



Winter AG Champs Meet Recap

SWIMMERS OF THE MEET

Silver

Ella Voelker ~ **Ella** is Silver's swimmer of the meet for WAG! This was Ella's first time participating in WAG and was Silver's only qualifier. She competed in three events, the 50 and 100 breaststroke, as well as the 50 freestyle. Ella was just off her best time in both 50s and dropped almost 5 seconds in the 100 breaststroke! We've been working on timing her glide, and her hard work at practice definitely showed in the 100 breaststroke. Congrats Ella!

Gold

An-Yi Khoo ~ **An-Yi Khoo** had a very busy WAGs! She swam 5 individual events, qualified for finals in three, and swam a relay! The same weekend, she was also balancing a water polo tournament (her team won). I'm very impressed by her devotion to both of her sports. I really loved how she listened to her coaches throughout the weekend. After hearing her coaches' critiques on her prelim swims, she turned it around and fixed it during her final swims.

Ezio Ubaldi ~ **Ezio** had a fantastic weekend at WAGs. He swam 5 individual events, qualified for finals in 4 of them, and swam 2 relays! Over the three days, he raced a total of 1,300 yards! He had some very brave swims, taking races out faster than expected, and holding on. Throughout the weekend, he kept a great attitude. My favorite race was his 200 free, where he went a best time in the 50, 100, and 200 free. That swim alone earned him two Summer Age Group cuts!

Mike Semenov ~ Over the weekend, **Mike** swam 4 events, finaled in 3 of them, and swam 2 relays. I was really impressed with Mike's self-discipline over the weekend. He did a great job warming up, cooling down, and encouraging his teammates to join him. While breaststroke is his favorite stroke, he had a very impressive 200 Free, dropping just over 10 seconds and earning himself a Summer Age Group cut in the process. He also earned a Summer Age Group cut in the 100 breaststroke and 50 back! Congrats Mike!

JO

Alinea Fung ~ **Alinea** showed me that she knows how to RACE! I don't think I've ever seen her swim quite as fiercely as she did at WAGS. All the small details we've been working on at practice finally came together at the right time. Good job Alinea!

Alex Tong ~ **Alex** had the breakthrough meet that he's been working hard for. 100% best times, top 5 point scorer on the team. With his stroke finally coming together, I excited to see even more time drops! Great job Tonger!

Jr. Varsity

Laine Pennington ~ I'm super proud of Laine and her swimming at WAGs. **Laine** was coming off a couple of weeks of sickness so it was awesome to see her put in her best effort despite the challenging season. I'm most proud of Laine for showing up on the relays and managing to drop time in finals even when she was disappointed in her prelims swims. Congratulations to Laine for her resilience and awesome swimming!

Alexis Tary ~ As a coach there are few moments better than seeing a swimmer who works hard every day in practice qualify for an end of season championship meet. Thanks to **Yoko**, I got to experience one of those moments just 2 weeks ago when she qualified at Last Ditch. Even though Yoko had dropped time only the weekend prior she managed to have another awesome swim; dropping 3 more seconds in her 500. Congratulations to Yoko for her amazing performance.

Sr. Varsity

Athena Engleman ~ **Athena** was awesome at WAGs; she swam a full lineup of events, individual and relays, and she performed for every single one. I'm especially proud of her 200 fly swims, where she dropped over 4 seconds in prelims and was tough enough to come back and drop another half second at finals. Congratulations to Athena on the great performance!

Ari Sethna ~ **Ari** had a fantastic meet at WAGs. he swam best time in all his events and managed to perform even better on the relays! What made me most proud was not the races themselves, but seeing the hard work that Ari's been putting into practice every single day over the last season paying off. Congratulations to Ari for an awesome meet!

High Performance Prep

Tina Engineer ~ **Tina** is the HPP swimmer of the meet for the ladies. She showed quality throughout the meet with four new best times, and one of those was a 4.5 second drop in the 200 FLY. Tina was also a rock-solid teammate, supporting BCA throughout the meet.

