

Bears and Pandas swim so sensationally

The swim teams from the U of A competed in the "most exciting, ferocious, highly skillful National Championships I have ever been to," according to coach John Hogg and both teams performed fantastically with the men coming in fourth and women placing sixth.

"The time standards were close to Canada's best times," stressed Hogg of the level of competition at the meet held in Vancouver over the past weekend. In testimony to this is the fact that Alberta swimmers were recording the best times of the season and not even finishing in

the top 12. To finish as they did both teams deserve a very big pat on the back.

"The competition put tremendous pressure on both our teams," and they responded accordingly, said Hogg.

In comparison to last year's placings, the Bears moved up from 6th and the women moved to 6th from 19th. For those without a calculator that's a jump of an astounding 13 places.

The Bears and Pandas recorded 56 personal bests and set six new school records at the meet.

Perhaps the best example of how the swimmers responded to the competition against them is the case of Isabelle Langlois. In three events: The 400 IM, the 400 freestyle and 800 freestyle, Isabelle knocked an amazing 35 seconds off her previous combined times for those events.

The coaches to the swim teams, John Hogg and Jan Henderson, feel that his season has been a highly successful one and that the championships, in terms of quality related to Canadian and World standard, have improved dramatically.

Well, now on to the individual placings and times of some of the best times recorded at Vancouver.

For the men, there were two silvers and three thirds, however, Dirk Smith deserves mention for the fact that he recorded a school

record in the 50m freestyle with a time of 24:48 and didn't even finish in the top twelve at the meet. Jeff Riddle captured a silver and a bronze medal as he recorded a time of 2:02.68 in the 200 butterfly for second, and he took third in the 200 IM with a time of 2:06.72. Brian Carleton also had a very strong meet taking a silver and a bronze as well. Brian placed second in the 200 breaststroke in a time of 2:21.30 and he finished third in the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.39. The men's 4X200

freestyle relay team took third place in 7:45.27 and they took another bronze medal in the 4X100 relay in a time of 3:30.28.

For the women, Pam Montgomery placed 6 in the 400m freestyle race in 4:38.60 and she took another 6th in the 800 free in 9:32.60. Barb Hemphill showed very well in the 100, 200, and 50 freestyle races. The relay team did very well to place sixth in the 800 freestyle in 9:07.91, they placed fourth in the 400 freestyle in a time of 4:10.14.



photo Tom Freeland

Brian Carleton on his way to the silver medal in the 200 metre breast-stroke at the CIAU National Championships in Vancouver March 4-6.

Tae Kwon Do on Sat.

The black belt was demonstrating his stuff over the weekend by breaking boards. Ouch!

photo Martin Beales

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