

Weather Report

Karine's Mayflower had no trouble sailing this week, as the endless rain created plenty of water for the ship to travel on. The rain also brought with it many practices with cold water and air temperatures. Many Sharks still braved the treacherous conditions and came to practice (although they may have just been there for the 5-cent skittles). The cold weather also brought out some new candidates for the Sharks' unofficial mascot. Connor Combs and Julia Waldron would have been fine with a bug mascot, Connor with the many "bugs" in the pool on Friday morning and Julia with the large beetle on the deck on Thursday. However, many Sharks, including Lyla Mahoney and the Bug Queen herself, wanted other options. Due to the cold weather, the most obvious choice became ~~Penguin, Squeaky, Tim, Wheezy, Mr. Penguin, Quackers, Pinkie~~, the still unnamed toy penguin, who had joined the Sharks' practices by mid-week. Many Sharks raced the penguin to prepare themselves for the tough competition they would be facing on Saturday and in the coming weeks. Despite the many very fast Sharks, the

penguin remains undefeated through one week of racing. Elsewhere, the Sharks were able to sneak in a few games this week, despite the cold weather. The older swimmers faced off in the first ever game of Kick-Tac-Toe on Thursday morning. Kai Thompson-Jones used his fast reflexes to deliver a victory for the yellow team, despite the green team receiving assistance from 10&unders (no, 8&unders) Fuster Kyle and Andrew Vorozheykin. Connor Combs may have been "confusion" because he was distracted by all of the "bugs," allowing Kai to put down his kickboard first. Later in the day, the younger swimmers took part in a game of gopher. The Fuster family continued their gopher dynasty, with Kyle and Amelia facing off in the finals and Kyle ultimately taking home the victory. By Friday morning, the rain had returned, but a few tough Sharks still took part in the first mankillers of the season. After some fierce competition, Yamei Usui gave Team 2 a slight lead going into the final round. However, Dr. Daniel Wang, in an attempt to become an NFL spokesman, proved that a few concussions never slowed anyone down and quickly caught up to Kai Thompson-Jones on the letters portion. Despite Dr. Daniel's outstanding

effort, Kai was able to hold him off and deliver a close victory for his team for the second day in a row.

Eldwick Meet

On Wednesday night, the Sharks finally took to the road to face off against Eldwick. Not even the magic of Disney (especially from best dressed winners Leila Alam, Fuster Kyle, Jordan Kelly, Madison Kelly, Smiles Ledoux and pre-teamer Blake Roberts) could keep the rain away all night. Apparently worried that the Sharks would not get enough best times in the abbreviated meet, Daniel and Sabina Blate's mom tried to be a last-minute entrant into the 100 IM (if she really wanted to get wet, she could have just sat in Andy's car). However, no one needed to worry, as the Sharks still produced many great swims. Even though no one swam more than two races, Sam Mahoney, Maddy Manne, Eshaan Mishra, Olivia Qin and Clement Yuryev still managed to get multiple best times. Two 8&under girls dropped over 20 seconds in a single event, as Judy Wu knocked an impressive 41 seconds off her back time, and Julia Waldron dropped 22 seconds in free. Daniel Franca-Koh, Charles Freedman, TJ Miller, Eshaan Mishra, Dylan Pino, Olivia Qin,

and Max Xu also dropped at least 5 seconds in a single event. The future looks much warmer than the weather, as Lindy Cheng, Olivia Qin, Julia Waldron and Judy Wu combined to take 1st through 4th in the 6&under girl's free and back. The Sharks also swept both of the 13-14 IMs (Kim Abera, Connor Combs, Helen Duan, Max Fuster, Alex Lopez, Erica Lopez, Alex Obolensky, Kai Thompson-Jones and Lucy Villiers). Connor Combs, Devin Johnson, Madison Kelly, Melissa Lopez and Olivia Qin were all double event winners in the shortened meet.

Carderock Springs Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks traveled to Carderock Springs to take on the Cudas. Even though school has been out for a week, the Sharks' spelling skills are still very strong. This was especially true for best dressed winners Madison Kelly, Miranda Kvedys, Maddy Manne, Max Manne and Allison Yu. However, last year's winner of the "best-looking award", Maddy Manne, did have her crown taken away this year by Aiden Scherr. In the water, the Sharks were outstanding as well. The meet started off with a bang (fortunately not a bang of thunder), as Jordan Kelly and Nick Kim took 1st and 2nd in the 1st event and Sidney Thompson, Jingjing Wu and Madison Kelly swept the 2nd event. The Sharks went on to sweep an additional four events

(Yasmine Badr, Kashvi Bhatia, Juliana Combs, Madison Kelly, James Lieske, Melissa Lopez, Maddy Manne, Sidney Thompson, Kai Thompson-Jones, Felicia Wang, Jingjing Wu and David Yune). For the second week in a row, the Sharks were impressive in relays. In the open-age medlies, David Yune, Dr. Daniel, Greg Urovsky, Hank Breen, Kai Thompson-Jones, David Fan, Max Fuster and Dominic Oertel took 1st and 3rd and Yamei Usui, Allison Yu, Katherine Lei, Avery Breen, Maddy Adams, Amelia Lieske, Cate Ledoux and Emma Stern took 2nd and 3rd. Later, the Sharks took 1st and 3rd in both of the graduated freestyle relays (Patrick Liang, Jordan Kelly, James Lieske, Joe Waldron, Aiden Scherr, Nick Kim, Connor Combs, Alan Sai, Hawie Abera, Sidney Thompson, Grace Zhang, Lucy Stanton, Juliana Combs, Jingjing Wu, Kim Abera, Yasmine Badr). Sabina Blate had the biggest drop of the day. Audrey Aarhus, Yasmine Badr, Hank Breen (twice), Melissa Lopez and Andrey Tarapunov also dropped a lot of time in a single event. Nick Kim and Lucy Stanton both had 3 best times. Jordan Kelly, Lucy Stanton, Sidney Thompson, Dr. Daniel and David Yune swept their events. Nick Kim, Melissa Lopez and Jingjing Wu completed the sweep of their age groups. Hawie Abera, Maddy Manne and Felicia Wang combined to sweep the 9-10 Girl's events. Many Sharks

stepped up to help the team. Dominic Oertel overcame an illness to drop time in the fly. Audrey Aarhus, Amelia Fuster and Emma Stern jumped in to fill empty lanes. It was also the first Saturday meet for Audrey, Daniel Franca-Koh and Miranda Kvedys. It is no surprise that the Sharks were fast on Saturday, as the number of J. Kellys appears to be increasing every week (there was also a rumored Fuster Kyle sighting). In addition to J. Kelly's caps, Juliana Combs' and David Yune's goggles also put in overtime on Saturday. The Sharks went to Potomac Pizza after the meet to celebrate their great swims.

Best Times Update

Despite the weather, the Sharks got 41 best times on Wednesday night and 46 best times on Saturday morning. This brings their season total to 265.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday night, the Sharks will sail the Seven Seas as they take on Inverness at home (hopefully the Mayflower can avoid being attacked). On Saturday morning, they will face off against Eldwick again on the Rockshire pitch.