

## District Championship Recap

This was one of the most exciting District Meets I have been a part of! We faced Saint Andrew's twice this year, losing to them at both the Palm League Championships and in a home dual meet. Going into Districts, which were held at Saint Andrew's on their home turf, we knew it would be difficult — if not a long shot. We emphasized the importance of *every point and every race*, with the top 16 swimmers and divers scoring in each event.

We knew the results would come down to everyone contributing — even if it was just one or two points — and in the end, that's exactly what made the difference. Those few points secured our 2025 FHSAA District Championships!

- **Girls** defeated Saint Andrew's by **12.5 points**, 505–492.5
- **Boys** won by the same margin, 497.5–485

It was a magical night, and we as coaches could not be prouder of this group.

---

## The BIGGEST Small Points

Before diving into the full event summaries, I'd like to highlight some of the *small but mighty* contributions that made this 12-point team victory possible. Remember, scoring ranges from 20 points for 1st place to 1 point for 16th, with relays scoring double.

- JoJo Henry – 2 points (50 Free)
- Laura Avellar – 4 points (50 Free)
- Marion Benayoun – 1 point (100 Free)
- Leon Merchel Czubek – 4 points (100 Free)
- Nikita Sachenko – 6 points (200 Free)
- Camila Arrue – 4 points (100 Backstroke)
- Demetrio Castillo – 1 point (100 Backstroke)
- Ava Stone – 3 points (100 Breaststroke)
- Andrew Polazzi – 1 point (100 Breaststroke)
- Jonas Bravo – 3 points (100 Breaststroke)

Those points *truly mattered*.

---

## Event Highlights

### 200 Medley Relay – Girls

McKenzie Baur, Sara Miller, Juliette Driscoll, and Jayden Paterson got us off to a great start, finishing 3rd and earning valuable double points.

### **200 Medley Relay – Boys**

Leo Hauser, Danil Sachenko, Brady Baur, and Leon Merchel Czubek finished 2nd, just ahead of Westminster, adding crucial relay points.

### **200 Freestyle – Girls**

Our young group (two 9th graders and two 7th graders!) showed their depth.

- McKenzie Baur – 3rd (1:58.62)
- Jayden Paterson – 5th (2:03.36)
- Juliette Driscoll – 6th (2:04.88)
- Sarah Shqalsi – 8th (2:05.88)

### **200 Freestyle – Boys**

All upperclassman group with only Brady Baur being a Junior among all seniors and highlighting two brothers.

- Brady Baur – 5th (1:48.66)
- Chris Lin – 6th (1:49.28)
- Daniel Sachenko – 9th (1:56.44)
- Nikita Sachenko – 11th (2:05.46)

### **200 Individual Medley – Girls**

Sara Miller captured our *first District title* of the evening with a time of 2:10.47. She was followed by:

- Emory Jacobson-Bertanzetti – 5th (2:15.21)
- Ashley Swirbel – 8th (2:28.65)
- Anna Hayes – 10th (2:34.33)

### **200 Individual Medley - Boys**

A very strong event for us showcasing two seniors and a 7<sup>th</sup> grader with all of them scoring in the top 8!!!!

- Jake Jones – 2nd (1:58.83)
- Freddy Rosenthal – 3th (2:05.21)
- Liam Plyanovsky – 7th (2:20.19)
- Matias Prieto – 8th (2:28.91)

### **50 Freestyle – Girls**

Led by Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, who placed 3rd (24.69).

- Laura Avellar – 13th (26.75)
- JoJo Henry – 15th (28.10)
- Lacey Wolf – 19th (29.47, breaking 30 seconds for the first time!)

### **50 Freestyle – Boys**

The event everyone loves, short and fast showcased many of our HS seasonal swimmers who did a great job.

- Hadi Koleilat – 7th (23.45, tied with Westminster)
- Leon Merchel Czubek – 9th (23.58)
- Jonas Bravo – 19th (27.26)
- James Boruchow – 34th (34.17)

### **Girls 1-Meter Diving**

Very young diving crew, led by Senior Fifi Egizi, certainly helped us win the meet.

- Annabella Johnson – 3rd (324.95)
- Monica Voltz – 6th (291.95)
- Sofia Egizi – 7th (274.80)
- Hannah Steele – 9th (219.55)

### **Boys 1-Meter Diving**

All four divers finished in the top six highlighted by a duo of young siblings who will be the future of our diving program.

- Ashton Jacoby – 2nd (455.35)
- Blake Van Tassel – 4th (398.90)
- Devin Girardin – 5th (367.60)
- Levi Girardin – 6th (333.05)

### **100 Butterfly – Girls**

Event with a lot of future with two 9<sup>th</sup> graders and two Middle Schoolers.

