

The Journey Continues – OTTR Meet Recap

Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome. (Arthur Ashe)

Our beginners journey continued at the October 7 OTTR Fest C 1 Day meet in Palm Springs. Success was evident as our 24 beginner swimmers picked up 25 new C times, 10 new B times, and 2 new BB times. The journey has just begun for first time swimmers: **Teng Chan, Amelia Kpaduwa, Qinyao (Olivia) Li, Grace Miller, Nathaniel Schneider, Catherine Zhu.**

Along the way there were a few DQs. These are a part of the journey. Everyone gets a DQ at some time, even Olympic swimmers get a DQ occasionally. DQs are a learning opportunity. Maybe a technique mistake, maybe a lapse in concentration, maybe a bit of nervousness. The official will tell the swimmers what they did, coaches get a report and know what to work on, and parents are there to give encouragement and support. We all work together. It takes a team.

OUTSTANDING SWIMS

Aiden Lee, age 13, came out of nowhere and kick-started his journey with 3 amazing swims at the PDSC meet last month (his first meet ever) and continued his dominance at this meet, **winning all 3** of his events getting best **TOTAL POINTS** of 60. He earned **First Time BB** times for his 200 IM and 50 Free and a **First Time B** time for his 100 Breast. At the PDSC meet **Aiden** got First Time B times for his 100 Back and 100 Fly and a **First Time BB** time for his 100 Free. WOW! 6 first time events and every one a B or BB time. What a journey! Go **Aiden**!

RISING STARS

This was **Amelia Kpaduwa**'s, age 7, first swim meet ever and her journey got off to a great start. She placed 1st in the 25 Fly, 2nd in the 25 Free, and 3rd in the 50 Free for an amazing **TOTAL POINTS** of 54. And her journey just got started!

ON THE WATCH LIST

We started watching the journey of **Jennifer Seabert** and **Jessica Seabert** last June after their first swim meet. Both girls are dropping a boat load of time. **Jessica** got **BEST TOTAL TIME DROP** (-44.69) at the PDSC meet. Not to be outdone, **Jennifer** got **BEST TOTAL TIME DROP** (-21.46) at this meet. Their journey continues.

Nathan Lee, age 10, began his journey at the PDSC meet last month and picked up **First Time B** times for his 100 Free and 50 Fly and a **First Time BB** time for his 50 Back. At this meet he picked up a **B time** for his 50 Free with a **2nd** place win. His journey is only beginning. We're watching your journey, **Nathan**!

TEAM RECORDS:

Our swimmers repeatedly demonstrate the highest level of personal performance as team records continue to be broken. The latest records to fall are:

- There were no new team records at this meet.

FIRST TIME SWIMS

Our swimmers continue to work hard on technique. Here we acknowledge the swimmers who accepted the challenge of swimming in an event for the very first time.

New C Times

Attaining personal excellence and getting their first C times are:

2023 Oct OTTRFest C Meet Recap

- *Teng Chan* - Bronze (7-10 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Free);
- *Amelia Kpaduwa* - Bronze (5-8 25 Fly, 25 Free, 50 Free);
- *Qinyao (Olivia) Li* - Bronze (7-10 100 Free, 50 Back, 50 Free);
- *Kimi Liu* - Bronze (7-10 50 Back, 50 Breast);
- *Grace Miller* - Silver (13-14 100 Free, 50 Free);
- *Camilla Patino* - Gold (13-14 100 Breast, 100 Fly);
- *Nathaniel Schneider* - Bronze (7-10 50 Breast, 50 Free);
- *James Ian Styles* - Bronze (7-10 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Fly);
- *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (5-8 25 Fly, 50 Free);
- *Catherine Zhu* - Bronze (7-10 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Free)

First Time B Times

Taking personal excellence to the next level these swimmers reached B times the first time swimming these events.

- *Sebastian Shibata* - Bronze (5-8 100 IM);
- *Aiden Lee* - Platinum (13-14 100 Breast)

First Time BB Times

Talk about personal excellence! Getting a BB time for a first time swim. Amazing.

- *Aiden Lee* - Platinum (13-14 200 IM, 50 Free)

NEW TIMES

More typical are the swimmers exhibiting personal excellence by moving up the time standards from C to B, or to BB, or to A, or to WAG / Age Group Champs (Spring and Summer formerly JO). These swimmers demonstrate their hard work pays off.

