

Swim meet ends with Kimberlite Classic

Senior Polar Bear swimmers look forward to Kamloops Classic meet in June

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Polar Bear Swim Club swimmers had one more chance to get in a good time before the season ended.

The final meet of the season in Yellowknife, the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic, finished up at the Ruth Inch

Memorial Pool on April 25. For the junior swimmers, it was an opportunity to taste real competition and set some personal bests. For the senior swimmers, it was

one last chance to get some practice before heading to the Kamloops Classic Swim Meet in Kamloops, B.C., this coming June.

Eight-year-old Liam Philipp had himself a fine weekend in the pool, finishing first in all six of his events, scoring a total of 42 points based on seven points per win. He said he wasn't expecting much, but did have one goal in mind.

"I expected at least second place," he said. "I thought I would get that, but I finished first and I feel pretty happy with that. I got bronze last year, so it's my first time winning."

Phillipp swam the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke disciplines. He said he prefers the breaststroke just because.

"I'm not sure why," he said. "It's just the most fun to do."

On the senior side, Cassie Mooney was the class of the 15 and over division, winning all six of her races and setting four new club records

in the process: the 200-metre butterfly, 200 and 400-metre individual medleys and the 25-metre breaststroke. She said she was hoping to do as well as she did.

"It was challenging, but I managed to hold my own," she said. "I knew some of the girls could catch me in some events, like the butterfly, but I was confident in the races I chose."

Mooney also ended up with a total of 42 points, something she's proud of, but above all the accolades and the top spot, she said hitting new personal bests in a majority of her events trumps it all.

"I'd much rather have those than any medal," said Mooney.

"There's a quote I remember reading, 'victory is not found on the podium, but rather in yourself. A personal best is everyone's own personal challenge and when you get that, you feel as if you got to your goal.'"

Mooney is one of those swimmers who will be on her way to Kamloops in June. She said the results from the past weekend are a good indicator heading in.

"I think I'm ready," she said. "It's still five and a half weeks away, but we're all swimming well now and I hope we can keep it up."

Phillipp plans on staying involved in swimming and said the meet went a long way for him.

"It definitely boosted my confidence," he said.

"I expected at least second place."



The top three ladies in the girls 15 and over division stand with their medals following action at the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic swim meet at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool on April 25. From left, bronze medalist Lauren Klassen, gold medallist Cassie Mooney and silver medallist Jenny Aitken.



The Yellowknife Slopitch
Association

AGM
and Rules Clinic

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Starts at 1:30 pm