Juani Marquez ~ **Juani** is the HPP swimmer of the meet for the gentlemen. He started the meet with a bang, dropping over 48 seconds in his 1000 FR, and continued throughout the weekend, earning finals appearances on all three days, and earning new best times in every event he swam.

SWIMMERS OF THE MEET

Beach 1

Kira Healy ~ Prior to her 6th and final session of racing in Huntington Beach last weekend, I asked a simple question: "How are you feeling, Kira?" Her response? "Happy." What a beautiful answer. 😊 This young lady has gone from learning the rules and skills of the sport at the beginning of the season, to qualifying for Finals at a SCS Championship level meet, and appears to be unfazed by all of it, approaching each race with the same determination and care as the last, all while simply enjoying the ride.

What a great mindset to have as a young athlete. Miss Healy qualified for four Finals at her first Championship meet, finishing as high as 14th place in the ultimate test of swimming skills for a 10&Under athlete, the 200 IM, with a drop of 4.56 seconds. Further demonstrating her all-around abilities, she dropped another 3.05 seconds in the 100 IM, positing a 20th place finish in the process. In relay action, she paced her 200 Medley Relay to a 3rd place finish. Congratulations, **Kira!**

Logan Thatcher ~ **Logan** was the lone male representative of the Beach 1 group in Huntington Beach and he did not disappoint, qualifying for his first SCS Championship Final in the 50 Free and finishing in 19th place. His 100 Freestyle was a drop of 0.52 and good for a 27th place finish, while his performance in the 200 IM in Prelims left him just outside of Finals looking in at 21st place. Mr. Thatcher was busy on the relay front as well, helping his 200 Free Relay to a 2nd place finish and his 200 Medley Relay to a 3rd place finish. He has been doing some solid work at practice lately and learning a lot in the process. Watch out for this young man in the spring, summer and beyond. Keep up the good work, Logan

Beach 3

Cataleya Bustamante ~ **Cataleya** had a fantastic meet! She went 100% personal bests and earned herself a few more championship cuts! Cataleya dropped almost a second in the 100 Fly, qualifying for JAG 2026! In addition, she dropped almost 3 seconds in her 50 Back, placing 12th overall, snagging both the Spring Age Group and SAG cuts for next year. Cataleya also dropped ½ a second in the 50 Fly earning yet another JAG cut. Great job Cataleya

Jalen Kao ~ Jalen's hard work and dedication this season has paid off tremendously, and I know that this is only the beginning! He dropped almost 2 ½ seconds in the 100 Free to go under 1:00 for the first time. He also dropped a whopping 5.65 seconds in the 100 Fly, going 1:06.73 and snagging another Spring Age Group cut! Jalen qualified for finals in all of his events, placing 10th in the 100 Back, 11th in the 100 Fly, and 12th in the 100 Free. Way to go **Jalen!** Keep up the great work.

Beach 4

Runa Shieh ~ **Runa** was our Beach 4 representative at WAGs! She qualified in the 100 butterfly less than a month before WAGs by dropping over 3 seconds from her previous best time at the BCA Fall Festival. She then continued on to drop even MORE time in her 100 fly at WAG! She even qualified for finals in the 50 Fly, scoring points for our team! Runa even came back on Sunday to swim the 200 Medley Relay. We are so proud of Runa, congratulations on your first WAGs!

Beach 5

Piper Sootkoos ~ **Piper** was one of ten Beach 5 athletes to achieve 100% best times at WAG Champs in Huntington Beach, but it was the way that she did so that made her stand out. She posted a personal best in each of her six individual Prelims races and then went on to better nearly all of those times in the Finals (with the only exception being the 50 Breast, which was still almost 3 seconds faster than her best prior to the meet). Her weekend also featured a "World Class Character" moment when she conceded a relay spot to a teammate because she thought it would give that relay a better chance to succeed, due to Miss Sootkoos's busy individual Finals schedule that night. Her best finish came in the 100 Free, with a blazing 55.73 from an outside lane to finish 4th. Her biggest improvement, however, came in that 50 Breast, which was a drop of more than 3 seconds. Great racing, Piper!