New B Times

- *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (5-8 25 Free);
- *Arden Chen* - Bronze Elite (7-10 50 Back, 50 Free);
- *Nathan Lee* - Silver (7-10 50 Free);
- *Remy Lee* - Gold (11-12 100 Free);
- *Jennifer Seabert* - Bronze (7-10 100 Free);
- *Jessica Seabert* - Bronze (7-10 50 Free);
- *Skyler Shibata* - Gold (13-14 100 Breast)

TIME DROPS

BEST TOTAL TIME DROP was earned by *Jennifer Seabert* - Bronze with a total (-21.46). **BEST SINGLE TIME DROP** was also earned by *Jennifer Seabert* for dropping (-10.48) for her 100 Free

Getting those harder to get time drops are:

Jennifer Seabert - Bronze (-21.46); *Remy Lee* - Gold (-12.39); *Kimi Liu* - Bronze (-11.78); *Mariam Samaan* - Bronze (-9.46); *Jessica Seabert* - Bronze (-8.81); *Serenity Shibata* - Silver (-3.28); *Arden*

2023 Oct OTTRFest C Meet Recap

Chen - Bronze Elite (-2.9); *Nathan Lee* - Silver (-2.83); *Camilla Patino* - Gold (-2.55); *Skyler Shibata* - Gold (-1.21); *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (-0.93); *James Ian Styles* - Bronze (-0.74)

AWARDS & POINTS

Our 22 swimmers brought home 16 awards. 6 1st place, 3 2nd place, 2 3rd place, 1 4th place, 3 5th place, 1 6th place. These are our 1st thru 6th place winners.

1st place

- *Amelia Kpaduwa* - Bronze (5-8 25 Fly);
- *Aiden Lee* - Platinum (13-14 100 Breast, 200 IM, 50 Free);
- *Remy Lee* - Gold (11-12 50 Fly);
- *Sebastian Shibata* - Bronze (5-8 100 IM)

2nd place

- *Amelia Kpaduwa* - Bronze (5-8 25 Free);
- *Nathan Lee* - Silver (7-10 50 Free);
- *Remy Lee* - Gold (11-12 100 Free)

3rd Place

- *Amelia Kpaduwa* - Bronze (5-8 50 Free);
- *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (5-8 25 Fly)

4th Place

- *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (5-8 50 Free)

5th Place

- *Arden Chen* - Bronze Elite (7-10 50 Free);
- *Skyler Shibata* - Gold (13-14 100 Breast);
- *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (5-8 25 Free)

6th Place

- *Camilla Patino* - Gold (13-14 100 Fly)

POINTS

Taking **TOP POINTS** at this meet was *Aiden Lee* - Platinum with 60 points followed closely by *Remy Lee* - Gold with 58 points.

Congratulations to all our point getters.

Aiden Lee - Platinum (60); *Remy Lee* - Gold (58); *Amelia Kpaduwa* - Bronze (54); *Apollo Valdriz* - Bronze (45); *Camilla Patino* - Gold (36); *Sebastian Shibata* - Bronze (32); *Arden Chen* - Bronze Elite (29); *Jessica Seabert* - Bronze (19); *Nathan Lee* - Silver (18); *Skyler Shibata* - Gold (18); *Jennifer Seabert* - Bronze (17); *Grace Miller* - Silver (8); *Alex Dong* - Silver (7); *Owen Liu* - Bronze (7); *Serenity Shibata* - Silver (6); *Kimi Liu* - Bronze (5); *Nathaniel Schneider* - Bronze (4); *Catherine Zhu* - Bronze (4).

RELAYS

We did not have any relay events at this meet.

WRAP UP

Sometimes we make the process more complicated than we need to. We will never make a journey of a thousand miles by fretting about how long it will take or how hard it will be. We make the journey by taking each day step by step and then repeating it again and again until we reach our destination. ([Joseph B. Wirthlin](#))

If we view destinations as goals, our new swimmers have just begun their journey to new destinations, new B times, new BB times, championship meets, senior and national meets, high school CIF meets, college scholarships, or just physical and mental well-being.

Along the way our swimmers make new friends, learn to be part of a team, learn to prepare physically and mentally for the challenges ahead, learn the meaning of commitment, and understand the benefits of hard work.

And what would this journey be like without the help and support of our awesome parents and dedicated coaches giving encouragement and praise step by step along the way.

GO SHARKS