

Rain Rain Go Away

A few weeks ago, we learned that saying the alphabet backwards works as a magic spell to keep the rain away. Swimming backwards evidently has the opposite effect, as the older Sharks' backwards IMs on Wednesday morning led to a rainy Wednesday night and Thursday morning. A few tough Sharks braved the rainy weather at practice on Thursday morning and were rewarded with fun games. Apparently afraid he might melt, Tim was conspicuously absent on Thursday and Friday. He was replaced in the mornings with an older (or maybe younger) model of Andy and in the afternoons with a (sort of) real life doctor.

Firecracker Relays

On Tuesday morning, the Sharks celebrated America's Birthday by participating in their third annual Firecracker Relays. Michael Johnson threatened to ruin everyone's fireworks, as he performed the rainy magic spell for a short period of time, when he momentarily swam the wrong direction in the corkscrew relay. Much to Kayleigh Hepburn's displeasure, the 11-12 boys continue to innovate the keep-the-card-dry relay. This year,

the card in the cap strategy proved slightly better than the card in the water bottle strategy. Speaking of innovative strategies, Da-Young Kim completely re-defined the chair relay and helped lead Jocelyn Merkin and the girls to their first ever win over Dr. Daniel Wang and the boys, even though Dr. Daniel won the rock-paper-scissors contest and earned the shallow water.

Inverness Meet

The force was with the Sharks as they took to the road to face the Nessies of Inverness on Wednesday night. When George Lucas talked about a galaxy far far away, he was apparently referring to traditionally wet Scotland, as the rain had entered the Loch by the second half.

Fortunately, almost everyone could still see the bottom of the pool and could therefore see the Sharks swim fast. The 8&under boys continue to have huge drops, as Lev Pak and Justin Chen both knocked off over 9 seconds in a single event for the two biggest drops of the day. Kim Abera, Kashvi Bhatia, Daniel Blate, David Fan, Erica Lopez, Melissa Lopez, Max Manne, Eshaan Mishra, Vikram Mishra, Tejas Navada (twice), Pedro Saenz-Guisande, Aiden Scherr, Maxwell Scherr (twice),

Lucy Stanton and Joe Waldron all dropped at least 3 seconds in an event. David Fan was clearly eager to get out of the pool and dropped time in 4 events. Daniel Blate, Helen Duan and Maxwell Scherr got 3 best times. Emma Stern won 4 events. David Fan was not far behind with 3 wins. Kim Abera, Smiles Ledoux, James Lieske and Dominic Oertel, were double event winners. Maddy Adams, Max Fuster, Devin Johnson, Erica Lopez, Danielle Ram, Andrew Vorozheykin, Summer Yao also won events. Pre-teamer Cyrus Alam swam freestyle in his first meet. Charles Freedman, Max Fuster and Smiles Ledoux were among the best dressed.

Friday Activities

The rain held off long enough for some thrilling activities on Friday. In the morning, perennial anchor Max Fuster led his team to victory in mankillers for the 3rd week in a row. This week, Max was able to pass Sophia Lieske (who evidently spent too much time at boot camp and was unwilling to cut corners) and give the younger team the victory. What might have felt like rain in the afternoon was actually just broken water balloons, as the Sharks participated in their first ever water balloon toss.

After some fierce competition, Ashely Thommana and Jingjing Wu were able to prevail in the finals over Kai Thompson-Jones and Alex Okun, and Tejas Navada and Sidney Thompson.

Forest Knolls Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks were back on the road, this time facing the Forest Knolls Seahawks. For the second year in a row, James Lieske left many questioning his spelling abilities. Last year, James tried to put the letter T (for Tired) and P (for Poison Ivy) in the word Sharks. This year, James teamed up with Jordan Kelly and tried to dress Andy's car up with the letters E and T. Those who could spell (and won best dressed) included Gabriela Combs, Keon Gray, Joe Waldron and pre-teamer Judy Wu. It was a good week for pre-team, as Judy becomes the first pre-teamer to win a best dressed award. Madison Manne's costume earned her a brand-new award: best looking. In the pool, the Sharks were outstanding as well. The best looking "coach" Madison showed why the Coaches Relay was so successful last week, as she dropped time in all three of her events. Hawie Abera, Helen Duan, Fuster Kyle, Erica Lopez, Yamei Usui and Lucy Villiers also dropped time in multiple events. Lucy knocked seven seconds off of her fly time for the biggest drop of the day. Helen Duan, Madison Manne

and Lev Pak also dropped a lot of time in a single event. The Sharks BACKwards swimming clearly payed off, as they swept two of the BACKstroke events; the 9-10 boys (Fuster Kyle, Anton Obolensky, Patrick Liang) and the 11-12 girls (Sidney Thompson, Kim Abera, Erica Lopez). Eric Lu and Sidney Thompson swept their events. James Lieske and David Yune combined to sweep the 13-14 boy's events. Roxana Mobini came to swim a relay and help the team out. The meet finished in dramatic fashion, as Jingjing Wu, Sidney Thompson, Cate Ledoux and Hawie Abera pulled off an upset and out touched the very fast Seahawks team in the Girl's Graduated Free Relay. The Sharks celebrated their great swims at the conveniently located California Tortilla.

Best Times Update

The Sharks got 92 best times this week. This brings their season total to 646 best times. The Sharks are now slightly behind last year's pace and will have to work hard in the final weeks to catch back up.

Records

Jingjing Wu, Sidney Thompson, Cate Ledoux and Hawie Abera broke a Forest Knolls pool record in the Girls 14&under 175m Graduated Freestyle Relay.

Upcoming Events

On Tuesday night, Jingjing Wu will represent Rockshire and compete against the fastest swimmers in the county at the Coach's Long Course Invitational. On Wednesday, the Sharks will need to swim like superheroes as they face the Tallyho Foxes on the road. Friday afternoon, they will see a movie. Saturday morning, they will take on the North Creek Neptunes in the Sharks' final home meet of the season. The North Creek meet will be followed by a barbeque. The Sharks will conclude their whirlwind weekend with the Potomac Invitational Relay Carnival on Sunday.