

Rockwall County Sports

RACE's Eldridge swims to 2 silvers at TAGS Championships

Raena Eldridge celebrated her 15th birthday early by winning two silver medals at her final meet in age 13-14 competition, leading the Rockwall Aquatics Center of Excellence team to 25th place in last week's Long Course Texas Age Group Swimming Championships.

During the preliminaries, Eldridge knocked 2 seconds off her previous best time in 100-meter butterfly to qualify for the seventh seed in the finals. Then she improved by another 3 seconds to finish second in 1 minute, 4.83 seconds. In keeping with her celebration theme, she had her medal autographed by three-time Olympian Ian Crocker.

On Sunday at the University of Texas' Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin, Eldridge beat her qualifying time in the 50 freestyle by .59 second to place second in 27.21. That was just .13 second behind champion Karling Hemstreet of Nitro Swimming.

Eldridge also placed 11th in the 200 individual medley, 12th in both the 100 and 200 free, 18th in the 200 backstroke and 20th in the 100 back.

This week she joined three other RACE swimmers, 16-year-old Claire Walters, Jeremiah Kim (14) and Emily Manly (12) as part of a select team representing North Texas through Sunday in the Southern Zone Championships in North Carolina.

Also in Austin, Kim improved his best time in the 200 breaststroke by 2 seconds to 2:38.11, to qualify second for the finals. He finished fourth with a time of 2:38.86. Kim just missed winning another medal with ninth place in the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.23. He also finished 18th in the 200 IM and 19th in the 400 IM.

In Manly's 11-12 age group, she placed ninth in the 50 breaststroke, 13th in the 200 IM, 16th in the 100 breaststroke, 17th in the 200 butterfly, 19th in both the 200 breast-

stroke and 400 free and 27th in the 100 fly.

Manly also swam with 12-year-olds Carolyn Johnston and Brooke Arnold and 11-year-old Jessica Iggo in three relays. The RACE swimmers placed 12th in the 200 medley relay and 13th in the 400 medley, but were disqualified for an early takeoff in the 400 free relay.

William Rapp (14) improved by half a second in the 50 free prelims, then took the sixth-place medal with an even better personal record of 26.06. He also dropped a second off his 100 free time to finish 10th in 57.31. He joined Kim, 13-year-old Alex Rodriguez, Nathaniel Wang and Mitchell Eldridge on three RACE relay teams. They were 10th in the 200 medley relay, 13th in the 400 medley and 18th in the 800 free.

Rodriguez was 14th in the 100 breaststroke in 1:13.99 and 21st in the 200 breaststroke in 2:44.49.

Nine-year-old David Johnston, the RACE team's newest member, won two medals. He placed fourth in the 400 freestyle in 5:07.18 and eighth in the 200 free in 2:30.13. He also placed 10th in the 10-and-under 100 free.

Johnston swam in relays with 10-year-olds Johann Kuipers, Christian Weaver and Ryan Ullom. They took the sixth-place medal in the 200 medley relay and placed 10th in the 400 free relay.

Kuipers also finished 20th in the 50 breaststroke and 22nd in the 100 breaststroke. Weaver placed 27th in the 50 butterfly. Among the 10-and-under girls, 10-year-old Ruth Huffman was 28th in the 50 fly.

RACE will host TAGS' last meet this season, the A/BB Championships, from Aug. 4 to 7 at the Rockwall ISD Aquatic Center.



Raena Eldridge races to a second place finish and the silver medal in the 50M Freestyle during last week's Long Course Texas Age Group Swimming Championships in Austin.
Photo by Barbara Tokuz/Rockwall County News