

## Lane Tech cruises past Northside for city title

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By JOSH FEINZIMER

The Lane Tech and Northside College Prep girls swimming teams have established a friendly rivalry as the top two swim teams in Chicago.

In an earlier dual meet this season, Northside got the best of Lane with an upset victory.

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**Lane Tech's Morgan Monroe (right) and Nicole Simmons embrace after finishing first and second, respectively, in the 100 freestyle at the city finals.**

*(Michael Jarecki/For Pioneer Press)*

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**Monica Pinkus of Northside/Sullivan Co-op swims in the 100-yard breaststroke in the city championship at UIC last Saturday. Pinkus won the race in a time of 1:10.54.**

*(Michael Jarecki/For Pioneer Press)*

"A lot of them look forward to beating Lane in our dual meet," Ceja said. "That was a big upset. Beating Lane was something we haven't done in a long time. After that, they thought that winning city was something they could do."

Unfortunately for Ceja's girls, the Indians got the best of the Mustangs at city.

Lane finished in first place with 399 points while Northside/Sullivan Co-op captured second place honors with 346 points. Young finished just off the pace with 335 and Payton was next with 253.

"We wanted to win city, it was one of our goals," Lane Tech standout Jill Schmucker said. "When we did it, we were so happy."

Schmucker finished first in the 100 yard backstroke (1:00.54) followed by Northside's Alexa Chavez (1:01.41) and Lane's Kamila Szczepanik (1:06.26).

"I improved a lot in the 100 backstroke," Schmucker said. "That was the fastest I've ever finished it. It takes a lot of practice. My teammates help a lot; we have to push each other."

In the 200 IM, the two top finishers were from Lane in Morgan Monroe (2:19.31) and Taylor Miller (2:22.66). Northside's Megan Grant was just off the pace in third with a 2:22.99.

Monroe added her second title in the 100 freestyle (54.70) and she was followed by teammate Nicole Simmons (57.01) and Payton's Morgan Baker (58.51).

In the 500 freestyle Lane's Usah Sontep finished first (5:32.23) followed by Szczepanik (5:41.69) and Young's Yari Casimiro (6:05.56).

Chavez, Mary Mussman, Grant and Monica Pinkus of Northside set a city record with a 1:56.37 mark in the 200 yard medley relay.

Ceja was encouraged by his girls' performances in the meet.

"Overall, we've had a good season," Ceja said. "We won the city relay, we won the sophomore city championship and we have two possible state qualifiers."

Chavez, a freshman, has been a consistent front runner in the 200 freestyle. In the city meet she finished first in that event with a time of 2:01.19.

Meanwhile, teammate Monica Pinkus is just off the state qualifying pace in the 100 breaststroke at 1:10.54.

"We were sort of disappointed we didn't win the city championship, but we were still happy," Pinkus said. "It felt good beating Young."

As for her goals heading into the sectional this week, Pinkus was focused and candid.

"I want to improve on my 50 yard freestyle time and I'd like to see Alexa (Chavez) qualify for state."

In the 50 freestyle, Pinkus (26.05) was just off the pace of Simmons who won the race in a time of 25.81.

Ceja has his team primed for sectionals.

"(Our preparation) goes back to the beginning of the season workouts," Ceja said. "We see if they're at where we expect them to be at different points (of the season). Towards the end of the season we do two-a-days and then we begin a taper session for two weeks to give their muscles time to repair."

Other key contributors for Northside have been Mussman, a freshman who finished right behind Pinkus in the 100 breaststroke at 1:11.64.

Grant was among the leaders in several events including a second place finish in the 100 butterfly at 1:05.82. Gail Wilcoxon (1:04.94) of Young finished first and Taylor Miller (1:06.21) from Lane finished third in that event.

Northside also earned some much needed points from Michelle Pusateri winning both the 1-meter and 5-meter titles.