

Sharks end short season with bronze

Get ready to welcome new Sharks to the 'school'

By EMILY WEAVER
Editor

Ask any Shark, they'll tell you - the competition may be fierce, but the water is fine. Swimmers in the local Sharks Aquatic Club practice often and when they dive in to compete it clearly shows.

In the recent BRSL (Blue Ridge Swim League) Championship meet in Charlotte, the Sharks team finished off its short course season with the bronze.

"Over the course of two and a half days our team swam best time after best time and continued to improve," said Head Coach David Messenger.

The Sharks team had one of its highest finishes ever at the meet. "We finished third overall, behind Nomad and the Gaston Gators," Messenger said.

The Nomads (North Mecklenburg Aqua Devils) outnumbered the Sharks 200 to 47 as did the Gators with a swim team almost double that of Cleveland County's. But the Sharks didn't seem to mind, as they tied with Nomad, having three individual high point winners - Kaitlyn Moss, Lindsey Martelle and Parker Campbell.

Other Sharks high point winners were: in the 10-and-under girls division, Moss - 1st and Madelyn Martelle - 3rd; in the 11-12-year-old girls, Lindsey Martelle - 1st; in the 11-12-year-old boys, Parker Campbell - 1st, Ben Waldrep - 2nd, Matt Campbell - 5th, and Jay Wilson - 10th; in the 13-14 girls, Alexandra Martelle - 2nd, Annie Shirk - 5th and Ari Wallace - 8th place; in the 13-14 boys, Garrett Simpson - 3rd, Austin Toney - 4th and David Roby - 5th place.

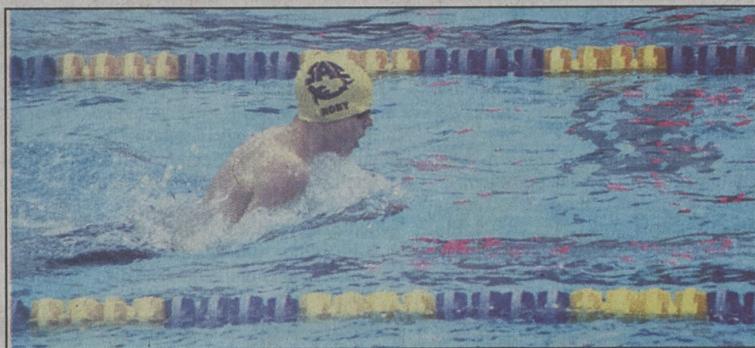
Nearly all of the Sharks, who competed, finished with best times at the meet.

The Sharks are now taking a breather on Spring Break, but will return to practice on Thursday, April 8th and Monday, April 12th.

The Mako 2 and senior swimmers will dive back in to practice tomorrow.

The Sharks Aquatic club is made up of several different levels of ability. Beginners start out with swim lessons, and if desired they can advance to the next level which is the Hammerheads. Here they learn the basics of the techniques of all the different strokes (Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly and Breaststroke).

The Hammerheads are introduced to competitive swimming through various intersquad meets. Once they have learned this they ad-



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
DAVID ROBY



Austin Toney cuts through the water.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER		
E 119 M5		309
16 ARNHOLT, J	1:37	25
23 DONAHUE, J	1:34	66
22 FORSYTH, J	1:29	94
41 MARTELLE, L	1:21	168
54 AXE, RILEY	1:22	86
63 WENNBORG, S	1:32	120
27 FOSTER, S	1:38	76
89 MINN, MI	1:39	59

The scoreboard shows one of the Martelle girls with the best time.

vance to the Tiger Shark group, which builds on their current training, and begin to compete in more meets.

Mako 2's generally range in age from 11-14, and have group training two

hours a day, six days per week. Senior Sharks are typically high-school aged swimmers who have shown a strong commitment to the sport. They practice 2 1/2 hours a day, 6 days a week as well. Over the summer they will do some double practices.

The Hammerheads, Tiger Sharks, and Mako 1 swimmers will get back in the water on Monday. Hammerheads, often some of the youngest Sharks, are encouraged to practice three times a week. Tiger Sharks train an hour a day, four days a week. Mako 1 Sharks, generally ranging from 9-12 years old, practice an hour a day, five days a week.

Beginning in the Mako 1 division, Sharks train both in and out of the water.

Most of the Makos and

team. She now swims with the Sharks and will soon graduate to the club's Mako 2 division.

Is she nervous about the new level of competition?

"Oh she can keep up with them," Hope said, adding that Madelyn is a true "shark" in the water.

Madelyn smiled. The reason why she swims competitively, she said, is because it is "really fun".

Participants compete in different age groups and meets depending on their achievement level and how old they are on the first day of the meet.

The Martelles were both swimmers before they had children. Now, all three of their daughters compete in the SAC. Although the commute from Rutherfordton can be long, Jen Martelle says it is worth it to swim with the Sharks.

