

Community HS Sports: Top Stories

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Falcons' teams have momentum after district rout

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Numbers demonstrate just how dominant the Clear Lake boys and girls were at last week's District 24-5A Meet in Lake Jackson.

Starting with team totals, no one came close to keeping the Lady Falcons and Falcons from swimming away with the event. The Clear Lake girls set a district record for total points with 225, finishing easily in front of second-place Clear Brook (110) and third-place Clear Creek (91).

The Falcons' also established a new 24-5A point standard with 212, and like the girls, more than doubled runner-up Clear Creek's 105 and third-place Clear Brook's 70.

"Our team performance was exceptional," said Clear Lake coach Tom Landgraf, who was voted girls and boys 24-5A coach of the year. "Winning district is a tremendous accomplishment for these athletes. I'm sure some think talented swimmers grow on trees in Clear Lake, but I assure you these kids spend a lot of time in the water year-round to get to this point."

Clear Lake won 16 of the 22 total swimming events at the district event with the girls and boys capturing eight gold medals apiece. Freshman Ellen Lobb was selected as the top female by district coaches after winning the 50-yard freestyle (school record 23.89 seconds), the 100 backstroke (school-record 56.86) and as a member of the gold medal 200 medley (1:51.20) and 400 freestyle relays (3:43.83).

Joining Lobb with multiple golds were senior Sierra Dyer (first in 100 freestyle in 54.96, and the 200 and 400 freestyle relays), junior Rosa Gentile (100 butterfly in 59.90, and the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays), sophomore Wendy Tsai (200 individual medley and 200 medley relay), sophomore Danielle Garcia (200 medley and 200 freestyle relays in 1:42.12), and sophomore Jeannette Wacker (200 and 400 freestyle relays).

Freshman Kathy Lin completed the Lady Falcon 400 freestyle foursome.

The Clear Lake boys also swept all three district relays with senior Kevin Goebel, junior Howard Kuan, and sophomores Josh Hurley and Andrew McDonald winning the 200 medley (1:44.03); Goebel, Hurley, McDonald and junior Joseph Kirasich taking the 200 freestyle (1:32.54); and Kuan, Kirasich, junior Jonathan Fouty and sophomore Will Kolodgie teaming up in the 400 freestyle (3:27.98).

Kirasich added more gold in the 50 (22.46) and 100 freestyles (50.31), Hurley was first in the 100 butterfly (54.65), senior Michael Piper won the 100 backstroke (55.14), and junior Stephen McKinney was the best in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.13).

Clear Brook junior Mark Grijalva repeated as the district male athlete of the year with victories in the 200 individual medley (1:59.64) and 500 freestyle (4:47.31), and as a member of the second-place 200 medley and third-place 200 freestyle relays.

Other 24-5A gold medals went to Clear Brook freshman Adriana Sepulveda in the girls 200 freestyle (1:57.31) and 500 freestyle (5:10.38), Clear Creek sophomore Kacie Baker in the girls 100 breaststroke (1:07.12), and to Clear Creek freshman Justin Russo in the boys 200 freestyle (1:47.52).

The top six finishers in every district event advance to this week's Class 5A Region 6

Championships at the Katy Natatorium.



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