

Star Sports

SWIMMING

Records made to be broken at LAC

JUSTIN THOMAS

jthomas@acnpapers.com

The summer season for the Lakeside Aquatics swim club came to a close during the past weeks but that didn't stop the squad from having some of their most productive meets of the season while competing in the years biggest showcases.

Lakeside recently competed in a trio of championship meets, swimming in the state, sectional and zone championships in Austin, The Woodlands and Atlanta, Ga., respectively.

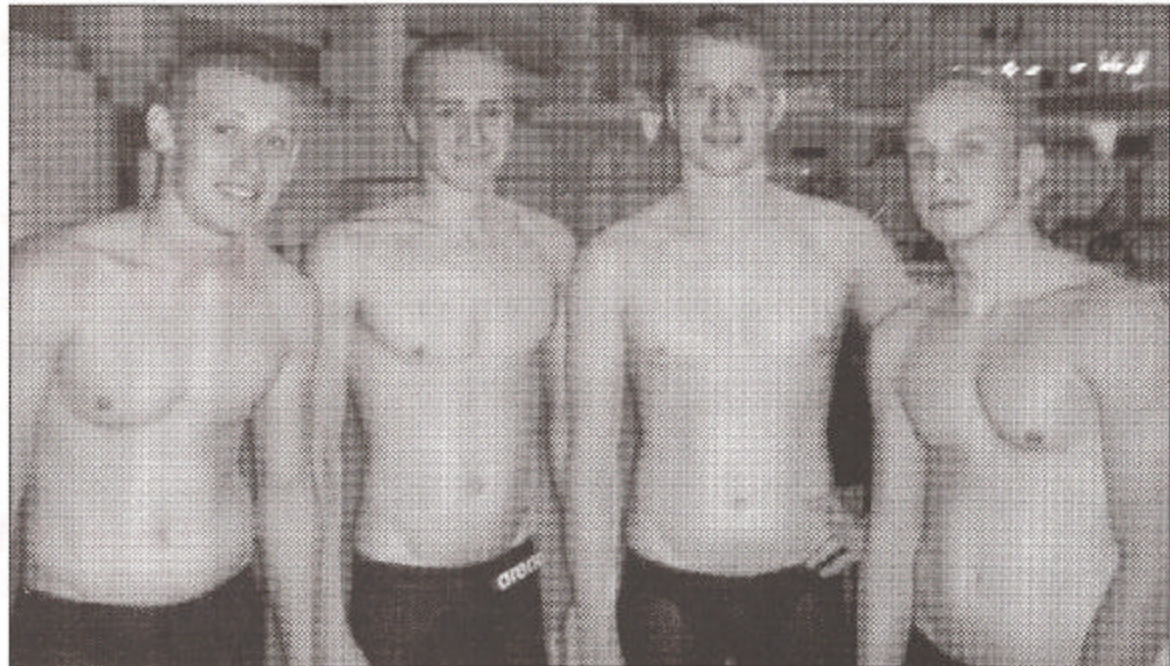
The club started July 21-25 with the TAGS Long Course Championships at the Texas Swim Center in Austin.

And despite tougher qualifying standards this year, Lakeside still managed to advance 37 swimmers for the 14-and-under meet.

As a team, Lakeside finished sixth, including taking high-point total in the girls 10U division where the club swept the relay events and set program records.

"I am very proud of how our team has done this sea-

See **SWIMMING**, Page 5B



Lakeside Aquatics' 400 medley relay team set a program record finishing in 4:16.82 at the Speedo Sectional Championships in The Woodlands. The meet features swimmers from throughout the country. Pictured, from left are members Ryan Cooper, Dan Mayes, Nick Mankus and David Durand.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAMELA GLYNN

Swimming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

son," said Jason Walter, Lakeside Aquatic's head age group coach. "We had some great clutch swimming the last few days of TAGS that propelled us into sixth place. This TAGS was unique because everyone who had to make finals that evening raised their effort to another level. It was fun to watch and great to see the kids have such great performances."

Leading the way for Lakeside was Flower Mound's Brandon Feehery (12), who claimed state titles in the 200 and 400-meter freestyles and grabbed second in 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke and 200 individual medley. Feehery set four program records in the process and is currently ranked in the top 10 nationally in the 200 free, 400 free, 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke and 200 IM.

Flower Mound's Abbie Porter (13), meanwhile, swam personal bests in the 200 IM, 200 breaststroke and 100 breaststroke, earning sectional cuts in both of the breaststroke events.

Carrollton's Mason Mitchell (12) set program records in the 100 breaststroke, taking fifth; in the 200 breaststroke, where she took fourth; and in the 400 free relay, finishing eighth. Mitchell also nabbed sixth in the 50 breaststroke, sixth in the 200 IM, sixth in the 200 free relay, eighth in the 400 medley relay and fifth in the 200 medley relay.

Emma Garfield (10) of The Colony performed well for LAC in the 10U division. Garfield took fourth in the 50 and 100 breaststroke, fifth in the 200 IM, sixth in the 100 butterfly and was part of all three of the squads' first-place finishing relay teams (200 free, 400 free and 200 medley).

Not to be outdone was Allen's Zakiyya Ellington (10). Ellington set North Texas records in the 50 and 100 backstroke, was part of the record-setting 200 and 400 free relay teams and was a finalist in the 50 free, 50 breaststroke, 50 butterfly, 100 breaststroke and 100 free. Ellington's time in the 50 backstroke was good for a state championship.

Three swimmers performed well at the Southern Zone Meet at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. The meet consisted of swimmers from Texas to Florida and up to South Carolina.

Flower Mound's David Arredondo (14) took ninth in the 100 butterfly (1:01.84), achieving a bonus sectional cut, and took 14th claiming a sectional cut in the 200 butterfly (2:19.29).

Porter, meanwhile, swam personal best times in both of her events (50 and 100 free). Fort Worth's Carly Straight also competed, taking first in the 200 and 400 free and 10th in the 100 butterfly.

The team concluded July 27-31 at the Speedo Sectional Championships in The Woodlands. The meet features competitors from across the country. The team set program records in the 800 free relay (8:14.51) and 400 medley relay (4:16.82). The 800 free relay consisted of Nick Mankus, Ryan Cooper, David Durand and Connor Adams while the 400 medley relay team featured Cooper, Dan Mayes, Mankus and Durand.

Durand (17) of Flower Mound also swam well individually, earning three new sectional cuts in the 100 butterfly (59.79), 200 free (2:01.66) and 100 backstroke (1:03.67).

Highland Village's MacKenzie Thornton (16) excelled in the 200 backstroke, slicing five seconds off her time to make the NCSA Junior Nationals cut. Thornton finished 11th after entering the meet as the 44th seed. Thornton also shaved two seconds off of her time in the 100 backstroke but missed the national cut by two-tenths of a second. She also reached the finals of the 200 IM. Thornton will continue at nationals (March in Orlando, Fla.) in the 200 backstroke.

Flower Mound's Alex Sellers (15) swam in the 50, 100 and 200 free events at sectionals, achieving personal best and program records in each event. She earned 20th in the 200 (2:08.14) and 11th in the 100 (59.21). Sellers also manned the first leg of the girls 400 free relay and later achieved her US Open cut in the 100 free (58.63) before closing the meet with a third-place finish in the 50 free (27.30).