

## SPORTS

# Sharks swim away with top 10 finishes

Nine athletes with the Sharks Aquatic Club swam away with 27 top 10 finishes in last weekend's North Carolina Age Group Championships in Charlotte. The team finished 11th overall.

Austin Toney, of Kings Mountain, scored 3rd place in the 200 breast stroke contest, 7th place in the 100 breast and 9th in the 50 breast. He is the son of Hope and Barry Toney of Kings Mountain.

Abbey Bragg, daughter of Ruthie and Greg Bragg of Kings Mountain, claimed two 12th places in the 50-yard back stroke and 200-yard back stroke contests. Head Coach David Messenger said that Bragg had her best swim times all weekend, in addition to other Sharks Parker Campbell and David Roby.

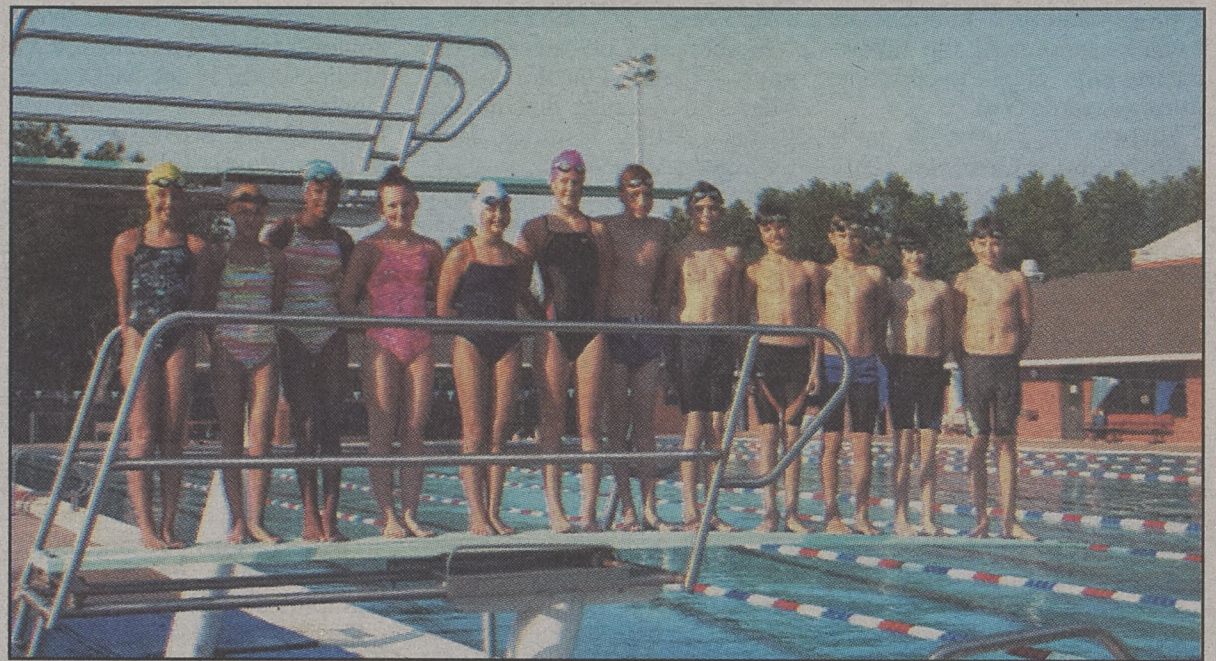
Ben Waldrep and Lindsey Martelle are the Sharks' 2008 state champions. Ben won the 50 breast and 100 breast for the second year in a row and scored in every event he swam earning seven top-10 finishes. He finished 3rd in

the 50 freestyle, 5th in the 100 freestyle, 6th in the 50 back, 7th in the 100 back, 9th in the 200 IM and 12th in the 50 butterfly.

Lindsey Martelle also brought home gold in the 100 breast, dropping over four seconds off of her time. She also got a second place finish in the 50 breast, 8th place in the 50 freestyle, 8th in the 100 freestyle, 12th in the 100 back and 13th in the 50 back.

Other great performances were turned in by Garrett Simpson who scored in 6 events, including a 4th, 6th and a 7th place finish. Alexandra Martelle had 3 top-10 finishes including a 3rd place finish in the 50 Breast.

"What a great weekend it was for the Sharks team at the North Carolina Age Group Championships," Messenger said. "Over 600 swimmers from over 40 teams attended and the Sharks team finished 11th overall. We were the highest scoring Blue Ridge team and the second highest scoring team in the Charlotte area. (MAC won the meet, again.)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/SAC

Left to right - Annie Shirk, Lindsey Martelle, Ari Wallace, Abby Bragg, Alexandra Martelle, Emily Morgan, Austin Toney, David Roby, Parker Campbell, Garrett Simpson, Matthew Campbell, Ben Waldrep. Not pictured: Katie Beiker and Jay Wilson.

There is not a faster age group team west of Charlotte than our Sharks Aquatic Club."

## YMCA sees boys hitting the mat at younger ages

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Ray Sensing (age 11), Derek England (11), and Jonmark Smith (12) of Kings Mountain hit the wrestling mat at a Sports Camp on July 14 at Dover Foundation YMCA.

Although they attended the camp with an interest in the sport, Shelby High School wrestler and YMCA Wrestling Camp Coach Cody Matheney claims that the challenge is to keep that enthusiasm going as they grow. That is done, he said, through a year-round sports club.

Kings Mountain doesn't have any other wrestling of any kind before seventh grade, according to Smith and England.

While traveling across the country Matheney said that he

has watched avid sports' fathers encourage their sons toward the mat as early as five years old.

"I've seen fathers who are like football and baseball dads here (in Cleveland County)," Matheney said.

He added that he believes, the importance of being dominant and competitive in the sport needs to start with training at a younger age.

"It's more of an impact sport," Smith said. "My brother (now in the Air Force) wrestled for six years."

"I love watching it (wrestling) on TV, but this (the camp) is the real thing," England stated.

Unlike other sports, the boys and Matheney said that wrestling is self-competition.

"This is an independent

sport. There's no full back I turn to. Everything I earned I did myself," Matheney said.

"You don't have time to draw something out. You have to go with the flow. There's no time to look at the score board," said

camper Chris Brasel.

"It's confusing because you don't know when to take the guy down," Smith added.

Another "confusing" component for parents and some coaches is when younger kids, See WRESTLING, Page 23



First time wrestler from KM, Ray Sensing (right), tries to take down fellow camper Chris Brasel.

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