And the Martelle girls are definitely "making waves" in competition. Both Lindsey and Alexandra Martelle are ranked in the state's top 10 swimmers list for breaststroke and backstroke events. Madelyn came in first place in the 100 breast, 50 breast, and 200 individual medley (IM) in the 10 and under age division at the BRSL Championship. She also carried home the silver for 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle events and the bronze for 100 IM.

Ruthie Bragg was at the championship meet in Charlotte cheering on her daughter Abbey Bragg, who will be moving into the senior division soon. Abbey finished in the top 10 in nearly all of the categories she competed in.

Kathi Simpson, who is the age group coach for the Makos, was proud of her swimmers at the meet as she watched and coached from the side. Her husband, Mike Simpson, who leads the swim team at Gardner-Webb University, watched from the stands, rooting for their son in the water, Garrett Simpson.

The Sharks' performance in the water also trickles into education. Mike Simpson said that his women's swim team has had the highest GPA (Grade Point Average) of any woman's swim team in the nation for three years. Last year, his men's team carried the same honor.

"Generally, swimmers are better students," he said.

"That's the kind of kids that swim," Messenger added. What they do "is not easy".

Their skills in and outside of the water make them more dedicated, harder workers, which filters into their challenges outside of the pool.

"Swimming is Cleveland County's best-kept secret. It teaches these kids goal setting, self discipline, self motivation, determination and how to handle disappointment. These athletes have to be so physically fit because they have to endure and use every muscle in the body," Hope said.

Legion Baseball

Legion players meeting Sunday

All players interested in playing American Legion baseball for Kings Mountain should meet at Kings Mountain High School's Lancaster Field Sunday, April 11 at 5 p.m. or contact Coach Matt Bridges at 704-692-2423 or mdbridges@clevelandcountyschools.org.

Coach Bridges will give a brief outline of team plans for the 2010 season and what will be expected of all players and their families.

Legion baseball golf tourney set

Kings Mountain American Legion baseball will hold its fifth annual golf tournament May 22 at Woodbridge Golf Links.

Lunch will be provided for all players. Cash and prizes will be awarded to first and second places. There will also be a closest to the pin on all par three holes and long drive contest.

The cost is \$50 per player or \$200 per four-person team.

All proceeds will benefit the 2010 American Legion baseball team.

For a sign-up sheet visit www.kmpost155.com or contact Jerry Ross at 704-616-3391 for more information.

2010 KM Legion Baseball Schedule

MAY
20 - at Cherryville*; 23 - Newell; 24 - Cherryville*; 27 - at Huntersville; 28 - at Charlotte; 29 - at Union County; 30 - Gastonia; 31 - Hickory*.

JUNE
1 - at Hickory* (Fairgrounds); 2 - at Pineville; 4 - Denver; 5 - at Gaston Braves; 6 - Monroe; 9 - Huntersville; 14 - at Newell; 18 - Union County; 19 - at Gastonia; 20 - Pineville; 23 - at Denver; 25 - Gaston Braves; 26 - at Monroe.

(Playoffs)
First round - 3 of 5 - July 1-5; second round - 3 of 5 - July 7-11; third round - 3 of 5 - July 13-17; Area IV finals - 2 of 3 - July 19-21.
(All games 7 p.m.)

*Non-conference games.

Sports briefs...

KM lady kickers beat South Point

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team remained undefeated in the Big South 3A Wednesday with a 5-2 victory over South Point at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont.

Ramey Kerns and Meagan Reynolds scored two goals each and Megan Loftin added one for Dara Goldstein's Lady Mountaineers. Kerns had two assists and Reynolds and Caroline Baker added one apiece.

JV Mountaineers defeat Forestview

Kings Mountain defeated Forestview 2-1 in a JV baseball game Wednesday afternoon at Lancaster Field.

Heath King pitched the first six innings and gave up only one run and four hits. Jonathan Borchert pitched the last two innings to get the win.

Mat Moss led the offense with two hits and scored the winning run when Colby Bailey was hit by a pitch. Colton Wade, John Day and Tyler Gilliam also had hits.

Booster Club BBQ May 7 at KMHS

The annual Kings Mountain High Booster Club barbecue will be held Friday, May 7 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the high school.

All proceeds go to the KMHS athletic programs.

Touchdown Club golf tourney set

The annual Kings Mountain Touchdown Club Golf Tournament will be played Friday, April 16 at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and tee off is at 1 p.m.

It is a Captain's Choice-format. Entry fee is \$50 per golfer. It will be flighted at the end of the tournament with winners of each flight receiving first place prizes.

There will also be prizes for closest to the hole on the par threes and longest drive for men, women and seniors. Mulligans and red tees will be sold.

Sponsors are needed. Gold sponsors are \$100, silver \$50 and bronze \$25. Sponsors' names are permanently displayed on a sponsor board in the KMHS weight room.

All profits from the tournament go to improvements to the weight room, which is used by all athletes and P.E. students at KMHS.

To enter the tournament, or for more information, call Mark Dixon at 704-477-4618 or Larry Hamrick Jr. at 704-739-3611.

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