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Watkins Memorial swimmers show strength at Ned Reeb

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(Photo: Sara C. Tobias, Sara C. Tobias/The Advocate)

COLUMBUS - The Watkins Memorial swim teams have hopes of muscling their way into a crowded Division I in central Ohio.

The Warriors showed they are up to the challenge this past Saturday. They had a strong showing during the prestigious Ned Reeb Memorial as the boys and girls teams combined to set or reset 10 school records

Freshman Gabrielle Brust had a pair of top-five finishes in the A-Flight finals. She placed third in the 100 backstroke (57.72) and fourth in the 100 butterfly (57.40), setting school records in the process.

The girls set a third school record as Brust, Kelsey Seas, Adrianna Hansen and Abby Jarvis finished 17th in the 400 free relay (3:55.62).

Also competing in the A-Flight and setting school records were a number of boys.

Freshman Issacc Hansen competed in the 100 free (49.96) and 200 free (1:49.88), freshman Zack Chism placed 16th in the 100 backstroke (55.39) and sophomore Ian Jarvis competed in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.07). Hansen, Chism, Jarvis and Spencer Kleeh also competed in the A-Flight and finals and set records, placing 15th in the 200 medley (1:44.07) and 16th in the 400 free (3:26.68) relays.

"The swimmers had a fantastic day," coach Fay Barry said. "They always get excited about being able to swim at Ned Reeb, and it's been a couple of years since we've had swimmers in A-Flight."

Watkins also had several athletes in the B-Flight competition. In the boys meet, freshman Ethan Miller placed second in the 100 fly (57.80), and Kleeh placed third in the 50 free (23.01), resetting a school record.

Other top B-Flight placers were Kleeh fourth in the 100 free (52.68), junior Justin Mohler 11th in the 200 free (2:03.46) and seventh in the 500 free (5:33.64) and freshman Alex Fenimore 14th in the 200 individual medley (2:25.82).

In the B-Flight girls, senior Gracie Gessner was 16th in the 50 free (27.77) and 13th in the 100 back (1:09.24), junior Kelsey Seas 14th in the 100 free (1:00.50), junior Sarah Dieterich 15th in the 500 free (6:10.42)

"They did a really good job at being prepared and ready to swim competitive times and have shown that their hard work in practice day after day is paying off," said Barry, whose teams compete against Mount Vernon at Kenyon on Dec. 29 and against Granville and Northridge at Denison on Jan. 3.

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