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Stephens scores in Sierra meet

Peyton, Cooper also finish high

By JEFF MILLER/Democrat Sports Writer
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FOLSOM - Three Woodland swimmers gained top 10 placings in the Sierra Nevada Senior Championships.

Ariel Stephens had the highest finish of any Woodland swimmer, coming in third in the 50-yard freestyle. She also took sixth in the 100 breast, eighth in the 100 freestyle, ninth in the 100 fly, and 10th in the 200 individual medley and 200 fly.

"I was really happy with Ariel's 200 fly," Woodland coach Bret Williams said. "She dropped three seconds in the semi and four in the final."

Cameron Peyton's best race was the 50 freestyle, in which he finished sixth. In the 100 freestyle he took 14th, and in the 200 freestyle he was 20th.

In the 200 backstroke John Cooper placed 10th, in the 200 fly he was 15th, in the 100 back 17th, and in the 200 free 21st.

"They all had outstanding meets," Williams said. "They rested a couple days before the meet. That had a major effect.

"It was cold, windy and rainy, but they didn't let that bother them at all."

Stephens, Peyton and Cooper competed in the Senior Championships because they are too old to race in the Junior Olympics in Solano from March 17 to 19. The Junior Olympics are for swimmers 14 and under.

Woodland is hosting the final meet March 3, 4 and 5 in which swimmers can qualify for the JOs.

Peyton and Stephens have already qualified for the Western Finals, which will be held the first weekend in April. Mallory McGowan, Dylan Newsom and Matt Whittle have also qualified.