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All-City meet Saturday

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

The best swim club in Salem-Keizer will be determined Saturday when six teams jump in the pool for the All-City meet, held at Holiday beginning at 10 a.m.

Northwood, last summer's champion, showed it's at least the top team in Keizer by defeating Northview Terrace 398-227 on Thursday, July 21.

Northwood's boys outscored Northview 207-81.

Carter Hawley had the fastest times in the 9-10-year-old freestyle and butterfly. He also swam on the winning medley relay team with Caleb Skipper, Riley Auvénin and Hudson Hughes.

Pierce Walker touched the wall first in the individual medley and backstroke. Davis Olsen won the breaststroke. Kelson Whalen, Elijah Clendenning, Grant Schaffer and Roman Pack took first in the free relay.

Ben Diede and Jeffery Olsen dominated the 7-8 age division. Diede won the fly and breaststroke while Olsen had the fastest times in the free and backstroke.

Zander Rhoades took first in the 11-12 free and backstroke. Jackson Alt won the IM and fly while also swimming on the winning free relay team with Walker, Olsen and Connor Roop.

Riley touched the wall first in the breaststroke and joined Zachary Carrington, Carson Biondi and Cade Olson on the winning medley relay team.

Rhoades and Alt jumped up to join Bryce Junker and Ethan Whalen on the fastest 13-14 medley relay.

Ethan won the breaststroke and Brennan Whalen placed first in the fly.

Jake Wyr took first in the 15-18 IM, free, fly and on both the free and medley relays with teammates Parker

Dean, Grant Biondi and Jabez Rhoades. Individually, Dean also won the breaststroke.

Northview got most of its points from the 13-14 age group as Gavin Gasperini, Cole Garland, Jeremy Becker and Alex Kosiewicz won the freestyle relay. Gasperini also had the fastest time in the backstroke and IM while Garland touched the wall first in the free.

Nick Kosiewicz, Will Noble, Tyler Barker and Xzavier Parker won the 7-8 free relay.

Dom Snyder tied for first in the 9-10 breaststroke.

The girls competition was tighter with Northwood coming out on top 191-146.

Alexi Pack, Madi Mahoney, Katie Alger and Katelynn Schaffer won both the 7-8 medley and free relays. Individually, Alger also touched the wall first in the free while Meili Skipper finished first in both the IM and fly.

Avery Buss won the 9-10



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley
 Carter Hollis, of the Holiday Swim Club, won the 11-12-year-old individual medley and butterfly Thursday, July 21 at Jan Ree in Salem.

IM and free. Paris Boyd placed first in the 11-12 IM, free and breaststroke. Kailey Wilcke touched the wall first in the 11-12 fly and backstroke.

Isabella Walker had the fastest times in the 13-14 IM and fly. Haley Hughes won the free and Madi Alt took first in the breaststroke. Alt also swam

on the winning free and medley relay teams with Maddie Trammel, Kennedy Buss and Lanah Metz.

Alyssa Garvey had the fastest times in the 15-18 back and breaststroke.

Northview was led by Jana Everitt, who had the fastest times in the 9-10 fly and

breaststroke while also swimming on the winning free relay with Brianna Barker, Issy Kosiewicz and Kara Everitt as well as the medley relay with Kosiewicz, Kara Everitt and Tealynn Parker.

Individually, Barker won the 9-10 backstroke.

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Submitted
 The Oregon Titans, made up of high school softball players primarily from McNary and West Salem, placed third in the 16U Gold ASA/USA National Championship in Broken Arrow, Okla. July 19-23.

Titans nationally known

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

The Oregon Titans opened the 16U Gold American Softball Association/USA National Championship 5-0 but up next was a team, Washington Majestics, they had fallen to 9-1 just earlier this summer. "It was probably the toughest team we'd ever seen, this year when we stepped on the field," Titans President Rick Muranaka said. "Our girls hadn't really seen a team like that. We've either dominated or been in close games. One of their pitchers has committed to go to the University of Washington and the other pitcher has committed to go to Boise State. We'd never faced pitchers like that. We came out and our girls were watching them and we were nervous."

In the rematch, Friday in Broken Arrow, Okla., the Majestics again took an early lead, scoring three runs in the top of the fourth.

