

# The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet

By Marissa Harnett

Photo Doug Kohen



For the last forty-five years, six teams--Springbrook, LMYA, Sun Valley, Rancho Colorados, Las Trampas, and Oakwood take to Acalanes' Heaston Aquatic Center in mid July for heated competition.

The Lafayette City Meet, a two day event, marks the mid-point of the season.

At the end of the first day--Springbrook had the lead, followed by LMYA, Rancho, Sun Valley, Las Trampas, and Oakwood.

There were many sensational swims by Saturday's participants. The 50 yard freestyle delivered feverish races with razor thin margins. In the girls' 9-10 age group LMYA's Sophia Cavalli touched first posting a winning time of 30.2.

Jewel Roemer of Sun Valley was just .22 behind her with Jackie Geannapulos (LMYA) just another .17 back for third place.

An even tighter 50 free competition was waged in the 11-12 boys age group. Brad Robinson (Rancho) emerged victorious with a time of 27.03, but right on his heels was Nate Welcomer (Springbrook) coming in just .04 seconds behind. Only .03 seconds separated Sean McKenna (Sun Valley) and Matt Vollman (LMYA), finishing third and fourth place respectively. With a fifth place time of 27.73, just .4 seconds behind the winner was Casey Conrad (LMYA).

Four new records were also set. All of the broken records came in the

Relay categories, always the exciting finish to each day. No race was more dramatic than in the girls' 7-8 age group where Sun Valley's strong foursome of 8-year-olds -- Jessica Davis (backstroke), Sophie Lurie (breaststroke), Anika Thompson (butterfly), and Chloe Goddard (freestyle) -- raced their hearts out knowing that the 26-year old record was within their reach. They posted a winning time of 1:12.68 and realized that, by a mere .01 of a second, the record was now in their possession.

"Before we thought we weren't going to make it" said Thompson, through a huge smile.

Head coach Warren Wallace said of the girls, "They knew if they worked hard they could do it." And

work hard they did, spending lesson time working on starts and turns which can make or break a successful relay record quest. (see sidebar for other records broken)

The Lafayette City Meet often has a predictable winner in Springbrook Swim Team (winner of the past two years), but it is also a time for all Lafayette swimmers to show-

case what they've been working so hard on this summer.

Springbrook head coach Joe Natina said, "This meet is a great mid-season meet for the kids to let loose, get excited, and swim fast... we are not feeling the pressure (to win). Just having fun, swimming fast, and looking forward to more."

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## A Heartwarming Moment at City Meet



Jennifer Lurie dropped us a note after the City Meet to share a special anecdote: "The girls 15/18 relay team from Springbrook were awarded the outstanding girls relay award for beating the record they set last year by a whopping 4-5 seconds. When they came to accept the award the relay team took the microphone and essentially said, 'We think it is so much more amazing that the girls 7/8 relay team broke a 27-year old record, than us just breaking our own record from last year, that we want to give the girls 7/8 medley relay team our awards,' and they called up the 7/8 girls and handed over their plaques to the younger girls. It was an amazing act of sportsmanship and many present were moved to tears. It left a huge impression on everyone." Photo Kelly Wood



Photos Doug Kohen

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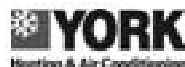


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