Dylan Thatcher ~ **Dylan** was also one of the ten Beach 5 athletes to achieve 100% best times, posting his biggest improvement in the 100 Fly (-3.47) and finishing as high as 4th place in the 200 IM. He finaled in all 6 of his individual races, placing as high as 4th (200 IM), but not lower than 13th (100 IM). He was also invaluable on the relay front, pacing his teams to 4th place finishes in both the 200 Free Relay and the 200 Medley Relay. One of those relay efforts deserves special recognition as a moment of "World Class Character." Earlier in the same Finals session, he learned that he had lost his spot on the A Medley relay to a teammate who had been faster than him twice that day, which was certainly disappointing news to Mr. Thatcher, but a normal and appropriate course of action. In that moment, he had two options: perceive the action as a threat and succumb to the emotional stress and disappointment and "phone it in" on the relay, or see it as a challenge and respond with a titanic effort, in kind. Well, he clearly chose the latter, as he led off his B relay with a new personal best in the 50 Backstroke, the fastest by a BCA athlete that day. Amazing effort, Dylan. Congratulations on a great weekend of racing!

SWIMMERS OF THE MEET

Senior 3

Eileen Romesser ~ Eileen had a fantastic Winter Age Group, where she swam in six events and achieved personal bests in all but one. Her event line-up was the 1000 Free (-28.38, 5th!), 200 Back (-3.40, 2nd!), 100 Free (-0.82, 8th!), 200 Free (-3.11, 4th!), 200 IM (-1.40, 8th!), and the 500 Free. Her best moment at the meet, among many, was breaking the 2:00 barrier in her 200 Free (1:59.91) and nearly winning the event from Lane 2 (Outside Smoke!) Great job, Eileen!

Diego Sanchez ~ Five individual events, four finals. Diego came down to Huntington Beach ready to race. He swam the 100 Breast (-1.11), 200 Breast (-9.30), 200 Fly (-5.69), 400 IM (-7.82), and the 50 Free. For me, his best moments were showing the ability to be ready at a moment's notice as he was scratched for finals in the 200 Breast and 200 Fly while getting called up as an alternate in the 400 IM. You never know at a championship meet! Great job, Diego!

Senior 4

Sarah Diethelm ~ Congratulations, Sarah, on your consistent performance all weekend! With 111 points scored, she claimed the Top High Point earner for all BCA females! Sarah finished the weekend with Personal Bests in all but one event, showcasing the power and endurance she's been building in training. Keep that fire burning, Sarah! 🔥

Luca Boots ~ Luca took to the blocks and delivered stellar performances throughout the meet, taking home the GOLD in five events! He achieved 100% Personal Bests, dropping over 11 seconds. Seeing this kind of progress is what it's all about—it's clear that Luca's dedication is paying off in a big way. Incredible job, Luca—we can't wait to see what you do next! 🎉

High Performance

Lily Wu ~ Lily is one of the hardest working and most committed athletes in our group and on the team, and her hard work and commitment continues to be rewarded with a steady stream of lifetime bests. At WAGs, her highlights were in the sprint Freestyles where she dropped more than half a second off her 100 LTB to claim bronze in the event and dropped a quarter second off her 50 to take home the event win! Lily continues to chip away toward her first Futures cut, and we all know it's coming soon! Let's go, Lily Woooo!

