

Press Release for AISD Invitational

The Austin High School Maroons Swimming and Diving teams competed at the Austin ISD Invitational held at the University of Texas Swim Center on Friday, October 28. Among the 17 teams that were present at the meet, the AHS boys finished in 5th place while the girls finished in 11th.

Not counting relays, the Maroons had 52 individual swims, 17 of which were new personal best times for those athletes. “That’s almost exactly one third of our swims as best times,” said Austin High head coach Ryan Goodwyn, “and it’s not a meet that we went into rested at all. Our kids put in a lot of hard swimming this week leading up to the meet and still delivered.”

Goodwyn said his team’s performance at the meet was very encouraging. “Our girls finished 11th, but that was with a 200 freestyle relay that got disqualified for a false start. Their time would have finished 5th, and those points would have moved us up several spots in the final rankings. Those girls relays are starting to gain a lot of momentum for us heading into the end of the regular season.”

The Maroon ladies were helped in large part by junior Josi Avila who swam several lifetime best swims in individual races as well as in all three relays. Sophomore Sora Jenkins also delivered several key swims for the Maroons in relays.

On the boys side, Goodwyn said the maroons are positioning themselves to be at the state meet in February. “We have two individual swimmers right now, Ryan O’Leary and Lawson Thomas, who have a legitimate shot at earning a trip to the state meet individually,” Goodwyn said. “But even more fun, they’re pulling their relay teams up along with them, and we have a shot at getting some relays there too if they keep it up.”

Along with seniors O’Leary and Thomas, the Maroon men also got a boost on all three relays from freshman Evan Smith. “He’s a very talented swimmer with a huge competitive drive,” Goodwyn said. “The more he cleans up his stroke and turns, the better he’s going to get. By his junior and senior year, he’s going to be a major player in this state among the sprint freestyle events.”

The point scorers for Austin High:

Eve Gottsman (SR) – 200 medley relay (8th), 400 freestyle relay (9th), 100 breaststroke (14th)

Charlotte Gottsman (JR) – 200 medley relay (8th)

Megan O’Leary (FR) – 200 medley relay (8th), 400 freestyle relay (9th), 100 breaststroke (13th)

Josi Avila (JR) – 200 medley relay (8th), 400 freestyle relay (9th), 100 freestyle (5th)

Sora Jenkins (SO) – 400 freestyle relay (9th), 50 freestyle (6th), 100 freestyle (15th)

Evie Plante (FR) – 100 breaststroke (15th)

Laswon Thomas (SR) – 200 medley relay (4th), 400 freestyle relay (5th), 200 freestyle (3rd), 100 backstroke (2nd)

Ryan O’Leary (SR) – 200 medley relay (4th), 400 freestyle relay (5th), 200 I.M. (3rd), 100 breaststroke (3rd)

Greysen Gadersen (SR) – 200 medley relay (4th), 200 freestyle relay (6th), 50 freestyle (15th), 100 butterfly (14th)

Evan Smith (FR) – 200 medley relay (4th), 200 freestyle relay (6th), 400 freestyle relay (5th), 100 freestyle (5th)

Sam Miller (SR) – 200 freestyle relay (6th), 400 freestyle relay (5th)

Kelly Murphy (SO) – 200 freestyle relay (6th), 100 freestyle (13th)

Kole Esselstyn (SO) – 100 backstroke (6th)

Liam Crusier (FR) – diving (8th)