

WORCESTER, MA – Worcester Area Masters (WAM) broke many of their team records in an intersquad meet held at WPI on November 18. The meet saw many solid swims from the team just before they taper for the New England SCM Championships. The meet, which followed a high school format, marks the second time WAM has been timed in short course yards.

To start the meet, Claudia Castellanos, Paul O’Leary, Chelsea Bueter, and Ben Hammond bested CJ Dickson, Plutarco Castellanos, Mary Pasquale, and Brian Brochu in the 200-yard medley relay, 2:04.51 to 2:07.00.

Following the first relay, David Benedict, Alana Aubin, and Dickson faced off in the 200-yard freestyle. Benedict was the victor in 2:08.75, beating Aubin at 2:11.75. Both set WAM team records in the 18-24 age group. Dickson finished third in 2:41.00. The 200-yard individual medley was a popular event with six competitors. Hammond came away with the win and team record in 2:14.27, breaking his old record by 1.32 seconds. P. Castellanos (2:22.87) set a team record to beat Bueter (2:24.40) by a narrow margin for second. Alex Beeman (2:29.34), Brochu (2:33.51), and O’Leary (2:52.52) rounded out the field.

Brochu went straight from the 200 IM into the 50-yard freestyle, where he finished second in 28.45. Aubin was the sprint champion in a record-setting 27.02 seconds, and Reidy placed third with his time of 31.44. In the 100-yard butterfly, Bueter out-touched C Castellanos for the win in 1:05.01 against Castellanos’s team age group record of 1:05.89. Pasquale finished third with a solid 1:15.95, earning the team record for her age group. The 100-yard freestyle was another closely contested event. David Benedict defeated P Castellanos by a margin of only 0.05 seconds, 55.51 to 55.56. Castellano’s time set a WAM age group record. Brochu swam a 1:05.14 and Reidy finished in 1:10.32.

In the lone distance event of the day, Beeman came away the titleholder in 5:48.44. Pasquale beat her old WAM team record by almost 20 seconds when she finished in 6:34.56. Dickson completed the event in 7:17.38. WAM put together three teams for the 200-yard freestyle relay. The mixed relay of P Castellanos, Aubin, Bueter, and Brochu bested Jon Gay, Benedict, Hammond, and Reidy, 1:48.89 to 1:53.19. Dickson, Beeman, C Castellanos, and Pasquale turned in a time of 2:02.71.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Bueter and C Castellanos faced off again, with Bueter coming away victorious for the second time. Her time of 1:09.19 beat Castellanos’s age group record 1:09.76 by a small margin. Beeman was third in 1:13.95, and Dickson was fourth in 1:23.09. The 100-yard breaststroke saw another team record fall as Hammond beat his old record of 1:07.64 by almost a second, going 1:06.69. P Castellanos fought back against Benedict to take second in 1:17.59 versus 1:19.14. O’Leary and Reidy were also close, coming in at 1:24.50 and 1:27.96, respectively. All four men set WAM team records.

In the final relay, O'Leary, P Castellanos, Brochu, and Hammond finished in the speedy time of 4:09.15. Beeman, C Castellanos, Reidy, and Bueter were second, and Benedict, Pasquale, Dickson, and Aubin were third in 4:26.15.

WAM competes next at the New England Short Course Meter Championships at Boston University, December 7-9. Go WAM!

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