

ESHS Swimmers Qualify for 32 CIF Positions at Pioneer League Finals



Sophomore Kelsey Cummings broke Pioneer League records in both the 200 Individual Medley and the 500 Freestyle. Photos by Shelley Kemp, www.kemp.photorelect.com.

By George Harris, Jr.

Despite a pair of third place varsity finishes in the 2009 Pioneer League swimming finals, El Segundo qualified for a possible 32 positions in the CIF Division III Prelims to be held today at Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach. The divisional finals follow two days later on Saturday morning, May 16 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the same site. The final swimming activity of 2009 CIF SS will be the Masters Swim Meet on Tuesday, May 19 at the Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach starting with warm-ups at 3:30 p.m. and competition getting underway at 5:00 p.m.

Last Friday night's Pioneer finals were held in the steamy confines of the Beverly Hills High School Swim Gym, but seemingly had no effect on the number of league records set

at the meet. Sophomore Kelsey Cummings racked up two individual meet records (200 Individual Medley and 500 Free) and swam the Butterfly leg in the league record 200 Medley Relay. Junior Julianne Allison cracked the league mark in the 100 Back and Class of 2011 member Colette Gulick established a meet and El Segundo High School record in the 100 Breast.

Although the boys' varsity team was not responsible for any new meet records, coaches Fotis Davlantis and Jim Makuta could only marvel at the Eagles' performance as every member of the squad improved their times. "Sophomore Sensation" Ryan Makuta continued to re-write the boys' ESHS swimming record book. The modest 10th grader dominated the field in the 100 and 200 Free swimming



Sophomore Colette Gulick won the 100 Breaststroke in a new Pioneer League record of 1:11.09.

with his fastest times to date. Makuta also anchored the league runner-up 200 and 400 Free Relay teams. All four events qualified for automatic CIF participation. Junior Robert Cordobes finished a solid fifth in the 200 and 100 Free and were worthy of CIF consideration times. Fellow classmate Stephen Lasky did likewise in the 200 Individual Medley and added a strong lifetime best in the 100 Fly. Sophomore Jeffrey Allison earned a silver and an automatic CIF berth in the 100 Fly, while seniors Dayne Contarsy (CIF consideration) and Sinith Markalande placed fifth and seventh respectively. Four-year varsity letterman Contarsy came back to win the consolation championship of the 500 Free. The 200 Free relay of Bradley Rava, junior Max Reynolds, Cordobes and Makuta was edged out by league champion Torrance, but achieved a free pass to the CIF prelims. Allison racked up a bronze in the 100 Back and another automatic entrance to the prelims. Sophomore Christopher Cordobes pulled off a stunner in winning the 100 Back consolation championship and making the automatic qualification to CIF. Later in the session, classmate Tucker Hopkins finished with a career best in winning the consolation of the 100 Breast. The 400 Free relay team of Makuta, Rava, and the brothers Cordobes came within a second of the school record as league champion Torrance celebrated its first boys' league swimming title.

As mentioned earlier, "The Mermaids of Main" took part in a little Pioneer League historical revision, starting in the varsity's very first event. Julianne Allison, Courtney Rava, Gulick and Cummings broke the league standard with an automatic qualification in the 200 Medley Relay. Twenty minutes later, Rava came back and mastered the competition in the 200 Free and got another automatic qualification. Another 20 minutes passed and now it was Cummings turn as she dominated in the 200 IM and set her second league record. Allison grabbed a second in 100 Fly and another "auto" while Rava won the 100 Free with a consideration time. El Segundo Sea Turtle standout Hayden Green won the varsity consolation championship in the 100 Free. Cummings returned for the 500 Free and promptly set record number three and earned another automatic entry to "Big Dance."

Allison came prepared to battle in her specialty, the 100 Back. In living up to her true "Bronco tradition," Allison trashed the competition, set a meet record and earned her third free pass to the [relims]. The 100 Breast belonged to another member of the family, Cummings' cousin Gulick. The 200 Medley winner made it blue ribbon number two as she set a league and ESHS record in the 100 Breast. The 400 Free Relay team of Cummings, Glick, Rava and Allison took care of business as they humbled 2009 league champion Santa Monica and Torrance in a fairly one-sided event.

The young hatchlings showed great improvement as they turned in some swift times. After a middle of the road finish in the 200 Medley Relay, sophomore Jackson Hogoboom seemed to get the "Blue and Gold" going with a decisive win in the 200 Free. Sophomore Christian Saravia caught the benign virus quickly and promptly was victorious in his back-to-back competitions the 100 Fly and 100 Free. Freshman Ryan Kigawa took home a bronze in the 100 Fly and classmate Oscar Chen did the same in the 100 Free. Hogoboom delivered a fifth in the 100 Back and Chen garnered a silver in the 100 Breast. Kigawa, Chen, Hogoboom and Saravia concluded the boys' frosh/soph affair with a season-best time in the 400 Free Relay.

"The Maidens of Main" finished their Pioneer League season in a second place tie with host Beverly Hills. Culver City won both frosh/soph divisions. The small but mighty bands of hatchlings began the meet the way they ended it; tarnished with silver. The 200 Medley comprised of sophomores Natalie Friedrichs, Nicole Puma, Kelsa Middough and freshman Hallie Lindsey were runner-ups to the champion Centaurs. Middough and Friedrichs finished third and sixth respectively in the 200 Free. Puma snagged a third in the 100 IM and then came back and was crowned league champion in the 50 Fly. Middough took the bronze and Friedrichs got into the coronation spirit, nailing down Gundo's second gold for the female hatchlings. Freshman Breanna Telfair joined Friedrichs, Middough and Puma in the 400 Free Relay, and just as they had opened the evening the "Maidens" finished a strong second.

Good luck in CIF, Eagles! •



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