April 28, 2012

CCCAA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIM AND DIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS
at East Los Angeles College Swim Stadium, Monterey Park, April 26-28

STATE MEET, DAY 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Santa Rosa Junior College wins Men’s Team Championship (first-ever)
Orange Coast College wins Women’s Team Championship (third straight)
Historic State Meet produces nine state meet records

2012 STATE RECORD METER: 9
EAST LA SWIM STADIUM POOL STATE RECORD COUNT (2011-2012)—14

WOMEN—Orange Coast College won its third consecutive and 17th overall state team championship, but by the slimmest of margins in defeating runner-up Diablo Valley. The Pirates scored 431.5 points to DVC’s 428.5. In the 400 freestyle relay, Diablo Valley needed a victory, but settled for third place, clinching the victory for OCC.

Top 6: Orange Coast (431.5), Diablo Valley (428.5), Ventura (350.5), Golden West (347), Sierra (248), Riverside (247). (see results at www.cccasports.org for complete results and standings.

The Pirates won last year’s title without winning an event, but found a gold medal this year in Mackenzie Bailie, who captured the 50-yard butterfly crown. Orange Coast once again used strength in numbers in recording many high places throughout the championships. Women’s Coach of the Year went to OCC’s Anthony Iacopetti.

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**MEN**—Santa Rosa Junior College won its first-ever state team championship in men’s swimming behind its mighty relay teams and outstanding performance by diver Nicolas Suissa, who set a state meet record in the 1-meter diving. The Bear Cubs won four relay titles, including capping the event with a win in the finale 400 freestyle relay.

Palomar surprisingly edged out both state powers, Orange Coast and Ventura, in taking state runner-up. The Comets had one of the most exciting victories of the meet when it took first in the 800 freestyle relay, the only relay that Santa Rosa didn’t win.

*Top 6: Santa Rosa 602, Palomar 408, Orange Coast 283, Ventura 276, Grossmont 266, Santa Monica 249.*

“We’ve come close so many times, but to finally see it to fruition, it’s an amazing feeling,” said Coach of the Year Jill McCormick, who is in her 12th season in charge of the SRJC aquatics program.

“We thought if we could win two relays that would be great, and three would be special, but to win four is just magical. There were three swimmers (from other schools) that combined for nine individual wins, so we needed our relays to come through.”

Santa Rosa’s big four of Sean Malley, John Bing, Trent Williams and Nolan Stimple set a state meet record in its 200 medley relay win (1:29.99).

**DAY 3, 2012 STATE EVENT CHAMPIONS**

****Event 29—Women’s 1,650-yard Freestyle
*New State Meet Record*—*Jade Morton, Golden West, 17:04.70*

Morton, a sophomore, held the state record at 17:03.06 performed at the Orange Empire Conference Championships, and added the state meet record to her mantle, breaking an 11-year mark set by another Rustlers swimmer, Micha Burden. Morton smashed the old mark by an impressive 11 seconds (Burden’s time was 17:15.69). Jade’s victory was by a margin of 43.40 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Samantha Elam (LA Pierce, 18:07.36). It was Morton’s second win at the state meet as she also scored a gold medal in the 500 freestyle (4:57.32) on Thursday.

****Event 30—Men’s 1,650-yard Freestyle
*New State Meet Record*—*Ahmed Mathlouthi, Santa Monica, 15:07.30*

The new star of California Community College swimming, the freshman Mathlouthi set his third state record of the meet by destroying the previous best mark by 11.15 seconds (old record, Riki Yano, Orange Coast, 15:18.45). Mathlouthi’s victory here was a rout, defeating the next competitor, second-place David Jorth (Golden West) by a stunning minute and two seconds.

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Event 31—Women’s 100-Yard Backstroke
Michelle Liu, Santa Monica, 58.30
Liu, a SMC sophomore, became a state meet event winner in consecutive seasons, but in different events (she won the 100 individual medley last year). Liu overtook 50-yard leader Kamaehu Alboro (Riverside) and pulled away for a .71 seconds victory.

Event 32—Men’s 200-yard Backstroke
Brandon Shilling, West Valley, 1:49.08
Shilling never trailed as he shaved four seconds off his morning prelim time to take the backstroke victory. Avelino Enriquez (Orange Coast) placed second at 1:50.67.

Event 33—Women’s 100-yard Freestyle
Andrea Antonissen, Riverside, 51.04
Antonissen made it a clean sweep of the three freestyle sprint events, capturing another gold in the 100. The Tigers’ sophomore opened up a full second lead after 50 yards and breezed to a 1.85 second victory over second-place Abby Puczkowski (Ventura).

Event 34—Men’s 100-yard Freestyle
Henry Chung, Ventura, 44.44
Chung, a freshman, picked up his third event victory, racing all 4s across as he comfortably defeated Santa Rosa’s Trent Williams (45.84). Chung’s mark fell .40 short of the state record.

Event 35—Women’s 100-yard Breaststroke
Lisa Boozer, Diablo Valley, 1:04.88
After losing to teammate Shaila Yoder in the 50-breaststroke, Boozer, who won both events last year, became a repeat champion in the 100. She fought off the talented freshman, holding on to a .49 second victory.

****Event 36—Men’s 200-yard Breaststroke
New State Meet Record--Jeff Lum, Santa Monica, 1:59.35
As if they were playing a game of anything you can do, I can do better, Lum set his third state meet record in two years and captured his sixth event crown less than an hour after teammate Mathlouthi set his third state meet record in winning the mile race. Lum smashed the 200 breaststroke record set just last year by Cerritos swimmer PJ Gabayeron (2:00.24). In 2011-2012, the SMC pair combined for nine event victories and six state meet records at the ELAC pool.

Event 37—Women’s 100-yard Butterfly
Alexandria Holland, Santa Rosa, 57.06
Orange Coast’s Mackenzie Bailie held a strong lead after 50 yards, but Holland’s hard-fought second 50 scored her a second state meet event win in the 100 fly. OCC’s Alyssa Schrader also passed up Bailie at the wall to grab second (57.58 to 57.64).

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**Event 38—Men’s 200-yard Butterfly**
Stephen To, Pasadena, 1:50.52
In easily the best rally of the state meet, To came out of nowhere after racing in fourth after 50 yards, fifth after 100, and third going into the last 50. The PCC freshman stunned the field with a 27.61 final split, overtaking Michael Kim (Orange Coast), who led most of the race. De Anza’s Danh Bui (1:51.98) also caught Kim to take second while Kim finished third (1:52.92).

**Event 39—Women’s 400-yard Freestyle Relay**
Ventura (Gaby Romero, Taylor Amstutz, Jessie Ball, Abby Puczkowski), 3:32.48
The Pirates were one of five teams to hold the lead prior to capturing this exciting women’s finale relay. Ventura anchor Abby Puczkowski swam a 52.09 split, which was enough to hold off Golden West closer Jade Morton (51.86) as the Rustlers took second in the race (3:32.89).

**Event 40—Men’s 400-yard Freestyle Relay**
Santa Rosa (Trent Williams, John Bing, Sean Malley, Nolan Stimple) 3:01.57
The Bear Cups capped their state team championship with the fourth relay title by their fearless four, who came within .37 of a second of breaking the state record in the 400 relay. Fittingly, Santa Monica took second in the event (3:03.47) behind its monster pair of Mathlouthi and Lum.

*Release written by Robert Lewis, CCCAA Sports Information, CCSSIA executive board, and Pasadena City College sports information*

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