

"Breaking" News

The pool itself may not have been as impressed with Josh Freedman's singing last week as the *Review* was, as objects were breaking down left and right this week, possibly in protest. Longtime readers know that the lanerope reel has been a constant torment to the coaches over the years, and it was in fine form this week, forcing the coaches to completely unreel all the laneropes almost every day. However, this week, the influence of the reel may have persuaded other objects to get in on the act as well. Likely because of its close proximity to the reel, the lanerope wrench was the next to go on strike when it decided to stop working midway through its job. By Friday morning, ropes and flags were breaking down all over the pool (although the flags may have come down for a different reason). However, not breaking down was the Sharks' knowledge of swimming. Many Sharks had clearly tuned in to the Olympic Trials this week and were able to answer Andy's trivia questions about who had qualified for the team. Special congratulations go to Connor Combs, Helen Duan and James Lieske for doing their "homework" and coming in with the answers

written on paper (or occasionally cardboard). Trivia fan and advocate Avery Breen somehow missed all of these questions as she and her brother Hank are still trying to answer the toughest trivia question of all: what time does practice start? The Breens had a chance to learn the answer during the mankillers on Friday morning. David Fan returned to his traditional role as anchor, but it still did not lead to an exciting finish as David's team overcame 25 seconds of penalties to still give David a lead so huge that Yamei Usui had no chance of coming back.

(Editor's note: If you thought parts of this last column didn't make any sense, you may not be alone as the editor's computer had some issues and had to restart while he was working on it. Speaking of breaking down in protest).

Potomac Woods Meet

On Wednesday night, the Sharks swam against the Potomac Woods Demons in the Sharks' second meet in a row at the Reef. Initially it appeared that many Sharks were too accustomed to all of the away meets that have dominated the early part of the Sharks' season and had assumed that the meet was at Potomac

Woods instead. Eventually, some well-trained eyes finally found them. In the water, the Sharks were easy to spot as they had many great swims. Jerry Yang and Daniel Yi were the easiest to find as they both dropped over 10 seconds in a single event, with Jerry having the biggest drop of the day. In contrast, best dressed winner James Lieske was the most difficult to spot. Mason "Sparks" Aarhus, Adam Badr, Helen Duan (twice), David Fan, Keon Gray, Jason Liu, Sophia Lieske, Megan Lomotan, Erica Lopez, Ben Margolin, Daniela Naaman (twice), Lucy Stanton and Felicia Wang were all not far behind Jerry and Daniel with time drops of over five seconds. Helen Duan, Madison Kelly, Nick Kim, Sophia Lieske, Erica Lopez, Roxana Mobini, Ashley Thommana and Julianne Wong were all repeatedly easy to find as they got at least four best times on the night.

Tanterra Meet

Not only were the Sharks easy to find by Saturday morning, but they appeared to have doubled in size as they travelled to Tanterra to take on the Tarpons. After spending the first eight years of his life preparing for the theme, Aiden Scherr was able to combine with Matthew (nee Smiles) Ledoux

to win best dressed. Mia Coven and Shayna Kreiser, Avery Breen and Yamei Usui and Mason "Sparks" Aarhus and Henry Wang also stood out among the many great costumes to take home best dressed. In the pool, the Sharks were equally as impressive. David Yune, Jordan Kelly and James Lieske swept the first event and the Sharks never looked back. They went on to sweep a total of five individual events (Connor Combs, Max Fuster, Madison Kelly, James Lieske, Andy Ram, Sidney Thompson, Daniel Wang, Joey Wildman, Jingjing Wu and David Yune contributed to the these sweeps). The Sharks also swept a relay for the 3rd week in a row when Jordan Kelly, James Lieske, Joey Wildman, The Artist Formerly Known as Smiles Ledoux, Devin Johnson, David Yune, Andy Ram and Fuster Kyle went 1-2 in the final boys relay. The Sharks were great at relays all day as Eric Lu, Jonathan Yune, Daniel Wang, Andy Ram, Matt Klein, William Wong, Greg Urovsky and Dominic Oertel came in 1st and 3rd in the Boys Open Age and Yamei Usui, Sarah Solomon, Avery Breen, Emma Stern, Maddy Adams, Kayleigh Hepburn, Katherine Lei and Cate Ledoux grabbed 2nd and 3rd in the Girls Open Age. Fuster Kyle, Jordan Kelly, Sidney Thompson, Daniel Wang and David Yune swept their events. Jingjing Wu, Joey Wildman, and James Lieske completed the sweep of their age groups.

Swimming in his first Saturday meet, six-year-old Alan Sai knocked five seconds off his best time in freestyle for the biggest drop of the day. Hawie Abera, David Fan, Pedro Saenz-Guisande, and Henry Wang also dropped at least 3 seconds in a single event. Eric Lu, Daniel Wang and Jonathan Yune had best times in at least four events. The Sharks won the most important race of the day when they beat Calverton to Five Guys after the meet. A record number of Sharks came to celebrate these great swims.

Best Times Update

After the Sharks got 112 best times last Wednesday, many wondered if they could keep up that pace for the rest of season. However, this Wednesday, the Sharks not only kept pace, they did even better than the previous week, as they got 129 best times. They followed that up with 56 best times on Saturday. This brings their season total to 535. After three weeks last season, the Sharks had only 415 best times. However, last year's team performed very well in the second half on the season, so this year's Sharks will have to keep working hard if they want to make their goal of 774 best times.

More "Breaking" News

In honor of twin day, Jordan Kelly tied current Shark Daniel Wang's team record in the 9-10

Boys 25 Backstroke. Later, Sidney Thompson re-broke the record in 9-10 Girls 25 Breaststroke for the 3rd week in a row.

Upcoming Events

On Monday, the Sharks will partake in Firecracker Relays and enjoy a breakfast. On Wednesday, they will show their patriotic spirit as they take on another group of Sharks, from Seven Locks, at the Reef. They go back on the road on Saturday to swim against CCRA (ask Matt Klein what CCRA stands for, but don't ask Lizzie Nelson for help on the theme). Finally, they conclude their whirlwind week by hosting all of I Division for a relay carnival.