

Tualatin Hills Holiday Classic 2025

OA Senior Group at its best





Orinda Aquatics traveled with 59 swimmers (largest “flight” group ever) in what may have been the best winter peak meet in the team’s history. With over 200 best times and some truly extraordinary races (please see the Performance Recap), it was *extremely* positive (team) and productive (swimming), which is rare for a December peak meet. One key take-a-way was the impressive group of freshmen and first-time travelers. Their spirit, maturity, integrity, (and humor) added immeasurable depth of the trip, and to the group as a whole. And of course, we could never operate at the level and standard that we do, without our senior leaders and room captains. They are the lynch-pin to “the art of team travel” and drive every aspect of this process.

We thank the parents for supporting your children to travel with the team, and express our sincere gratitude to these great athletes for being the class of youth sports (and youth character).

We wish the best to our swimmers attending the PacSwim Age-Group Championships in San Ramon, and to our seven Junior National qualifiers in Texas!

We also wish everyone a very happy holiday, and after we return from the break, we will turn our attention to our next major swimming event and team trip, Clovis! Donnie & Ronnie

Travel



Competition





Spirit





A very sincere thank you to Amy Smith for her support, and to our amazing parents for organizing over 300 meals (three lunches and two dinners) led by *recon expert and parent extraordinaire*, Debbie Santos, and orchestrated on site by Vanessa Bratcher, Jay Taylor, Leah Kao, and Heather White.

And a very special thank you to our new dear friend *and bus driver*, Jason, the best in the business!



Departure



HI MR. BUS DRIVER!

THANK YOU FOR BEING SUCH A BRIGHT AND POSITIVE PERSON! IT'S A GREAT EXPERIENCE TO HAVE A FUN PERSON WITH A BIG SMILE GREET US EVERY TIME WE GET ON THE BUS.

SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A COMPANION DURING OUR STAY IN OREGON - YOU ~~ARE~~ REMIND ME THAT GOOD PEOPLE ARE STILL OUT THERE.

STAY SAFE AND THANK YOU!

APPY EARLY HOLIDAYS, CA SWIMMER

An example of why these kids are unique and special –

a text from a parent (below)

“Thank you so much for the amazing opportunity you provided all these swimmers. I am so grateful that my child was able to have this experience.

I am also grateful that I was there to be able to see so much of it in action. Yes, watching the swims was fun and exciting, however, there were so many moments outside of the actual racing that stick with me even more. These swimmers are truly incredible individuals that you have cultivated.

A moment that really stood out to me happened yesterday after the men’s 100 free prelim. I was standing near the lunch delivery, and multiple OA swimmers walked out into the hallway to catch their breath. One in particular was having a difficult time recovering. His teammates, also still recovering, immediately jumped into action to ensure he was ok. They kept their eye on him to ensure he didn’t get worse and then asked me to watch him when they ran inside to grab a towel and other items for him, returning at light speed to his side.

I saw so many moments of leadership, camaraderie, encouragement, and care all weekend. And I am hearing more from my child now that we are home - some really inspiring stories about her room captain and the conversations they had before bed each night. An incredible weekend filled with core memories, education, and life learning lessons that cannot be taught in a classroom.

This all reminded me that this is so much more than just competition. It truly is about life.”