

Making a splash

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CARY -- The Durham Summer Swim League hit the road on Saturday for its championship meet as the competition moved to the Triangle Aquatics Center in Cary.

With the girls swimming in one pool and the boys in another, the championship meet was contested in a day rather than taking two in previous years at UNC's Koury Natatorium. The reception of the new venue was generally positive as the pace of the day was quick with races clicking off at a rapid pace.

"It's a new format but it seemed that everything worked just fine," DSSL president Floyd Diaz said. "We had no real major hiccups. The facility has done this on a regular basis but for us a swim league, we've never done this before."

Andrew McKenzie of Umstead Pines finished his DSSL career with a flurry by winning all three of his events in the 15-18 age group. McKenzie won the 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 butterfly to finish his season undefeated.

"It was a pretty tough competition," McKenzie said. "It was really fun to race a lot of my friends and it was the last meet I'll probably ever do. I enjoyed it and had a great time and I'm happy with the results."

Three other swimmers also won three races.

Jennifer Xu of Garrett Farms also was a triple winner in the 11-12 age group, taking the 50 freestyle, 50 backstroke and 50 butterfly. Lauren Laughton of Croasdaile won three races, too, taking the 50 freestyle, the 50 breaststroke and the 50 backstroke in the girls 9-10 age group. T'Lez Foulkes of Parkwood won the 25 freestyle, 25 breaststroke and 25 backstroke in the boys' 7-8 age group.

Parkwood, which brought the largest contingent of swimmers with 160, took the

overall and Division I team championship for the seventh straight year. Woodcroft and Hardscrabble were second and third overall and in Division I, respectively.

Croasdaile, which was fourth overall, took top honors in Division II, followed by Garrett Farms and Hope Valley Country Club. In Division III, Treyburn was the top team and finished sixth overall. Five Oak and Hope Valley Farms took second and third.

Alex Byrd of Five Oaks was a double winner in the boys' 11-12 50 freestyle and 50 butterfly. Teammate Ethan Burchfield won the 25 backstroke and 25 butterfly in the boys' 6-and-under age group.

Connor Williams of Eno Valley was a double winner in the boys' 13-14 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke.

Emily Sarratt of Hardscrabble was a double winner in the girls' 13-14 50 freestyle and 50 backstroke.

Supriya Davis of Fairfield was a double winner in the girls' 15-18 50 backstroke and 50 butterfly.

In the 6-and-under girls' races there were two double winners with Lindy Bilden of Croasdaile winning the 25 freestyle and the 25 butterfly, while Leah Simpson of Garrett Farms won the 25 breaststroke and the 25 backstroke.

Bella Cude of Woodcroft was a double winner in the girls' 7-8 25 freestyle and the 25 breaststroke.

Parkwood had winners in the boys' 11-12 50 freestyle with Jarod Diehl, in the girls' 15-18 50 breaststroke with Keary McClernan and in the boys' 7-8 freestyle with T'Lez Foulkes.

Croasdaile had winners in the boys' 11-12 50 backstroke with Teddy Bilden and in the boys' 13-14 50 butterfly with Tommy Bilden.

Hope Valley Country Club had winners in the boys' 13-14 50 breaststroke with Trey Harris, in the girls' 100 freestyle with Sam Ray and in the boys' 25 breaststroke with Reed Burkert.

Woodcroft had winners in the boys' 15-18 50 breaststroke with Adam Fullerton, in the boys' 6-and-under 25 freestyle with Camden McGovern and in the boys' 7-8 25 butterfly with Jay Baker.

Hardscrabble had winners in the girls' 11-12 50 breaststroke with Caroline White,

in the girls' 7-8 25 butterfly with Brynne Clayton, in the girls' 9-10 25 butterfly with Emily Falise and in the boys' 9-10 50 backstroke with Eugen Craciunescu.

Homestead Heights had a winner in the girls' 13-14 50 breaststroke with Michaela Nolte.

Eno Valley's Katrina Huff won the girls' 13-14 50 butterfly.

Treyburn's Cordi Murray won the girls' 7-8 25 backstroke, while teammate Samuel Bloodworth won the boys' 9-10 50 butterfly.

Fairfield's Austin Spence won the boy' 9-10 50 freestyle.

Garrett Farms' Luke Beamer won the boys' 9-10 50 backstroke.

Croasdaile took the boys' 200 freestyle relay, while Hardscrabble won the girls' 200 freestyle relay.

Jacob Chappell of Woodcroft received the Jodi Brookhart Award, which is given annually to the DSSL competitor who has overcome obstacles in the pursuit of the sport of swimming and displays a special courage and spirit in the process.

Diaz said it would be up to the league's board to decide where the 2011 championships would be held, but the TAC would be considered again.

Dale Ivery, who had a daughter swimming for the Vance Aquatics team said he hoped it would return to the TAC next year.

"It was nice to have it all in one day," Ivery said. "The facilities were terrific. It ran smoothly and it was cooler inside watching it."