

Clap-Clap Clap-Clap-Clap

It was not the typical claps of thunder that were heard at the Rockshire Pool this week. Instead, it was the clapping and cheering of the Shark swimmers and coaches, as they attempted to put all of their thoughts into four syllable phrases. While, the Sharks are good at making noise, they proved to still not be good World Cup prognosticators, as their various games consistently predicted the wrong winner. These games included the largest game of gopher ever at the 11&over Thursday morning practice. The older Sharks played gopher at the request of Yamei Usui at her final regular season morning practice. However, it was clear that Yamei and many of the other older Sharks had not played in years and thought that the name of the game was Go-Fish. Ultimately, it was Cate Ledoux who took home the victory. Elsewhere, Josh Freedman's drone flew high above the pool, distracting swimmers and capturing the fun.

Coaches' Longcourse

On Tuesday, Jordan Kelly competed against swimmers from all over the county at the Coaches' Invitational Longcourse Meet. Only 8 swimmers were invited to swim in each event in a 50m (i.e., a

very very long) pool. Jordan came in 2nd in both the 100 Freestyle and 100 Breaststroke. Sidney Thompson and Allison Yu were alternates for this prestigious meet.

Old Farm Meet

On Wednesday, the Sharks took to the road to face off against the Old Farm Eagles Fun Team in the final dual meet of the night. While the Old Farm timers apparently had the superpower of being able to hear the swimmers finish their races, the Sharks' superpower was fast swimming. Andrey Tarapunov led the way with a 12 second drop in IM. Lindi Cheng, Nicolas Cheng, Josh Freedman, Sam Mahoney, Max Manne, Tejas Navada, Hannah Park, Danielle Ram, Jingkang Wu and Max Xu (twice) also dropped at least 5 seconds in a single event. Josh Freedman had 5 best times. Amelia Lieske, Sarah Magazine, Sam Mahoney and Jingkang Wu were not far behind with 4 best times. Smiles Ledoux, Sophia Lieske, Lyla Mahoney, Hannah Park, Andrey Tarapunov, and Jerry Yang dropped time in 3 events. Connor Combs, Josh Freedman, Max Fuster, Alex Lopez, Alex Obolensky and Kai Thompson-Jones combined to sweep the 13-14 Boys' IM, Back, Breast and Fly races. Smiles Ledoux and Andrew Vorozheykin combined to win

all 4 of the 9-10 Boys' events. Hawie Abera, Sam Issadore, Sophia Lieske and Julia Waldron won best dressed.

Friday Activities

On Friday morning, the Sharks competed in their 3rd annual "last day meet". After some close races (and some potential biased timing), Team France had a slight lead going into the bellyflop competition. For the 2nd year in a row, the judges were very impressed with the flopping and forced a few tough Sharks to sacrifice their stomachs three times before they could determine a winner. Nicolas Cheng, Gabriela Combs, Nick Kim, last year's winner Aregline Lee, and Ethan Mahoney were the "lucky" finalists who were forced to flop three times. Ultimately, it was Nicolas who had the best bellyflop and secured the victory for Team France. On Friday afternoon, the Sharks took a well-deserved break from practice to watch the Incredibles 2. After the movie, the Sharks did some more clapping while they watched Yamei Usui do her best impression of Mrs. Freedman.

Whetstone Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks traveled to Hawaii to take on the Whetstone Whales. While it may have been difficult at first to distinguish between the two teams, the Sharks

quickly stood out thanks to the a-lei-zing costumes of many swimmers, including Kim and Hawie Abera, and Max and Kyle Fuster. In the water, the Sharks stood out as well. The boy's graduated free relay remains undefeated this season. This week Fuster Kyle, Jordan Kelly, Connor Combs and Joe Waldron took home the victory. Patrick Liang, Nick Kim, Kai Thompson-Jones and Alan Sai took 2nd in the race. In the girl's free relay, Hawie Abera, Sidney Thompson, Allison Yu and Lucy Stanton took 1st and Felicia Wang, Jingjing Wu, Grace Zhang and Yasmine Badr came in 3rd. Avery Breen, Kayleigh Hepburn, Yamei Usui, Cate Ledoux, Kim Abera, Da-Young Kim, Sophia Lieske and Maddy Adams similarly took 1st and 3rd in the women's open age medley. In the men's open age medley, James Lieske, Dominic Oertel, Greg Urovsky, Andy Ram, David Fan, Tejas Navada, Max Fuster and Kai Thompson-Jones came in 2nd and 3rd. Daniel Franca-Koh, Madison Kelly, Sam Mahoney, and David Ye had big time drops in a single event. Jordan and Madison Kelly both got four best times. Cate Ledoux, Dominic Oertel, Sidney Thompson, Yamei Usui and Jingjing Wu dropped time in three events. The Sharks swept five events. Connor Combs, Juliana Combs, Max Fuster, Devin Johnson, Jordan Kelly, Nick Kim, James Lieske, Maddy Manne, Dylan Pino, Kai

Thompson-Jones, Joe Waldron, Felicia Wang, David Ye contributed to those sweeps. Fuster Kyle, Jordan Kelly, James Lieske, Joe Waldron and Allison Yu swept their events. Nick Kim, David Ye and Grace Zhang completed the sweep of their age groups. Halftime was bittersweet for the Sharks. First, they had to bid a fond farewell to graduating seniors Maddy Adams, Sophia Lieske, Dominic Oertel and Yamei Usui. All four of these swimmers and families have been valuable members of the team for many years and the Sharks will miss them next year. However, after the ceremony, the Sharks outlasted the Whales in the first ever t-post battle. While the *Review* does not condone t-posting during practice, t-posting during halftimes is apparently acceptable. After the meet, the Sharks celebrated their great swims with a barbeque put together by many hard-working parents.

PIRC

On Sunday morning, the Sharks traveled to Tallyho for the Potomac Invitational Relay **Carnival**. Sophia Lieske may be headed off to clown college next year, as she and Madison Kelly showed off their awesome outfits and won best dressed. In the water, the Sharks won three relays. Dylan Pino swam on two of those relays. First, he joined forced with Devin Johson, Alex Obolensky and Andrew Vorozheykin to win the boys' graduated medley relay. Later, Dylan teamed up

with his brother Brandon, as well as Ethan Qian and Julia Waldron to take first in the mixed 8&under free relay. Kim Abera, Maddy Manne, Madison Kelly and Melissa Lopez added a win in the girls' graduated medley relay. In the most important event of the day, Devin Johnson took on swimmers from all 5 other teams and won the hula hoop contest. The Sharks concluded their whirlwind week with lunch at Montgomery Mall.

Best Times Update

The Sharks got 93 best times on Wednesday and followed that up with 78 best times on Saturday. This brings their season total to 681.

Records

Jordan Kelly broke Rockshire Team and Pool Records in the Boy's 11-12 IM, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. Sidney Thompson lowered her own Team and Pool Records in the Girls' 11-12 Freestyle. Allison Yu similarly re-broke her own Team Record in the Girl's 13-14 Breaststroke.

Upcoming Events

On Monday, the Sharks will visit Six Flags. On Friday night, they will get ready for Divisionals with a team dinner at Cici's. Divisionals will take place on Saturday morning at Rockshire. On Sunday night, the Sharks will get dressed up and celebrate their fantastic season at the banquet.