



Sophomore Victoria Edwards performs the butterfly stroke at the State tournament in the University of Texas swim center.



Sophomore Maggie Taylor prepares to exit the pool after her relay at the State swim tournament.

photos by Tim Whaling

making waves

Swim teams dominate State, girls break 200 medley relay record

At the State meet Feb. 20-21, the girls team became State champions for the second year in a row after dominating the competition.

The girls team sent seven students to the meet at the University of Texas Swim Center, six of whom medaled. The 200-yard medley relay team, made up of sophomore Victoria Edwards, sophomore Maggie Taylor, freshman Dakota Luther and sophomore Catriona McGregor, set a new state record of 1:43.21.

"It was such an exciting experience to have been able to break the record," Maggie said. "We've been working all season, and it was great to see our hard work pay off."

The boys team also sent six swimmers to State, placing fourth overall. With a combined 323 points, the two teams finished first in the combined team scoring, which was a first in Westlake history.

"During the meet, we all cheered for each other and supported each other," freshman Morgan Johnson said. "When we found out we won, we were all super excited, and we jumped into

the pool with our coaches."

The road to State first began in the District meet Jan. 22-23. There, the girls won by more than 50 points, while the boys, who were expected to have a tight battle with Lake Travis, won by more than 70.

"I was beyond ecstatic at District," girls coach Alison Soelter said. "The team had great energy and supported each other, and it got us really excited heading into Region and State."

At the Regional meet Feb. 6-7 in Houston, both the girls and boys teams won by a margin of almost 30 points. Furthermore, new school records were set by various swimmers on the two teams, and Victoria also set a Regional record in the 100-yard butterfly.

In addition to the fantastic swims of the students at the various competitions, boys coach Steve Navarro was named Head Boys Coach of the District, Region and State for 2015.

"I was deeply honored," Navarro said. "It is an award that is voted on by the coaches at each of the meets, so that means even more to me because it tells me that my colleagues noticed the hard work we put in this year to turn the boys team around."

This is the first year at West-

lake for both Navarro and Soelter, who are husband and wife. Prior to coming to Westlake, Navarro coached high school swimming for eight years and Soelter coached high school and younger students for four years. Both coaches have had an impact on the swimmers.

"I really like Coach Soelter," Maggie said. "She's so enthusiastic about the team and engages herself into every meet and practice. She really cares about each swimmer and has helped us all become closer as a team. She gives great advice and helps us to perform the best that we can."

Navarro and Soelter have made a few changes to the teams this season, including putting more focus on team activities such as spirit dinners and, for the girls team, girls nights. The coaches hope these changes will help bring the students closer together as a team.

"We really try to see things as a team goal rather than individual goals," Soelter said, "and it's actually helped bring the team together to where they want to perform for each other. When you're acting as a team, you want to go even faster. We changed the training a little, but the biggest help was making the team a family."

— Jack Stenglein



Top: Sophomore Kevin Fang performs a butterfly stroke in the State tournament. "I felt like the season went well, better than last year, and it will only get better from here on," Kevin said.

Bottom: Freshman Morgan Johnson competes in the State tournament in the University of Texas swim center. "I love coach Soelter," Morgan said. "She always keeps us positive and it's fun to laugh and talk with her."