Ben Schlehuber ~ For Ben, one swim really said it all at WAGs. He walked into the meet with a lifetime best of 2:18 in the 200 Breaststroke, and in his first swim of the meet he absolutely blew that out of the water with a monster time drop of 11+ seconds to post a time of 2:07.49! Besides the time drop and moving up from 17th to 3rd place, the swim was also good to earn Ben his first Futures Cut! Ben has been on the cusp of Futures several times, and for him to bust through, especially in the 200, really shows all of his hard work paying off. He is now looking forward to getting out of Sprint

Group and moving into the 200 group full-time! Atta boy, Ben! 😊

TOP 10 TOTAL TIME DROPPED

12-under

(in seconds)

1. Elyssa Chen (-23.91)
2. 2. Alex Tong (-22.47)
3. Dylan Thatcher (-20.63)
4. 3. Alinea Fung (-20.33)
5. Ezio Ubaldi (-17.41)
6. 4. Anna Kaji (-16.34)
7. Tyson Imai (-16.09)
8. Lucca Garcia (-14.40)
9. Mike Semenov (-12.79)
10. Jalen Kao (-10.50)

TOP 10 TOTAL TIME DROPPED

13-over

(in seconds)

1. Juani Marquez (-76.13)
2. Sellers Stough (-46.50)
3. Ryland Ogi (- 44.47)
4. Eileen Romesser (- 37.11)
5. Chase Balentine (-35.30)
6. Piper Sootkoos (-34.80)
7. Frankie Thomas (-32.18)
8. Noah Kisiler (-25.85)
9. Diego Sanchez (- 23.92)
10. Willa Hosdon (-22.34)

EVENT WINNERS

Luca Boots ~ 100 & 200 Back, 200 BR, 400 IM & 100 Fly
Nate Chang ~ 50 & 100 BR, 100 IM, & 50 Back
Olivia Chi ~ 200 Fly & 50 Back
Penny Chiu ~ 100 BR & 200 Free
Ray Engineer ~ 200 IM
Meagan Gordon ~ 200 BR
Olivia Jacobson ~ 500 Free
Paloma Kimura ~ 100 Fly
Amia Kisiler ~ 200 IM
Zoey Lewis ~ 200 Back
Jack Rodenkirch ~ 50 & 100 Free
Evan Saltsman ~ 50 & 100 BR & 50 & 100 Free
Kayla Sun ~ 100 Free
Kayla Thompson ~ 50 & 100 Back
Tri Tran ~ 200 Fly
Max Wang ~ 200 Back
Patrick Wang ~ 200 IM
Sam Wang ~ 500 Free
Lily Wu ~ 50 Fly & 50 Free
Evan Young ~ 50 & 200 Free, 200 IM

BC Alpha High Point

10-under

Anna Kaji
Evan Saltsman

11-12

Elodie Fung
Nate Chang

13-14

Daniela Kan
Luca Boots

15-over

Sarah Diethelm
Jack Rodenkirch

100% PERSONAL BEST TIMES

12-under

Cataleya Bustamante, Nate Chang, Elyssa Chen, Andy Crouch, Davar Engineer, Lucca Garcia, Nina Haubner, Dylan Thatcher, Alexis(yoko) Tary, Alex Tonger

13-over

Chase Balentine, Santi Baranda, Luca Boots, Daniela Kan, Amai Kisiler, Noah Kisiler, Derrick Kwan, Juani Marquez, Capri Pierce, Jack Rodenkirch, Piper Sootkoos, Sellers Stough, Ryson Tomongin, Keni Visistsri, Nick Zhang

ALL-BUT-1 PERSONAL BESTS TIMES

12-under

Georgia Anderson, Alinea Fung, Elodie Fung, Tyson Imai, Jalen Kao, Anna Kaji, Mike Semenov, Lucy Song, Ezio Ubaldi

13-over

Aidan Alzayat, Kingston Bao, Miki D'Adamo, Sarah Diethelm, Zirak Engineer, Theo Haubner, Willa Hodson, Olivia Jacobson, Tori Jyo, Sasha Kan, Bryan Kim, Kate Lanzdorf, Adriana Lee, Siwoo Lee, Zoey Lewis, Ryland Ogi, Ryan Rodenkirch, Eileen Romesser, Diego Sanchez, Runa Shieh