



Sault Ste Marie Aquatic Club represents NEOR in Thunder Bay

The Canada Games Aquatic Complex and the Thunder Bay Thunderbolts played host to approximately 20 teams and 250 swimmers from Northwestern Ontario, Midwest states (Minnesota) and Manitoba, in a long course invitational this past weekend. Included in the competition were twelve (12) up and coming swimmers from Sault Ste Marie Aquatic Club (SSMAC). In addition to over 100 personal best swims, SSMAC finished third behind the hosts Thunderbolts and the Kenora Speed sharks.



Leading the way, twelve year old SSMAC swimmer Paul Widgett winning 10 gold medals (including the 800 freestyle, 200 IM, 50 freestyle, 200 Breast, 100 Back, 200 Free, 400 Free, 100 Breast, 100 free and 200 Back). In addition to his gold medal performances, Paul set a new SSMAC club record in the 100 freestyle (1:02.49) eclipsing the previous record held by Andrew Bignell. Widgett was also the high point winner in the cumulative 100-meter events (Speed Demon Award). Following closely behind Paul was 14 year old SSMAC swimmer Steven Lee with 6 medals, two gold (100 breast and 200 breast) and 4 bronze medals (400 IM, 100 back, 50 free, and 200 backstroke). Steven was also a high point winner in his age and gender category in the cumulative 100 meter events (Speed Demon Award) and four swims ranked in the top eight overall (200 free, 100 fly, 100 free, 400 free).



On the heels of her older sibling, Erin Lee in the 12 year old girls category had 5 medals, including 1 gold (800 freestyle), 3 silver (100 fly, 100 back, 100 breast) and one bronze medal (50 free). Erin's performance in the 800 freestyle qualified her for the upcoming Jr Provincials in Nepean in July and Lee was also the high point winner in the cumulative 100-meter events (Speed Demon Award). Lee finished in the top eight in four additional events (200 breast, 200 free, 400 free, and 100 free). Also completing the female division was 15-year-old SSMAC swimmer Carrie Lynne Smale with one silver medal (400 freestyle) and a bronze medal (100 back). Smale was also a top eight finisher in seven events (200 free, 100 fly, 200 breast, 100 back, 50 free, 100 breast, and 100 free).

Also in the 15 and over division, Michael Lawrence had two medals, silver (800 freestyle) and a bronze (400 IM) and was also a high point winner for the cumulative distance events (Iron man Award). He was also a top eight finisher in six events (200 free, 100 fly, 100 back, 200 IM, 200 back, 400 free). Eleven-year-old SSMAC swimmer Alex Gelmych had two bronze medals (200 back and 400 free) and 7 top eight finishes (200 IM, 50 free, 200 breast, 100 fly, 100 back, 200 free, and 100 breast). Aron Mohammadi, competing in the 13 and 14 division also had 7 top eight finishes (400 IM, 800 free, 200 breast, 100 back, 200 IM, 200 back, and 400 free).

Sarah Gelmych finished in the top eight in four swims (800 free, 200 breast, 100 breast, 200 back) in the 11-12 female category as did Kate Mohammadi (800 free). In the 13-14 year old female category, Erinn Theodossiou had a top eight finish (200 fly) as did Lexus Hall (100 fly). Rounding out the group was 15 and over swimmer Rayne Fisher, who finished in the top eight in two events (400 IM and 200 breast).

Coaches Dan Stratton and Maxine Smale were pleased with the efforts and performances of these swimmers and thank the meet organizers for the recognition of our SSMAC athletes.

SSMAC swimmers will be back in action at the upcoming Jenő Tihanyi Long Course Invitational at Sudbury Laurentian. Twenty swimmers will be representing SSMAC.