

Aquatics places 9th overall, 240 team score

Ramos, Barbour place 2nd in 1-meter diving; Valenzuela places 2nd in 100 backstroke

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The Stevens Swimming and Diving Team competed in the 2015 AAHSSL Northside Invitational on back-to-back days, Nov. 20 and Nov. 21. The invitational included both individual and team competitions for swimming, while featuring individual competitions for diving.

The Falcons combined for a ninth overall finish and a score of 240.

The girls placed seventh overall, with a total score of 169. The team consisting of sophomores Helena Harper, Lauren Landin, Daniella Agee, and Kayla Valenzuela placed eighth in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:23.52 and sixth in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 2:03.85.

The team consisting of senior Madison Dudley, Helena, Landin, and junior Emily Stevenson placed sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 4:50.32.

As individuals, the team saw Landin place 12th (3:02.18) in the 200-yard individual medley, junior Jacqueline Gonzales place 29th (39.00) in 50-yard

freestyle, Valenzuela place eighth (28.97) in the same event and second in the 100-yard backstroke.

Dudley placed 12th (2:42.00) overall in girls 200-yard freestyle. In diving, senior Allison Barbour placed second (183.3) in girls 1-meter diving, Agee placed 4th (134.50), and freshman Caroline Bowman placed 5th (113.90).

Girls captain swimming Dudley commented on the team having their fair share of time drops compared to their last competition.

“I was proud of my teammates for dropping so much time,” Dudley said. “I am extremely excited to see how much more everyone will improve.”

The boys placed 10th overall at the invitational, with a total score of 71. The team of senior Matthew Castaneda, sophomore Seth Tejada, seniors Exal Cisneros Tuch, and Jakob Barraeda placed tenth in 200-yard medley with a time of 2:11.23. Tejada, Castaneda, Barraeda, and sophomore Alex Kaulukukui placed twelfth in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:55.34.

Castaneda, Tejada, sophomore Justin Greenwood, and sophomore Cameron Gamboa placed tenth in the 400-yard freestyle with a time of 4:27.97. Individually, Tejada placed twelfth (2:37.22) in boys 200-yard individual medley, boys captain Castaneda placed fifteenth (26.84) in boys 50-yard freestyle, Barraeda placed nineteenth (28.24) in the same event, Gamboa placed fourteenth (1:21.25) in boys 100-yard backstroke, and Greenwood came in twenty secondth (2:44.8) during the 200-yard freestyle



Gasping for air, Sophomore Lauren Landin swims the butterfly leg of the 200 yard medley relay on Nov. 21. Landin finished with a split time of 35.95, the relay overall finished with a time of 2:23.52. *Photo by Madison Dudley*

event. Additionally, junior Damian Ramos finished in second (144.55) for 1-meter diving.

“Our team set a lot of great personal bests, though we placed ninth,” Gamboa said. “We all motivate each other which makes us want to improve more.”

Team improvement is not only noticed by the swimmers. Parents are their biggest supporters and have been with them along their road to improving their skills.

“I am very excited and happy at meets. It is more than just the feeling of excitement,” swimming parent Belinda Valenzuela said. “The team growing and becoming stronger in comparison to the last season is outstanding.”



Diving into his event, the 50 yard freestyle, Senior Jakob Barraeda finished with a time of 28.24. Barraeda placed 19th in his event. “I like to compete against other schools to see who is better.” *Photo by Madison Dudley*