

just keep swimming

Swimmers reflect on their UT meet



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

At Jamail Texas Swimming Center on Oct. 29, freshman **Andrew Giaouque** swims the 100 meter breaststroke. Giaouque placed 47th overall in the breaststroke. "I improved in that race which was big for me," Giaouque said. "It felt really good to actually improve. I really liked seeing everyone who came to watch [me swim], and the atmosphere was really cool."

RECORD PACE

On Oct. 29, freshman **Sophia Horvath** swims the 500 meter freestyle race. Horvath also swam the 100 meter backstrokes at the meet. "I felt [like] I did good," Horvath said. "I got some of my best times [at that meet]. I [dropped] two seconds off my [500 meter freestyle]. I feel really happy [when I drop time], and [I'm] proud of myself. I feel like I am a lot closer to my goal."

ALL ABOUT THE POOL

Swimming the 50 meter butterfly, sophomore **Zara Pinkerton** competes at the Jamail Texas Swimming Center on Oct. 29. Pinkerton has been a member of the swim team for two years. "My favorite part of competing was the pool," Horvath said. "Some pools feel really slow and tiring to swim in, but the UT pool [makes me] feel like I'm going faster. It was so much fun overall." Photos by: Catherine Biggers

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

At Block House Swimming Pool, senior **Felicity Hesters** swims in the 100 meter butterfly. Hesters placed second overall at the meet on Sept. 22. "I felt like death, but also deeply satisfied," Hester said. "Nothing feels better than training for a race and finally getting to swim it. I always want to come in first, but my friend from Liberty Hill who beat me was very fast, so I was proud of placing second." Photo by: Catherine Biggers

FULL SPEED AHEAD

In the pool at the Blockhouse tri-meet, junior **Alan Hoang** swims the breaststroke. Hoang has been a member of the team for three years. "Backstroke is the easiest [way] to get fast," Hoang said. "It feels good to be able to swim on a team and talk to other people with shared interests." Photo by: Emma Lopez

ALL IN THE STRIDE

Throwing her arm back at the Blockhouse meet on Oct. 8, sophomore **Chandrika Nerne** swims the backstroke. This was the first backstroke race Nerne had swam this season. "It was actually quite nerve-racking," Nerne said. "[In the moment,] I was thinking about if I was going fast enough. [When] engaging in the backstroke, you don't really breathe much, so as soon as I hit that wall at the finish line, I was gasping for air, and I was so happy that it was over." Photo by: Catherine Biggers



IT'S ALL ABOUT TECHNIQUE

On Sept. 10, freshman **Tanner Porch** swims a freestyle stroke at Blockhouse. At the meet, Porch swam with a time of 1:04.94. "Freestyle is my favorite stroke," Porch said. "It's not the easiest, but it's easy to learn. You have to perfect your technique to get good. You can improve [your freestyle] by tweaking techniques." Photo by: Catherine Biggers

TESTING THE WATERS

During the Sprint meet on Nov. 5, senior **Aysia Evans** swims the butterfly. Evans typically swims the freestyle race but wanted to achieve a personal goal of swimming the butterfly. "It was exhilarating and fun," Evans said. "Since it was a race I wasn't really familiar with, I just focused on finishing and trying to beat my own personal time. To me, it was a really good swim [because] I had only swam butterfly one other time. It felt great, and felt even better when my coach acknowledged it and was super happy for me." Photo by: Catherine Biggers



head above water

Swimmers discuss their favorite meet of the season

ROUND ROCK MEET

"So far, my favorite meet has been the Round Rock meet. I dropped over a second in my 50 meter freestyle. It was the first away meet, and we played a lot of games [and bonded as a team]."

CARMEN HAUENSTEIN, 9

A&M MEET

"The Aggieland meet was probably my favorite. It was the biggest travel meet. We stayed in a hotel, so we had a lot of fun with the team and [all] got to hang out [quite a bit]. It was a [little] hectic because the fire alarm system was broken [at the meet], so we had to stop the meet twice."

CHARLES VANSKOY, 11

UT MEET

"My favorite meet was our UT meet because it was really fun to get to swim in the UT pool. They had all of their pool time records, which are the fastest times swam in the pool

[displayed] on the wall. Michael Phelps's name was on there, Missy Franklin and a few other Olympians. It was exciting to know that you're swimming in a pool that Olympians have swam in. It was also just a really great meet for everyone in general. Everyone was super happy to be there, which made it exciting."

ELLA BOON, 10

UT MEET

"UT was my favorite meet because it was the nicest pool I have ever swam in, and it felt amazing to swim in it."

EMMA NELSON, 12



all about that stroke

Two swimmers share their favorite stroke

FREESTYLE

"Freestyle is the fastest, easiest, and most efficient stroke. It also feels the most natural because we practice freestyle the most. I feel strong and have a sense of comfort [swimming freestyle]. It's hard to mess up."

POLINA ZIENTEK, 11

BUTTERFLY

"Butterfly is the stroke I am the best at. My older brother used to say it isn't a stroke, it's a dance, it's an art, and I [believe that to be true]. It's not like other strokes. It's all one motion. You are dancing in the water. It's all one fluid motion that's what I like about it [most]."

HAVEN GIER, 9

all about tradition

DPassed down, sophomore **Georgia Vanscoy** carries on the three-year tradition of taking care of the swim team stuffed lion known as Josh.

"He comes to every meet [with us]," Vanscoy said. "We've [even] taken him across state [lines]. He's a must-have for any event. Everyone just loves him. Whenever people see him, they get really excited and laugh at his little swimsuit."

Vanscoy and the team named the lion after its former owner **Josh Boyer** who graduated last year after spending three years on the team.

"We have this joke that if you are at the first Blockhouse meet, you have to yank his tail three times for good luck," Vanscoy said. "Everyone has to do it, or it's a bad omen, especially the freshmen. It's very important."

This was Enchil's first year as an announcer for the team, meaning her job was to encourage fellow members to participate in school spirit.

"My favorite thing about pep rallies is that it gives us a small break from school to have fun," Enchil said. "I also like how all the organizations practice for hours on end and get to showcase what they've been [working on] each pep rally."

Story by Angelina Lim