the sweeps in the 50, the 100, and the 200 freestyle.

The Class A 15-and-older boys started out with a win in the medley relay with Reid Swartz, John Tehan, Justin Sawran and Connor Kilmer. Sawran and Kilmer both followed nicely with two first-place finishes each - in the medley and butterfly for Sawran and the 50 and 100 freestyle for Kilmer. Tehan won the 200 freestyle. After patiently waiting for most of the day, Swartz got his chance back in the water and took his two first-place honors, in the 500 freestyle and the breaststroke.

The Stingrays host Cortland on Dec. 19. To learn more about the Auburn Stingrays, visit www.auburnstingrays.org or call the YMCA at 253-5304.