



Colton Yee of Hay River cuts through the water during the boys 15 and over 400-metre freestyle event at the Elks Invitational Swim Meet in Hay River on Nov. 20.

Swim club shines

Plenty of top results and personal bests for Hay River at Elks Invitational meet

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services
Hay River

It was a big weekend in the water for the Hay River Lions Swim Club.

The club played host to the annual Elks Invitational Swim Meet on Nov. 20 and 21 and with apologies to the Polar Bear Swim Club in Yellowknife, it was the Lions' time to shine.

As expected, the brother tandem of Colton and Lyndon Yee dominated on the boys side, nailing down first place in all of their respective races. Eighteen-year-old Colton stayed within the freestyle section, save for a race in the 200 metre individual medley, in the boys 15 and over division, while 14-year-old Lyndon mixed it up in the boys 13-14 year-old division and swam to a total of seven top spots.

However, the surprise of the event, according to Lions head coach Kelvin Yee, was the performance of another sibling act: Allie and Megan Buhler.

The Buhler sisters went seven-for-seven respectively in all of their races and, more importantly, hit a number of personal bests in the process. Perhaps the most impressive result was saved for 10-year-old Allie, who shaved nearly one full minute off her personal best in the 400 metre freestyle. The sisters weren't available for comment as of press time.

Transportation issues

The Polar Bears were notably absent from the meet, but there was a good reason as the expected team of nearly 30 swimmers weren't able to get down because of the situation involving the Merv Hardie ferry.

Polar Bears head coach Jane Mooney said it was a tough call not to go, but the right one to make in the end.

"Our younger swimmers were really looking forward to go," she said.

Coach Yee said it was disappointing to not have them there, but it didn't put a damper

on the event as a whole.

"Yellowknife always brings some competitive swimmers for our athletes to go up against," he said. Because of Yellowknife's absence, Yee said the older kids didn't get a lot of competition.

The meet wasn't a complete wash as the Peace River Swim Club made the trip North for the second year running. Yee said having a southern team come up gives them a chance to see where they stand.

"It's a different dynamic because they are from the south," he said. "The kids would like to see it happen more often, but we're always happy when a team comes up here." The meet was also a preparatory one for the club as some members will be heading down to Edmonton for the annual J.P. Fiset Invitational Meet, which begins on Thursday.

"The kids have been in the pool since October and this was a chance to see where their times are and gauge where they sit," said Yee.



Paul Bickford/WNSL photo

Brenna Beck concentrates on her technique during the girls 8 and under 50-metre backstroke at the Elks Invitational Swim Meet in Hay River on Nov. 20.

Mrdjenovich falls

by James McCarthy
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Calgary

Hay River's Jelena Mrdjenovich had a chance to become a world champion once again on Nov. 19. However, it just didn't go Mrdjenovich's way.

She dropped a 10-round split decision to Lindsey Garbatt of Oshawa, Ont., at the Shaw Conference Centre in Calgary.

Two scorecards read 96-94 and 96-94 for Garbatt, while Mrdjenovich won one of the cards, 97-93.

The fight was the co-main event on the "Heavy Impact" card and was for the vacant Women's International Boxing Association's super featherweight title.

Had Mrdjenovich been successful, it would have been her fourth reign as a world champion.

Her professional record now sits at 24 wins, six losses and one draw and it's not known when her next fight will be.



Jelena Mrdjenovich