

Swimming season comes to an end

BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic the final event on the NWT swimming calendar

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Nearly six dozen athletes from Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik gathered at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool for the annual BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet last weekend, which wrapped up on May 15.

The Polar Bear Swim Club here in town made up the lion's share of the numbers and with that advantage, pulled off some strong results.

Danielle Patzer in the girls 11-12 division had a perfect seven for seven in the win column and earned 49 points, the maximum possible amount available.

She said she was expecting to have a strong performance in the pool.

"I did as good as I thought I would," she said. "I just went out and did what I had to."

In addition to getting a perfect score individually, Patzer was also part of two winning relay teams: the 200-metre freestyle and 200-metre medley events.

Of those wins, Patzer said the 400-metre individual

medley was perhaps the most surprising.

"It was my first time swimming it and I got a pretty good time," she said.

Another swimmer in the girls category with a perfect score was Cassie Mooney, who swept the board in the girls 15 and over division with seven wins in seven races.

No surprise

Mooney admitted she wasn't surprised with the result.

"For me, it's not about the medals, it's all about the times and the personal bests," she said. "Thinking of it that way, it wasn't a great meet. It's hard to compete in the home pool with no competition, but it's still a race and it does count. Sometimes you need that person in your peripheral to say 'Geez, I need to pick things up!'"

The boys division saw some tighter races, especially in the boys 13-14 division as Bronson Dolynny and Kyle Lee ended up in a tie for first place overall, each swimmer earning the same total of 43

points of a possible 49.

Lee said he expected to have Dolynny on his tail all weekend.

"When we practise together, we're about the same," he said. "There's certain strokes where he's better than me. I'm better in the butterfly and freestyle and he's better in the backstroke and breaststroke."

Dolynny said there's a rivalry because of the closeness between the two.

"Him and I are the only ones who try to race against one another right now," he said. "We definitely push each other."

With the tournament season now done in the NWT, most of the club's swimmers are taking a break, but some of the senior swimmers, such as Dolynny and Mooney, are still in tournament mode as they will be making the trip to the Kamloops June Classic in the B.C. city next month.

Dolynny said he has just one goal in mind and that's to try and keep his sanity.

"I'm trying to not get booked into five swims in one day, like I had here," he said.



James McCarthy/NWSL photos

Keelan Mooney comes up for air during the boys 15 and over 100-metre breaststroke event of the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool on May 15.



Danielle Patzer glides through the water during action in the girls 11-12 100-metre breaststroke event of the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool on May 15.



TAYLOR BRODDY

SPORTS CARD SOCCER

AGE: 17

St. Patrick High School

Taylor likes playing soccer because it's the one sport he thinks he's really good at. "I get to play with all my friends," he said. Taylor's favourite team is Liverpool, who play in the English Premier League.