However, the Titans, primarily made up of high school players from McNary and West Salem, answered with four runs in the bottom of the inning and held on to win 4-3.

"The girls were so fired up to play them," Muranaka said. "They wanted to get revenge. We made some big errors and we were down and our girls kept believing and kept fighting. In the dugout they were so positive. It was super hot. They were running out on the field during timeouts and giving their teammates water. It was really, really cool. Our defense

locked them down and made some really high pressure plays. They were just ready and it was pretty cool to watch."

The Titans ultimately finished third out of the 34 best teams in the country.

Oregon opened pool play with another tight game Tuesday, July 19 morning against Illinois Force.

The Titans were shut out entering the bottom of the seventh before McNary rising junior Nadia Witt drove in two runs to give the Titans a 2-1 victory. Oregon rolled from there, defeating the Firecrackers HTX 14-2 Tuesday and the Louisiana Bombers 11-4 Wednesday to enter tournament play undefeated.

Another incoming McNary junior, Haley Ebner, had three RBIs in an 8-2 win over Originals Earl Thursday morning. The Titans then held on to top the Northwest Raptors 10-9 that night. After another one-run comeback win, 4-3, over Georgia Impact, the Titans went up against the eventual national champion—Texas Bombers.

Muranaka said Texas, which scored two runs in the second and eight in the third to win 10-2, was just the better team.

"That is an amazing team," he said. "Almost every girl is committed to a major D-I program. It was fun to play them. It was really neat and eye-opening for our girls to see a team like that."

Playing on fumes, Oregon then lost to Originals-CK 12-9 Saturday to end the tournament.

"We were playing in 100-degree plus

weather and they just wore down," Muranaka said. "You could see it. Our girls were just tired."

The national tournament followed the Triple Crown World Series in Park City, Utah, where the Titans placed second in the silver bracket just the week before.

"I've had some good teams but I've never had a team this good that's meshed on all different levels, not only just physically but mentally and team bonding," Muranaka said. "It's just been kind of a dream season for us."

Muranaka also credits a talented coaching staff, which includes head coach Missy Doerr, a former University of Oregon catcher, Dave Coe, Kevin Witt and Rick's wife, Sarah Muranaka, an All-American pitcher at Western Oregon, for the team's success.

"They did an amazing job," Rick said. "It's just a really good coaching staff that we brought together and worked well for the kids. I'm so happy that we all work together so well."

Muranaka has also heard from college coaches since the tournament. His daughter, Nalani, and Nadia Witt have already verbally committed to Western Oregon.

"We have a bunch of college coaches that have been calling me," Rick said. "Colleges have seen these girls play this year and are loving them. We're fielding phone calls and trying to get these girls on their visits. It's just a whirlwind. It's crazy."

Columbia River packed with shad



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We are talking about the annual American shad run up the Columbia River.

"Time to hit the Columbia for shad," Donald Koskela, explains with his usual excitement. "Over 60,000 a day are going over the dam. Time to load up the freezer with bait."

Koskela, a longtime friend, is a fishing guide (Pastime Fishing Adventures, out of Silverton), uses shad as bait for sturgeon, halibut and crab. Shad are very oily and makes excellent bait. Fish and crab can detect the scent from great distances.

Shad have thousands of very fine bones. Few people like the combination of odors and bones of shad. Larry Arndt, of Mid-Valley Anglers Fishing Club, does and cans them. Jon Moberg, of Salem, doesn't go until around 100,000 a day are going over. He goes for his annual harvest of shad roe.

The shad run typically peaks every year around Father's Day on the Columbia River, below Bonneville Dam. Some days over 100,000 may pass through the fish ladder.

Arndt holds the Oregon State record, 6 pounds 8 ounces. He fishes below the falls at Oregon City. "I like to start fishing for them a little before Father's Day," he explains. "Years vary, but the run usually peaks about that time. Shad don't climb the fish ladder on the Willamette, so we have longer to fish for them."

Koskela usually invites me to join him for at least one of his shad trips a year. This year we make our annual trek on June 11.

Today, he has invited Mickey Varner, ODFW biologist, to join us.

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Submitted
 Mickey Varner, ODFW biologist, holds up a shad caught on a June 11 fishing trip in the Columbia River.