

Last Chance For WAG Meet or Confusion?!

Anyone who isn't confused here doesn't really understand what's going on.

Mesa was intended to be a BR (Blue/Red) meet giving the faster swimmers one last chance to get those WAG (Winter Age Group) Championship meet cuts. Instead the meet got posted as a BRW (Blue/Red/White everybody can swim) meet. Coaches were emailed and asked to send only their BR swimmers. Some coaches respected the request (our team pretty much complied) and some coaches sent everyone.

This year SCS (Southern California Swimming) dropped both the WAG and Spring JO cuts significantly meaning kids who previously had or were close to the cuts had to drop a lot more time to qualify. Nevertheless our swimmers made a valiant effort to get those last minute cuts.

SWIMMER OF THE MEET

Without a doubt, the sun, the moon, and the stars were aligned for **Garret Dykier**. He had himself quite the meet. Got **BEST TOTAL TIME DROPS (-28.36)**, got the **TEAM RECORD** for the 13-14 500 free with an amazing time drop of -13.35, and went from Red to a Summer JO in the 200 Back with another amazing time drop of -8.41. Just to put things in perspective, the faster a swimmer gets the harder it is to drop time let alone drop a significant amount of time. When I asked Coach Moon if she knew Garret got the 13-14 500 free team record she seemed surprised and said, "Are you sure?" Yup, I'm sure. Impressive swims Garret!

PERSONAL BESTS and NEW TIME CUTS:

It's unbelievable I'm swimming so fast. I went in with no expectations. I just went out hoping to get a personal best. I went out there with a smile, just to have fun and see what would happen.

(Jade Edmestone. 50 and 100 breast world records)

BEST SINGLE TIME DROP goes to **Brooke Etter** for her 11-12 200 Back (-14.89). It was also a New Red Time.

New Far Western Cuts: **Michael DiBello**, 11-12 400 IM and 11-12 200 Breast.

New SumJO Cuts: **Sam Cummins**, 11-12 100 Fly; **Garrett Dykier**, 13-14 200 Back; **Maddie Wheeler**, 50 Breast

New WAG Cuts: **Sam Cummins**, 11-12 100 Fly; **Maddie Wheeler**, 50 Breast

New Blue Times: **Arwen Castillo**, 11-12 500 Free; **Sam Cummins**, 11-12 100 Free and 11-12 200 Free; **Nathan Lee**, 13-14 200 IM; and **Alan DiBello**, 7-10 100 IM,

New Red Times: **Arwen Castillo**, 11-12 100 Breast; **Brooke Etter**, 11-12 200 IM; **Mayumi Pedroche**, 7-10 50 Back; **Joshua Jenkins**, 11-12 100 Fly; **Albert Ma**, 200 Breast; and **Rachel Yoon**, 15 & Over 200 Free.

Time Drops: Our team had a total time drop of -205.18 or 3 hours 25 minutes and 18 seconds. Click on this link or see the attached file for a complete listing of all time drops.

TEAM RECORDS:

Set goals that, when you set them, you think they're impossible. (Katy Ledecky)

Alexis Chion: 15 & Over 200 Back

Michael DiBello: 11-12 200 Free, 11-12 200 IM, 11-12 50 Back, 11-12 200 Breast, and 11-12 400 IM.

Garrett Dykier: 13-14 500 Free

A printable list of all team records can be located on the web site under the 'Athletes' Tab .. Team Records.

Awards and Points.

Our swimmers took home an amazing 64 medals and ribbons, which, hopefully, they will receive soon (the meet ran out!): 12 1st place, 12 2nd place, 12 3rd place, 10 4th place, 10 5th place, and 8 6th place. Click on the Awards link to see a list of winners.

This meet also awarded points. Our team racked up an amazing 1,526 points. **Michael DiBello** was top with 167 points, **Alan DiBello** was second with 127 points, and **Garrett Dykier** was 3rd with 111 points. Also with impressive swims were **Vincent Frausto** (87 points), **Samantha Cummins** (80 points), **Rachel Oler** (75 points), **Arwen Castillo** (71 points), **Jaylin Wang** (71 points), **Brooke Etter** (68 points), **Nathan Lee** (65 points), **Lucy Landherr** (64 points), **Tristan Noel Flores** (60 points), **Nathan Han** (59 points), **Joshua Jenkins** (57 points), **Kayla Shin** (52 points), **Madeline Wheeler** (52 points), **Rachel Yoon** (48 points), **Alexis Chion** (45 points), **Nicholas Brock** (41 points), **Makaila Valenzona** (33 points), **Victoria Villarreal** (27 points), **Mayumi Pedroche** (20 points), **Blair Landherr** (19 points), **Ezekiel Mora** (16 points), **Albert Ma** (10 points), and **Mariam Farag** (1 point).

A MEET STORY

The meet posting created a lot of confusion and Friday night was no exception. Confusion reigned. Events were being combined on the fly, parents were frantically looking for timers and lap counters for the distance events, and swimmers were trying to figure out when and where they were supposed to swim. Everything was going very fast.

The scene is now set for **Arwen Castillo's** 500 Free event. **Michael DiBello** loves to lap count for his fellow swimmers and volunteered to lap count for **Maddie Wheeler** and **Arwen**. As soon as he finished his 200 Breast he got ready to lap count for Maddie. Other than the parent timers trying to figure out where we were supposed to be, all went well and Maddie had a good race, dropping almost 3 seconds. Next heat was Arwen's. While he was lap counting, Michael was showing **Rachel Oler** how to lap count. Along comes lap 13. Next thing we see it is lap 33. Initial reaction from us timing was confusion and panic as we observed Michael hastily trying to get the lap counter set correctly while it was falling apart. Not to be deterred, he grabbed a lap counter out of the hands of the nearest stranger. Panic turned to laughter as we debated what must have been going through Arwen's mind, "WHAT! Did I sign up for the mile?!!", "Boy, I sure swam that last 20 laps fast ... new team record!". Arwen finished the race after lap 19 and dropped almost 3 and a half seconds! Now that's called staying calm in the midst of Murphy's law!

Despite the confusion our other Friday swimmers, *Alan DiBello*, *Vincent Frausto*, *Albert Ma*, and *Rachel Oler* all made their events.

Saturday dawned on a beautiful day, that is, unless you were counting on that first cup of coffee to get you going. What! No coffee? Someone just went to Starbucks to get the coffee!?? Do you know how long it takes to fill a 5 gallon container with coffee one pot at a time!! Ever try to find your swimmer and get them to the starting block on time without that first cup of coffee?

In spite of everything, the rest of the meet went pretty fast and pretty smoothly (at least it seemed that way after I had that cup of coffee!)

THIS IS FOR THE SWIMMER WHO...

- ❖ *Jammed their fingers on the lane rope,*
- ❖ *Choked on water right before a flip turn.*
- ❖ *Got kicked by the breaststroker in the next lane.*
- ❖ *Lost count.*
- ❖ *Had to borrow a suit from the lost and found.*
- ❖ *Whose goggles snapped when diving in.*
- ❖ *Arrive at the pool when it's dark...*
- ❖ *And leave when it is dark again.*
- ❖ *Cramped up during the main set.*
- ❖ *Got themselves disqualified.*
- ❖ *Missed a cut by hundredths.*
- ❖ *Has to be at the pool tomorrow morning.*

AND WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE ELSE!

Love you ALL....