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Stingrays score big in hometown meet

By Blair Braitenbach
staff reporter

Two Okotoks swimmers stuck out in a field where many others were beating personal bests at the Black and Blue swim meet over the weekend.

Forty Okotoks Stingrays competed in their home meet at the Okotoks Recreation Centre pool. There were 37 new club records set and several individuals qualifying for various levels of trials.

Holly Johnson took off 82 seconds to swim a 19:55.33 in her 1,500m freestyle to post the fourth fastest 11-year-old time in that event in Canada. She missed her 12-year-old Age Group National time by two seconds.

“She just missed it,” said Stingrays head coach Todd Melton.

“She works her butt off in practice and is really determined in her goals and what she wants to do.

Last year she didn’t qualify for provincials, she has gone quite a ways.”

Another swimmer who made some major strides over the weekend was 15-year-old Keely Greenfield. Greenfield took off 114 seconds in her 1,500m freestyle for a time of 18:23.94 to qualify for Western Nationals as well as Age Group Nationals. Greenfield will need to take off six more seconds in that race to qualify herself for Age Group Nationals as a 16-year-old because of her birthday in May.

Greenfield made her Western National time a little too late because the swim meet that hosts the fastest swimmers from all the western provinces is being held this weekend in Edmonton. Greenfield has already made the standard for the 16-18 age group category, so she is planning to attend the meet next season.

For their first time, Emilia Hesterman, Finlay Knox, Justin Lisoway, and Robert Knox made the provincial trial qualifiers for Edmonton in two weeks. Also heading to Edmonton will be Layne Guidinger, Jotham D’Ailly, Mark Lisoway, Taya Guidinger, Keenan Greenfield, Kalyna Dashko, Clair Pilling, and Kelly Charron who have previously qualified.

These swimmers will be shooting for best times and provincial qualifying standards and a chance to compete again at the end of March.

“They did excellent overall, it was one of our best meets as a team we’ve had all year,” Melton said.

“It was really good for our developmental swimmers to get those qualifying times for this meet coming up.”



Lindsay Vanveen, 14, competes in the girl’s 13 and over 100m freestyle event at the Okotoks Stingrays’ Black and Blue swim meet over the weekend. About 300 swimmers from the area participated in the meet.
photo by Blair Braitenbach