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Lake, Brook, Creek swimmers, divers excel at state

By **CHUCK HLAVA**

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By all accounts, CCISD athletes competing in last week's state swimming and diving championships in Austin were successful all around, not only winning points for their teams but coming back with a medal.

The state medal winner was Clear Lake's Ellen Lobb, who brought home a bronze in the girl's 50 freestyle. Her time was 23.34. Maddie Locus of Dulles won the event in 23.18.

The senior is no stranger to state competition. Her bronze was the sixth state medal she has won in four years in Austin.

"In 39 years of coaching, she's the best female swimmer I've ever coached," said Clear Lake coach Tom Landgraf. "Ellen is phenomenal. Her accomplishments are clearly outstanding. She is one of the best to ever swim for Clear Lake High School."

Lobb also was fourth in the 100 butterfly in 54.57. Lobb was the region champion in the 100 butterfly.

"Ellen has tremendous work ethic," Landgraf added. "She's humble and highly competitive."

Lobb received a scholarship to University of Texas and will leave Lake after graduation with five individual school records.

As a team, the Lady Falcons finished 16th with 45.5 points. Other points obtained were from the girl's 200 freestyle relay (Casey Schneider, Taylor Barnett, Kathy Lin and Lobb) which finished 11th and Ashley Dow's 14th place in the 100 backstroke.

One discouraging event for the Falcons was the disqualification of its girl's 200 medley relay for a premature relay exchange during the preliminaries. That cost Clear Lake several points down the line.

"To start the meet with a DQ was a heartbreaker for the girls," Landgraf said. "I was proud of our res as we came back with a number of strong performances. Unfortunately losing those relay points killed

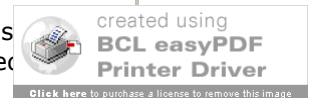


Lady Wolverine Adriana Sepulveda makes her way in the 500 freestyle.



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chance of a top ten finish in the team standings.”

Clear Creek’s Samantha Lara, who won the region girl’s 1-meter, was sixth at state in that event with 418.85 points in the finals. With that effort, Lara added 13 team points for the Lady Wildcats.

The Lady Wildcats finished 41st with those 13 points.

Clear Brook’s Lady Wolverines were 38th with 15 points as seniors Adriana Sepulveda and Julie Sepulveda won the points. Adriana was 11th in the girl’s 500 freestyle and 13th in the 200 freestyle while Julie finished 12th in the 200 IM.

Winning the girl’s state championship was Kingwood with 167 points. San Antonio Churchill was second with 146, followed by Southlake Carroll in third with 138. Plano was fourth with 124, Klein fifth with 123. The Woodlands was sixth with 117 points.

Brook coach Amanda Newton was very happy with the performances of her swimmers.

“Our kids did an amazing job,” Newton said, which included the swims of Patrick LaBrode in the boy’s 500 freestyle.

“I am very proud of them. They had one of the best showings at state that Clear Brook has had since I have been here.”

LaBrode, the only boy for Brook at state, was the region champ in his event. He finished 14th in the boy’s 500 freestyle and garnered three points for the boys. On the strength of that finish, the Wolverines were 52nd in the boy’s division.

But Newton feels like LaBrode will be back since he is only a sophomore.

Clear Lake’s Peter MacArthur was 15th in the boys 200 freestyle for two points. He was also the only male swimmer for his team at state. Thus, for those two points, Lake finished 58th in the team standings. Other area teams in the boy’s bracket was Dickinson, which had five points for 42nd place.

The Woodlands took the boy’s state crown with 225 points, closely followed by runner-up Southlake Carroll’s 216. Kingwood was third with 201.5, followed by Plano’s 201 for fourth and Klein’s 135 for fifth place.

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