- Juliette Driscoll – 4th (1:03.17)
- Mishka Machado – 5th (1:03.72)
- Isadora Figueiredo – 9th (1:10.38)
- Anna Hayes – 10th (1:12.95)

### **100 Butterfly – Boys**

Our *second District Champion* of the night: **Brady Baur (52.39)** out touched Saint Andrews swimmer by .04 in a close race. Rest of the field for Pine rest was equally impressive with:

- Chris Lin – 3rd (53.50)
- Liam Polyanovsky – 7th (1:03.05)
- Jacob Krymski – 9th (1:07.31)

### **100 Freestyle – Girls**

Another event with a great mix of veterans and newcomers who stepped up to score a lot of points for our team.

- Emory Jacobson-Bertanzetti – 4th (54.79)
- Laura Avellar – 7th (59.76)
- Camila Arrue – 13th (1:03.18)
- Marion Benayoun – 16th (1:13.99)

### **100 Freestyle – Boys**

An all Senior crew showing great leadership stepping up and racing hard.

- Leo Hauser – 5th (50.34)
- Arsenii Aleshin – 7th (51.36)
- Hadi Koleilat – 10th (53.60)
- Leon Merchel Czubek – 13th (56.83)

### **500 Freestyle – Girls**

Longest event of the meet with some young talent representing Panthers with only one High School swimmer and three Middle Schoolers.

- Mishka Machado – 3rd (5:33.92)
- Sarah Shqalsi – 5th (5:43.96)
- Ashley Swirbel – 6th (5:47.87)
- Lacey Wolf – 8th (6:08.41)

### **500 Freestyle – Boys**

Another tough and long event led by Senior Freddy Rosenthal and his 5<sup>th</sup> place finish with a time of 4:55.51. The rest of the crew finished very high, adding more valuable points.

- Marcos Machado – 6th (5:07.61)
- Nikita Sachenko – 8th (5:35.94)
- Matias Prieto – 9th (5:43.65)

### **200 Free Relay – Girls**

Another important double the points score for Pine Crest highlighted by now the third siblings duo on our squad. The team of Emory & Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, Jayden Paterson, and Mishka Machado finished 2nd (1:41.71).

### **200 Free Relay – Boys**

All-senior team showed some serious speed (Chris Lin, Jake Jones, Freddy Rosenthal, and Leo Hauser) when they finished 3rd (1:31.20).

### **100 Backstroke – Girls**

An event with a great future for us with only one Senior and a very young and talented group of swimmers.

- Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti – 3rd (1:00.53)

- McKenzie Baur – 4th (1:01.76)
- Jayden Paterson – 8th (1:05.33)
- Camila Arrue – 13th (1:13.43)

### **100 Backstroke – Boys**

Two seniors took two top spots for Pine Crest followed by 9<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders scoring many valuable points.

- Arsenii Aleshin – 3rd (58.89)
- Leo Hauser – 4th (1:00.74)
- Marcos Machado – 5th (1:00.88)
- Demetrio Castillo – 16th (1:23.76)

### **100 Breaststroke – Girls**

Very close race led by our two Seniors followed by some major young talent.

- Sara Miller – 2nd (1:07.79)
- JoJo Henry – 6th (1:16.83)
- Isadora Figueiredo – 9th (1:21.12)
- Ava Stone – 14th (1:31.25)

### **100 Breaststroke – Boys**

Another District Champion: **Jake Jones (59.11)** wins a close race against another Saint Andrews swimmer and all four of our swimmers adding to our narrow point lead in a team race.

- Danil Sachenko – 9th (1:08.20)
- Jonas Bravo – 14th (1:17.30)
- Andrew Polazzi – 16th (1:20.13)

### **400 Free Relay – Girls**

Capping off the meet in style, Parker & Emory Jacobson-Bertanzetti, McKenzie Baur, and Sara Miller took **1st place** (3:36.94) sealing the team victory for Panther Girls.

### **400 Free Relay – Boys**

An incredible come-from-behind finish earned **2nd place** for Chris Lin, Freddy Rosenthal, Brady Baur, and Jake Jones (3:17.52) capping a great evening with the team title for Panther Boys.

---

After this complete *team effort*, we now look ahead to the **Regional Championships**, to be held at **University School on October 31 at 10 am** (detailed information will be coming out next week).

A reminder: to qualify for Regions, each swimmer or diver must be in the top 24 among *all four* Districts. As soon as the FHSAA publishes the roster selections, we will share them with everyone.

Go Panthers!!!