

## Bi-ased Tim-ing

Although the Old Farm meet won't happen for another week, there were plenty of opportunities for "biased timing" this week at Rockshire. (Editor's note: The *Review* defines biased timing as cheating and/or favoritism. The *Review* will not attempt to define factoid.) CG set the tone for the week on Monday morning as the older Sharks attempted to get progressively faster in their 50s freestyle. Early results showed CG as the winner. However, further investigation by Fuster Kyle revealed that CG used his watch (good thing it is a digital and not an analog watch) to help him determine how fast he was going. With CG retroactively dqued (a word almost as fun as snafu), Fuster Kyle and Cate Ledoux were named co-winners. By Friday, the biased timing was rampant. In mankillers, Nick Kim violated the unofficial peace treaty and knocked down the impressively built kickboard houses from the other teams. While this was not officially biased timing, it did lead to Andy's first biased timing move of the week, as he allowed Alex Platzer (from the undisciplined Team 2) to leave *slightly* early as retribution from Nick's maneuver and run-down Cate Ledoux for a highly disputed 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. The

very experienced Team 1 was able to avoid all the chaos and run away with a clear victory. At the 10&under practice, Thomas Tawk had some biased timing in the Scream and Sprint, as he has apparently defected from the Sharks for Team "Oopsies". However, unlike Andy and the 15-18 boys, Thomas was able to recover and fix his biased timing mistake. On Friday night, the Sharks took part in the most competitive and thrilling water brigade to date. Clearly Andy needs to invest in a tape measurer (and not just to find people who are exactly 5'3) as it took some biased timing from both Andy and Karine to determine the winner.

## Team Picture

On Monday night, the Sharks donned their team suits and best smiles to take the team picture. Fortunately, the photographer will not have to perform any biased timing this year to photoshop a coach into the picture. Additionally, Max Fuster's hot take from last week may have been single handily responsible for heating up the pool, as the Sharks discovered that Matthew Ledoux is exactly 5'3.

## Inverness Meet

On Wednesday night, the Sharks showed off their

impressive tie-dye t-shirts as they traveled to Inverness to take on the Nessies. The Sharks did their best to outswim the traditional Inverness meet thunderstorm that moved in faster than Hawie Abera and Madison Manne dashing to the blocks before an open-age medley relay. After dropping 20 seconds last week, Greyson Woolley knocked off another 16 seconds in freestyle this week and added a 15 second drop in backstroke for the two biggest drops of the day. Mason Aarhus, Yasmine Badr, Daniel Blate, Lindi Cheng, John Karacki, Eesa Sihai, Lucy Stanton, Thomas Tawk, Alyssa Wang, and Angela Wang also dropped a lot of time in a single event. In a shortened meet, Daniel Blate, Erica Lopez, and Alyssa Wang still managed to earn 3 best times. Emilia Arellano, John Karacki, Cate Ledoux, Lucy Stanton, Thomas Tawk, Angela Wang, Felicia Wang, Greyson Woolley, Jerry Yang, and David Ye also got multiple best times. However, clearly the coaches need to do less biased timing and more coaching butterfly, as, for some reason, no one got a best time in fly.

## Calverton Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks took to the road to face off against the Calverton

Chargers. Luckily, the Sharks did not have to change their shirts from Wednesday night to Saturday morning before making the long drive to Calverton (a few Sharks also didn't change their shirts from Wednesday night to Thursday morning). These extra few minutes of sleep clearly paid off, as the Sharks had many great swims. The Sharks' relay prowess was again on full display. Both boys relays remain undefeated on the season. This week, Daniel Blate, Jordan Kelly, Max Fuster, Nick Kim, Marco Minai, CG Combs, Alex Lopez and Alex Platzer took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open Medley. Daniel Blate and Alex Lopez made the drive out to Calverton just to swim on this relay and score valuable points for the team. Later, Dylan Pino, Jason Cobb, Fuster Kyle, and Brandon Pino won the Graduated Freestyle. Even after losing his goggles, Brandon ran down the Calverton 8&under to secure victory. Jingjing Wu, Sidney Thompson, Hawie Abera, and Madison Manne pulled off an upset in the Women's Open Medley. While some fans were concerned that this relay was only going to have two swimmers on it, 12-year-olds Hawie and Madison were able to sneak in undetected at the last moment to compete against (and swim faster than) girls up to 7 years older. Charlie Wernimont was added into several events on Saturday morning and responded with 4

best times including a 10 second drop in fly and a 7 second drop in IM. Madison Manne also earned 4 best times. Fuster Kyle, Brandon Pino, and Sidney Thompson were not far behind with 3 best times. Luke Hussmann, Vikram Mishra, Olivia Qin, Alex Thompson, Summer Yao, and Grace Zhang also dropped a lot of time in a single event. 15-18 boys CG Combs, Max Fuster, Jordan Kelly, Nick Kim, Marco Minai, and Alex Platzer combined to ~~make a TikTok~~ sweep all 5 events (including taking 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> in the freestyle) and outscore the Calverton boys by a maximum 56 points. Jordan Kelly, Madison Manne, Brandon Pino, Dylan Pino, and Sidney Thompson swept their events. Alex Platzer completed the sweep of the 15-18 boys events. Gabriela Combs, Juliana Combs, Vikram Mishra, and Charlie Wernimont added extra events on Saturday morning. The Sharks celebrated these great swims at Potomac Pizza, where the trashcan proved harder to locate than Hawie and Madison before the relay.

#### Firecracker Relays

On Sunday morning, the Sharks showed off their patriotic fervor as they took part in Firecracker Relays. As the Sharks are now getting too good at many of the traditional relays (all the cards were very dry), the coaches had to add in some new relays, including the 6-minute relay. There were no

opportunities for biased timing on this relay, as Karine confiscated all of the Sharks' (presumably digital) watches before the relay started. If only the Sharks could read an analog clock... Ultimately, Fuster Kyle again proved to be an excellent counter, as he teamed Jordan Kelly to anchor the relay that finished 1.25 seconds away from 6 minutes. As always, the relays concluded with the all-important chair race. This year, Alex Platzer and the boys were able to defeat Cate Ledoux and the girls, despite Cate winning the rock-paper-scissors competition and the shallow water. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> firecracker relays in a row that the team that won the rock-paper-scissors competition has lost the actual race.

#### Records

Jingjing Wu lowered her Team Record in the Girl's 13-14 Backstroke.

#### Best Times

The Sharks got 42 best times in the abbreviated meet on Wednesday and followed it up with 65 best times on Saturday. This brings their season total to 472.