

Bay Area
The Citizen 

02/08/2007

Lake, Brook tankers heading to state meet

By CHUCK HLAVA Citizen Staff



The Lady Falcon 200 medley relay team that took a silver, from left, Rosa Gentile, Wendy Tsai, Ellen Lobb and Danielle Garcia.

CCISD's ladies shined mightily as they sped across the waters during last week's Region VI-5A swimming competition with Clear Lake and Clear Brook sending swimmers to the upcoming state meet.

The ladies came away with three gold medals in the tough competition, along with several silver and bronze medals. And Lake's and Brook's men didn't do badly, either.

The state meet is Feb. 16-17 at the Jamail Swimming Center on the University of Texas campus in Austin. While Kingwood, as expected, took the girls team championship, Clear Lake finished a close second with some outstanding performances. Clear Brook finished fifth and Clear Creek was seventh.

Kingwood had 139 points to the Lady Falcons' 110. Cinco Ranch was third with 99 points, followed by (4) Katy Taylor, 66 points; (5) Clear Brook, 45 points; (6) Atascocita, 24; (7) Clear Creek, 22 points and (8) Katy, 12

points.

In the boys division Kingwood again took the title, this time with more ease. The Mustangs had 189 points to runner-up Katy Taylor's 86. The rest of the field: (3) Mayde Creek, 59 points; (4) Cinco Ranch, 51 points; (5) Clear Lake, 36; (6) Morton Ranch, 33; (7) Ross Sterlin 32; (8) Clear Brook, 15.

The Region VI meet was held at the Katy ISD Natatorium.

Lady Falcon Ellen Lobb continues to make her presence known in a big way by winning double gold.

Lobb took the 50 freestyle in 24:08 and the 100 backstroke in 56.36.

Lady Wolverine Adriana Sepulveda practically had the 500 freestyle pool to herself as she won the event by seven seconds, 5:07.65.

Gold medalists get an automatic berth to state, plus the next eight fastest times. In order to spread the wealth around, no more than four swimmers per event from one region will qualify.

"We had a fantastic meet," said Lake coach Tom Landgraf, coming on the heels of the boys and girls district team championships the week before.

"The majority of our swims were lifetime bests and in the top four, which is what's required at this meet if you intend to advance to the state meet," Landgraf added.

Landgraf used the word "amazing," when talking about Lobb, his freshman whiz.

"Her time in the backstroke was a new record and is the best time in the state this year," he said. Lobb also swam on the girl's 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay, both which netted the silver medal.

Lobb's work did not go unnoticed and was voted Outstanding Female Athlete at the meet.

Landgraf termed the entire girl's team showing at regionals as "Awesome. After finishing a distant third last year the plan was to move up and challenge Cinco Ranch and Kingwood.

"The girls passed Cinco Ranch and closed the gap on Kingwood. I'm quite proud of our team effort."

Landgraf was voted Girls Region Coach of the Year.

Team Falcon also benefited from outstanding efforts from Rosa Gentile, Wendy Tsai, Kathy Lin, Sierra Dyer, Jennette Wacker and Danielle Garcia on the girl's side.

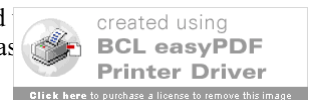
"Rosa is a high spirited young lady who inspires everyone around her," Landgraf said.

Gentile finished second to Lobb in the 50 freestyle and was third in the 100 butterfly, along with being on Lake's 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay.

Clear Brook coach Rick Baker was very happy with the Wolverines' showing, especially with several of his swimmers qualifying for state.

"I thought they all did very well," Baker said. "As a team we did very well across the board."

Sepulveda's gold in the 500 freestyle was particularly pleasing, he said, plus the fact that she set a school record with her finish in the 200 freestyle in 1:54.41. Her sister Julia Sepulveda also set a Brook record, this one in the 100 breaststroke.



she finished fourth, but got a bronze in the 100 IM in 2:10.67.

In the early comparisons of state qualifiers, Brook will send three swims to state.

"As it turned out, we will have three swims at the state meet, so we are excited," Baker said.

Baker also was high on his top boy's swimmer, Mark Grijalva, who set school records in his two state qualifying events, the 500 freestyle which he finished second in 4:40.84 and the 200 IM, in which he got the bronze for third place in 1:57.98.

A third Sepulveda sister, Diana, finished 6th in the 100 butterfly in 1:00.61.

Brook's girl's medley relay was 4th while the 200 freestyle relay finished 5th.

All of the Wolverine performances in regionals pleased Baker.

"We were 100% best times and that is the goal - to swim fastest at the end of the year," Baker said.

Clear Creek came away with a couple of medals in the meet.

Lady Wildcat Kacie Baker finished second in the 100 breaststroke in 1:06.96. Teammate Bradley Berryhill took a bronze for his third place finish in the boy's diving competition with a score of 325.35.

Lake's two silver girl's relays were Lobb, Tsai, Gentile and Garcia in the 200 medley (1:49.33) and Wacker, Lin, Dyer and Lobb in the 400 free (3:36.82). The Lake girls also took a bronze in the 200 free relay (Wacker, Dyer, Garcia, Gentile) in 1:39.80.

The Clear Lake boys took a bronze in the 100 backstroke when Michael Piper finished third in 54.23.

Landgraf lauded several boys who had lifetime best swims at the regional meet, including Piper, Andrew MacDonald, Will Kolodgie, Kevin Goebel, Howard Kaun, Josh Hurley and Joseph Kirasich.

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