

MN Swimming: National Meet Report

TYR Pro Swim Series

Knoxville, TN

January 11-14, 2023

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The TYR Pro Swim Series in Knoxville, TN took place from January 11 to 14, 2023. The event brought together some of the world's top swimmers to compete in a variety of races and showcase their skills.

Over the four-day competition, there were many exciting races and record-breaking performances. Some of the highlights included Caeleb Dressel breaking the American record in the 50-yard freestyle, and Katie Ladecky's continued domination of her distance events.

In addition to the top-tier performances from well-known swimmers, the TYR Pro Swim Series also provided an opportunity for up-and-coming athletes to compete at a high level and gain valuable experience.

From an officiating perspective this meet was organized and operated using standard national protocols and procedures. Of interest were the following:

- One official per lane at the start end vs the traditional "3 chairs". The start official had a watch, pressed a button and observed the start, turn and finish.
- Walking stroke with a steady camera crew. During finals NBC employed a steady camera that followed the race up and down the pool. It was an interesting experience trying to effectively observe the race and stay off camera. Ultimately it was decided to go with three stroke officials on that side. Jurisdiction would switch back and forth between the three depending where the swimmers were located.
- Power outage before Saturday finals. The pool and most of the University of Tennessee campus lost power on Saturday afternoon. This occurred about 90 minutes before the first heats for the 1500 were scheduled to start. It was not known when the power would be restored. After much deliberation a decision was made to move to the old 50 meter pool across the street and if necessary complete finals there. Within approximately an hour a crew of Tennessee staff, USA swimming staff, and all of the officiating team converted the pool configuration into a 50 meter race course. Starting blocks were moved. Backup timing equipment including pads were installed. 25 yard lane lines removed and 50 meter lines installed. Lifeguard stands became flag pools. It was an amazing unplanned transformation. Fortunately only the preliminary 1500 heats needed

to be run there. Power was restored to the campus and finals started only 45 minutes late back at the competition pool.

- Safe sport protocols were constantly emphasized. It was clear where you could and could not be. What you could and could not do.
- The warm up (diving well) pool was available for use between sessions. A small number of USA swimming staff, coaches and officials, including me, took advantage of this to get in a workout.