

WORCESTER, MA -- Worcester Area Masters (WAM) Swimming participated in their final meet of 2012, the New England SCM Championships, at Boston University on December 8 and 9. The Rams brought fifteen swimmers to the meet, nine of whom were new since the NE LCM championships in July. Competing in the medium division for the first time, WAM finished third with 1,064 points, behind SwimRI (1,901) and Boston University Masters (1,348).

Chelsea Bueter swam to 104 points on behalf of WAM. Competing in the 25-29 age group, Bueter earned first place in the 200-meter breaststroke (2:50.93). Her 1:13.74 in the 100-meter backstroke was a masters personal best and worth second place. Bueter grabbed second in all three individual medleys, with times of 1:13.59, 2:38.97, and 5:29.98 in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 400-meter distances. She also touched third in the 200-meter butterfly (3:03.25) and fourth in the 50-meter butterfly (32.56).

Alana Aubin was the team's top scorer, capturing 111 points. She won the 20-24 age group's 100-meter butterfly (1:10.72), as well as the 50-, 100-, and 200-meter freestyle events (30.10, 1:03.95, and 2:22.25). WAM's head coach also took second in the 400-meter freestyle (5:02.10) and third in the 100-meter backstroke (1:16.77) and 100-meter breaststroke (1:29.96).

Plutarco Castellanos made his USMS debut as the top male scorer for WAM, earning 71 points. The 41-year old took first in the 100-meter breaststroke in a time of 1:18.56 and second in the 50-meter butterfly in 29.03. Additionally, Castellanos touched third in the 200-meter individual medley (2:37.80), fourth in the 50-meter freestyle (26.78), and fifth in the 100-meter individual medley (1:07.58).

Ben Hammond packed five events into one day to earn 69 points for the Rams. He took on one event of each stroke and the 400-meter individual medley for an exhausting but productive day. Hammond's 2:42.86 in the 200-yard breaststroke was a personal best time by 7.11 seconds and the top time in the 35-39 age group. Hammond also earned second in the 400-meter individual medley (5:41.55), third in the 200-meter freestyle (2:17.45), fifth in the 200-meter backstroke (2:33.30), and sixth in the 50-meter butterfly with a best time of 29.07.

Competing in her first masters meet since 2008, Claudia Castellanos picked up 65 points in the 35-39 age group. Castellanos had three first place finishes, seizing the top time in the 100-meter butterfly (1:11.89), 100-meter individual medley (1:12.75), and 200-meter individual medley (2:42.60). She also took third place in the 200-meter freestyle (2:24.99).

David Benedict grabbed 60 points in the 20-24 year old age group by racing to two first place finishes. The USMS rookie earned wins in the 100-meter freestyle (58.59) and the 100-meter breaststroke (1:23.83). He also took fourth place in the 50-meter freestyle (26.83) and 100-meter individual medley (1:10.82). Competing in the same age group as Benedict, Alex Beeman made his masters debut with 46 points for WAM. The 23-year old showed off his versatility by placing first in the 200-meter backstroke (2:32.35) and 100-yard butterfly (1:12.27), and fifth in the 200-meter freestyle (2:20.13).

Mary Pasquale came through with 43 points for WAM. Swimming the 50-meter butterfly for the first time, she earned second place in 36.75. She also took third in the 100-meter individual medley (1:23.18), taking almost 5 seconds off her previous best time from 2011. Her third place finish in the 400-meter

freestyle (5:34.93) a 200-meter split that was faster than her previous 200-meter freestyle best time; quite an impressive feat! Kerrie Noone made her first appearance for the Rams a strong one, swimming three events for 40 points in the 40-44 age group. Noone captured second place in the 400-meter individual medley in 6:53.81, third in the 200-meter backstroke (3:03.71), and sixth in the 100 individual medley (1:27.41).

Gail Holland competed in the 50-54 age group and contributed 38 points to WAM. Injuries prevented her from diving from the blocks, but Holland still had an impressive showing. She competed in all three butterfly events, taking fourth in the 200-meter (3:23.10), seventh in the 100-meter (1:29.40), and thirteenth in the 50-meter (42.04). Holland also swam the 100-meter breaststroke, placing sixth in 1:39.78, her best time as a WAMmie. Chris Reidy, competing in his first masters swim meet, took 28 points in the 60-64 age group. Reidy swam to third place in the 50-meter breaststroke (42.21) and 100-meter breaststroke (1:34.54) for 14 points apiece.

Sarah Skaret gained 31 points in the 25-29 age group by beating her times from October's Concord Mini Meet. Skaret raced to sixth in the 50-meter breaststroke (47.80) and ninth in the 50-meter freestyle (37.87). She also added the 100-meter breaststroke to her schedule, placing fifth in 1:47.46. In the same age group, Jen Piepenbrink gained 26 points for WAM by taking fourth in both the 50-meter freestyle (30.75) and 400-meter freestyle (5:12.77) in her first masters swim meet.

Paul Arsenault, competing in the 50-54 age group, took on a heavy schedule and scored 26 points over the course of the weekend. His top finish was ninth place in the first breaststroke race of his career, the 50-meter breaststroke (53.48). Arsenault earned a personal best time of 1:15.86 in the 100-meter freestyle, good for fourteenth place in the event. He was also tenth in the 50-meter backstroke (46.19), eleventh in the 400-meter freestyle (6:18.12), and fifteenth in the 200-meter freestyle (2:57.93). Another member of the 50-54 age group, Paul O'Leary earned 6 points, finishing eleventh in the 100-meter individual medley (1:21.76) and nineteenth in the 50-meter freestyle (32.34) in his first masters meet.

WAM also had strong showings from all of their relays, as the team won one division in each relay. In the 400-meter freestyle relay, WAM was triumphant in the Men's 120-159 group, placed second in Women's 100-119, and took fifth in Mixed 160-199. In the 200-meter medley relay, the Mixed 160-199 team took first place, while the Women picked up second in 100-119 class and the Men grabbed third in 120-159. In the 400-meter medley relay, the Ram's Mixed 120-159 team was victorious, while the Mixed 160-199 squad touched fourth. In the 200-meter freestyle relay, WAM's Mixed 100-119 team won and the Mixed 160-199 took fourth.

WAM is now on a training break until January 8th. Their next championship meet will be the New England Short Course Yards Championships at Harvard March 22-24, 2013.

[Results](#)

Alana Aubin, Dec 2012