

Pebley sets national best in backstroke

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CAT swimmers deliver several strong efforts

Jacob Pebley set five Corvallis Aquatic Team standards, broke two state records and swam the fastest 100-yard backstroke in the nation this season for 14-year-old boys during the 2008 Oregon Swimming Short Course 11-14 Age Group Championships held this past Thursday through Sunday at the Osborn Aquatic Center.

Nearly 20 state (Oregon Swimming Inc.) records fell during the four-day meet. But the biggest splash was made on the meet's final day by Lake Oswego's 13-14 girls 200 medley relay team, which broke a four-year-old USA Swimming National Age Group record by more than a second with a time of 1:45.11.

That performance helped the Lake Oswego Swim Club amass 836 points to unseat the Tualatin Hills Thunderbolts (795 points) as team champions for the first time in nearly 30 years. CAT finished fourth in the field of about 50 Northwest swim clubs, just behind Bend Swim Club.

Pebley's nation-topping time of 52.08 in the 100 back, recorded during Saturday's prelims, shaved 1.06 seconds from his previous personal best and established state and CAT records for 14-year-old boys. Pebley went on to win the 100 back Saturday night in a race that featured the nation's top two swimmers in the event.

His winning time of 52.38 was just enough to edge Connor McDonald of Hillsboro Heat Swim Team.

Pebley also broke state and CAT records while finishing first in the 200 back (1:51.25), set a CAT standard with a first-place finish in the 200 individual medley (1:57.80) and broke CAT records with second-place finishes in the 100 freestyle (48.44) and 1,000 free (9:51.25).

Here are other highlights from the short-course meet:

- CAT's 11-12 boys broke club records in the 400 medley relay (4:38.62), 200 free relay (1:49.94) and 400 free relay (4:03.42).
- CAT's 13-14 girls broke club records in the 200 free relay (1:41.37) and 200 medley relay (1:55.30).
- CAT's Annette Marinello finished first in the 14-year-old girls 1,000 free.
- CAT's Brandon Shreeve finished first in the 11-year-old boys 200 free and 500 free.
- CAT's Reid Wells finished first in the 13-year-old girls 1,000 free.