

Polar Bear Club goes big in the pool

Swimmers reach national times, club records in Edmonton

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

The Polar Bear Swim Club ended the year strong at an Alberta swim meet last weekend.

The senior squad was in Edmonton for the J.P. Fiset Invitational Swim Meet from Dec. 3 to 5, and a couple of swimmers made a big splash. Cassie Mooney managed to hit a national-level time in the

girls 17-year-old 200-metre breaststroke, while Tanner Dolynny also nailed down a national time in the boys 16-year-old 100-metre breaststroke.

Dolynny said it's a good item to add to his resume.

"Considering the competition that was there and the number of elite swimmers, it's a good thing," he said.

The level of competi-

tion was rather high as the meet brought together nearly 1,000 swimmers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the NWT. The Polar Bears were up against such teams as the University of Alberta, who had a familiar face on their squad in the form of Stephen Giovanetto, a former Polar Bear who's now swimming with the school.

The national time for

Dolynny was in addition to him hitting a number of personal bests, but if there is a downside to his national time, it's that it is all for naught because Dolynny will be aging up next March, meaning his 16-year-old time will be null and void.

He said this is all a big motivation for him to get to the next level.

"Hitting the national time shows me I'm on par with the rest of the country right now," he said. "I knew going in I had to get faster to get to nationals, and it can be done. We're going to build

on our skill sets now and there will be more gym time." The meet was one of disappointment of sorts for Noah Colford. The 16-year-old had a below-par performance, but he still managed to hit a personal best in the 200-metre backstroke.

He said it's a case of getting back to normal.

"I had a three-month layoff this summer and I could've been better," he said. "I just have to wait until next time, but I have a lot of time to get back." Colford is on somewhat of a mission this year as he just missed hitting a national time

in the same 50-metre freestyle event, by two one-hundredths of a second, one year ago.

In total, the club's swimmers managed to hit a number of personal bests and managed to make 10 event finals in total – seven of those finals came courtesy of Tanner and his brother, Bronson Dolynny.

Tanner Dolynny said he can see big things for the club in the weeks and months to come.

"Noah will be there," he said. "Keelan Mooney is another one. He thinks he's slow, but he has a lot of potential."

SPORTS CARD SOCCER

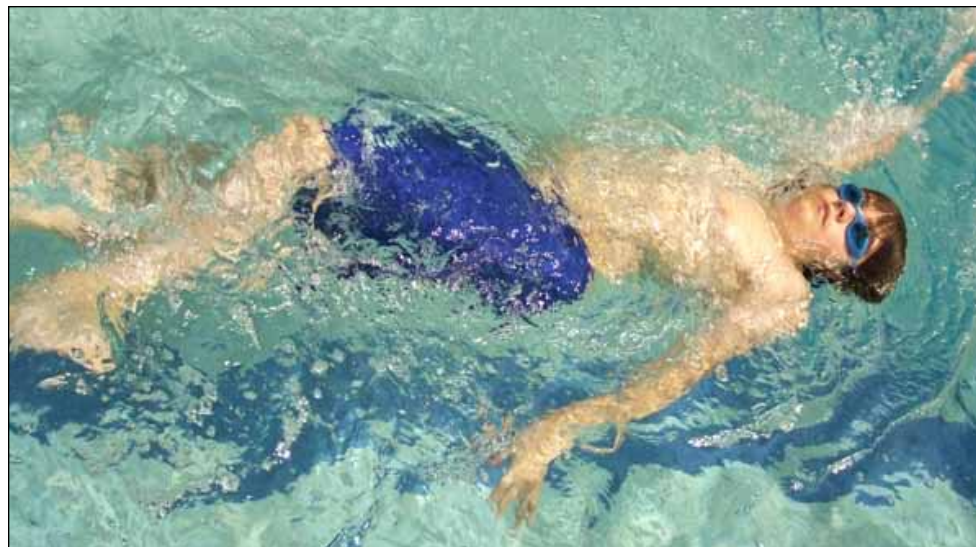


TRISTAN SORENSEN

AGE: 8

SCHOOL: J.H. Sissons

Tristan likes playing soccer because he enjoys the position he plays on the field. "I'm a goalkeeper," he said. Tristan has been playing soccer for four years, and said stopping the ball is the best part of playing.



NNSL file photo

Tanner Dolynny, seen during the Frost Bite Swim Camp earlier this year, managed to hit a national-level time in the 100-metre breaststroke in the 16-year-old category at the J.P. Fiset Invitational Swim meet in Edmonton on Dec. 5.



Sandy Lee, MLA Range Lake

Seniors Christmas Tea

Seniors and Elders are invited for tea at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly
Wednesday, Dec 15th 1:30-3:30.

Tel: (867) 445 9910 www.sandylee.ca