

Finally Back (And Breast and Fly and Free)

The Rockshire Sharks finally started a new season on June 1st, 2021. After an extremely abbreviated 2020 season (luckily the Sharks' t-posing craze of 2018 gave them plenty of practice standing 6 feet apart), everyone was excited for some return to normalcy in 2021. Unfortunately, the pool appears to have been infiltrated by bugs during the long time off. One astute reader (who knew that the *Review* had any readers???) reminded the editors of the cockroach farm that was referenced in a 2019 *Review*. This farm has clearly succeeded beyond anyone's wildest imagination and has now even expanded to cicadas. However, for some reason, the coach who originally started the farm does not seem excited about its success...

Eldwick Meet

On Wednesday night, the Sharks attempted to *kick off* their dual meet season against the Eldwick Sharks. Unfortunately, the editors may have gotten slightly ahead of themselves by calling 2021 a return to normalcy as the Covid-19 pandemic prevented Eldwick from attending the meet. Thanks to many hard-

working parents, the Sharks were able to double their number of volunteers and the meet was a success. They even roped in Lady Gaga, who promptly broke the first record of the season with her world's longest national anthem. Fortunately, the Sharks can swim much faster than Lady Gaga can sing. George Xie led the way with 5 best times and a total of 29 seconds dropped. Gabriela Combs, Erica Lopez, and Lucy Stanton also earned 5 best times. Mason Aarhus, Yasmine Badr, Carina Chen, Miranda Kvedys, Gabi Winnig, and David Ye were not far behind with 4 best times. Emilia Arellano, Josefa Arellano, Emma Barrow, CG Combs, Juliana Combs, Amelia Fuster, Max Fuster, Gabriela Minai, Alex Platzer, and Tatiana Yuri had 3 best times. Putnam Strong knocked 22 seconds off of his freestyle for the biggest drop of the night. Luke Hussmann, Nick Kim, and George Xie dropped over 10 seconds in an event. Lorelei Banas, CG Combs, Mitchell Kupersmith, Eesa Sihal, Colton Tropp, Alyssa Wang, Gabi Winnig, Greyson Wooley, George Xie (two more times), and Tatiana Yuri dropped at least 5 seconds. Gabriela Combs won best dressed (Gabriela also won the first ever Time Trials best dressed award).

Pasta Night

On Friday night, the Sharks had their first BYO pasta night/picnic of the season. While the "BYO" portion of the night may have been new for the 2021 season, many Sharks assumed that the questions and items on the 5th annual scavenger hunt would be repeated from earlier years and attempted to get a head start by looking for coins and counting flags. Meanwhile, Gabriela and Juliana Combs practiced for the official scavenger hunt by going on their own scavenger hunt in search for the team t-shirts. Despite all of this ~~cheating~~ preparation, this year's scavenger hunt was the lowest scoring one to date (and that was even without any questions that involved reading an analog clock). When the dust settled, Team Cate and Team Marco tied with 10 points. In a difficult tie-breaker question, Team Marco (with an assist from CG) edged out Team Cate (with an assist from Karine) for the win.

Rock Creek Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks finally got to swim against another team, as they traveled to Hawaii aka Rock Creek. While it may have been difficult at first to distinguish

between the two teams, the Sharks quickly stood out thanks to the outstanding outfits of many swimmers, including best-dressed winners Amelia Fuster, Maddy Manne, and Lucy Stanton. In the pool the Sharks were equally impressive. The 8&under boys were hotter than the Hawaiian sun, as Luke Hussmann (12 seconds) and Andrew Butters (8 seconds) had the two biggest drops of the day (Luke probably wishes the pool was hotter than the Hawaiian sun). Sabina Blate, Max Fuster, TJ Miller, Emily Qian, Alex Thompson, Jingjing Wu, Tatiana Yuri (twice), and Grace Zhang also dropped at least 3 seconds in an event. Jingjing Wu had 4 best times. Hawie Abera, CG Combs, Fuster Kyle, Matthew Ledoux, Dylan Pino, Alan Sai, Alex Thompson, Sidney Thompson, Katie Wang, and Tatiana Yuri had 3 best times. Lindi Cheng, Brandon Pino, and Dylan Pino swept their events. Katie Wang and Lukas Nuredini completed the sweep of their respective age groups. Hawie Abera and Maddy Manne combined to sweep the 11-12 girls events. Max Fuster, Marco Minai, and Alex Platzer combined to sweep the 15-18 mens events. As a team, the Sharks swept 3 events. Carina Chen, CG Combs, Gabriela Combs, Max Fuster, Marco Minai, Alex Platzer and Jingjing Wu contributed to those sweeps. The Sharks also won 3 relays. In the newly located open age medley, Marco Minai, CG Combs, Max

Fuster, and Alex Platzer took 1st and Daniel Blate, Alex Thompson, Alex Lopez, and Nick Kim took 3rd. Later, the meet finished in dramatic fashion, as Dylan Pino, Jason Cobb, Fuster Kyle, and Brandon Pino won the boys' freestyle relay and Judy Wu, Maddy Manne, Jingjing Wu, and Lindi Cheng won the girls' freestyle relay. Both relays were come from behind victories as the 8&unders (Brandon and Lindi) ran down the very fast Rock Creek teams on the final 25. Olivia Qin, Lucy Stanton, Juliana Combs, and Katie Wang added a 3rd place finish in the girls' freestyle relay. Lindi Cheng, Brandon Pino, and Alex Platzer earned their first ever all-star nominating times. Many Sharks stepped up to help the team. Zena Badr and Tatiana Yuri were last minute additions into races (with Tatiana even dropping 4 seconds). Raimi Kvedys skipped baseball practice for the meet. 12-year-olds Hawie Abera and Alex Thompson swam on a relay against 18 (and somehow 19?) year-olds. Daniel Blate, Catherine Hsu, Nick Kim, and Alex Lopez stayed after their individual events to swim on the newly placed open-age medley. The Sharks celebrated their great swims with lunch at Panera.

Best Times

The Sharks got 109 best times on Wednesday and followed that up with 88 best times on

Saturday, bringing their total to 197 best times on the season. This is more best times than they have ever had through Week 1. If the Sharks get more than 700 best times this season, Andy will jump in the pool with his clothes on.

Records

Jingjing Wu broke the 13-14 girls Rockshire Team Record in the backstroke with a time of 33.40. This record formerly belonged to Carolyn Murphy.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday night, the Sharks will shine bright as they take to the road to face off against the Montgomery Square Seahawks. They will have another BYO picnic on Friday night. At the picnic, they will tie-dye t-shirts, which they will proudly wear on Saturday morning as they take on the Daleview Feet at home.