



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS FEBRUARY 15, 2019

It was an outstanding finish to what has been an outstanding season. Congratulations to our the 12 members of our State Team:



Pictured:

Top: Ben Schoenwiesner, Jack Hufner, Bobby Culley, Henry Atkinson
Jacob Eisele, Luke Daley

Bottom: Daniel Richardson, Delaney Childs, Natalie Culley, Alex DeStephanis.

Not pictured: Caroline Blaser, Clair Grant

Thank you team members Jordan Fox, Georgia Temple, Alison Everhart, Natalie Falls, Taylor Scholten, Danielle Woolard, Noah Brant, Bryce Newton, and Cole Newton who came out to the meet to support the team. Jordan and Georgia were there for both sessions.

The team overall finished 11th on the boys side and 27th on the girls side. Monacan won the Girls State Title. Last year the title came down to the last relay. This year Monacan won it running away. On the boys side Blacksburg took home the title. They moved up from 13th place last year.

Individual results:

Natalie Culley. Swam the 50 free in prelims and was right on top of her best time with a 26.24

Delaney Childs. Swam the 200 free and 500 free in prelims. She was slightly off her best times achieved at the Region meet the previous. Last week she improved 15 seconds in the 500 free, tough to do it again just one week later. She placed 17th in the 500 free, one spot shy of making finals.

Luke Daley. Only swimmer on the team to make the top 8 finals. Luke took 5th place in the 100 back and 7th in the 200 freestyle. His 51.82 in the 100 back and his 1:45.82 in the 200 freestyle represented best times. He broke his own team record in the 200 free.

Jacob Eisele. Swam the 200 free and 500 free in prelims. Like Delaney, he had significant time drops at the Regional meet (4 secs in the 200 and 21 seconds in the 500), and was slightly off these best times.

Jack Hufner. Made it back for finals in the 50 free and 100 free. Finished 10th in the 50 going a 22.02 and breaking his own team record. In the 100 free Jack won the consolation heat in dramatic. Coming out of the final turn Jack was 5th. An exceptional no breathing finish won him the heat and a best time of 48.55. Jack took down Patrick Townsend's 2016 record of 48.6

Ben Schoenwiesner. Ben swam the 200 individual medley and was right on his best time achieved just the previous week at Regional.

RELAYS

We had some great individual swims but the relays were the highlight of the meet.

Boys 200 medley relay: Daniel "David" Richardson, Alex DeStephanis, Bobby Culley, and Henry Atkinson.

Four first time State qualifiers. Although the relay was off the seed time by four seconds, their time of 1:51.30 actually represented an improvement of over 2.5 secs from when these four swimmers participated in this relay earlier in the season.

Boys 200 free relay: Ben Schoenwiesner, Jacob Eisele, Luke Daley, Jack Hufner.

Coming into the State Champs our best time was 1:33.27. In State prelims the team went 1:32.07. At finals the boys brought it down to a 1:31.35 with. The relay won the consolation heat. Once again Jack Hufner tracked down the competition. Blacksburg had front loaded their relay going fastest to slowest. Going into the last leg of the relay we were behind by 1.6 seconds. It does not sound like much but that is body length of time. Jack cranked out a 21.77 to finish off the victory which also saw Jacob achieve his first sub 24 second free swim.

Boys 400 free relay: Jack Hufner, Ben Schoenwiesner, Luke Daley, Jacob Eisele.

The boys were seeded 10th at finals, second in their heat. In the morning we were slightly off our best time so I knew they could perform better and maybe win the heat. Nothing could have prepared us for happen next. We led off with our fastest swimmer, Jack, who got us the early lead. Good. Ben hit the water. His smooth looking stroke belies his speed and by the time he had finished we were out to half a pool lead Better. Looking strong, but obviously teams put their biggest and baddest swimmers in the final two spots. Luke, fresh off swimming the 100 backstroke, still a little winded, demolished the competition on his leg. Going into our final swimmer, Jacob, we have nearly a full length of the pool lead! Outstanding! Jacob got to swim the victory laps but he did not take it easy as he clocked in with a 51 – his fastest ever. It was one of those singular moments when everything clicks. The team finished by dropping 4 seconds from their prelim time going a 3:20.70.

Girls 400 free relay: Natalie Culley, Caroline Blaser, Claire Grant, Delaney Childs.

I have little confession to make. This was the singular event I was most anticipating. The girls were back with a relay after being shut out from the meet last year. Secondly, three of the four swimmers on the relays are high school swimmers only. I like to think that what they are achieving is a direct product of what we can achieve on just three days of 1.5 hours of practice a week.

Coming into the Championship season the fastest relay time was a 4:04.62. At Regions the relay went a 3:52.21, a full three seconds under the State qualifying time. The team qualified for finals where they

finished 13th. The finish place is not the important part. The finish time of 3:50.21 is what is significant. This is only the second girl's team record broken in my five years of coaching. Secondly, this time broke a school relay record that has been on the books since January 2016! That team consisted of Sarah Bechard, Kate Kessler, Cecelia Presseau, and Lauren Cunningham. Sarah went on to swim for Clemson while Kate swam at James Madison. You know what I am about type, OUTSTANDING!

Final notes: Only one swimmers graduates from the State team. 6 swimmers were first time qualifiers.

What an outstanding finish to the swim season. Both teams finished 10-5 on the season and placed 3rd at Regions.

Take a week off, enjoy, let your hair grow back on your legs, and then we starting preparing for next year.