

## The Bolles School Sharks High School Season

Back in late August/early September, Coach Sergio stood before the Bolles High School team and announced that there were thirteen weeks to go until the State Championships. He said those weeks would pass in the blink of an eye and they have. Thirteen weeks is not a lot of time in the swimming world and it is a credit to our student-athletes, their parents, all of the volunteer officials, and the coaching staff that at the end of these thirteen weeks there is no doubt in anyone's mind where to find the best **Team** in Florida: 7400 San Jose Boulevard – Jacksonville, Florida.

This year the Bolles School won its twenty-first consecutive boys' swimming and diving state title. The girls won their eighteenth consecutive girls' swimming and diving title. Think about those numbers. Twenty-one and eighteen. *In a row!* Winning the state title may be expected by many, but every single title the Bolles School has won has required absolute dedication, focus, and faith in ourselves and each other as a **Team**.

This year the Bolles School fielded the strongest, most unified **Team** in the state. The contagious excitement at the FHSAA Class 1A State Championship started to spread with a national record by the girls' 200 medley relay team of Aubrey Peacock, Caitlin Mumford, Megan Fonteno, and Dana Nessler. It was the first event of the night, and from there the Bolles School went on to win a total of 12 out of 24 events at the 1A Championship. It included a high school state record by Aubrey Peacock in the 100 backstroke; a high school state record by the girl's 400 freestyle relay team of Aubrey peacock, Dana Nessler, Casey Sandlin, and Megan Fonteno, a high school state record by the boys' 200 freestyle relay team of Blair Schiller, Chris Sadsad, Bryce Bertoli, and Tommy Gutman; a 13-14 age group state record by Chandler Soapes in the 100 backstroke; and a 13-14 age group state record by Ryan Murphy in the 100 backstroke. Both Chandler and Ryan placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 back. Megan Fonteno broke the school record in the 100 butterfly. Bolles swimmers and divers also finished the podium in the women's 200 IM by Aubrey Peacock (1) & Kyle Talwar (2), 100 breast by Caitlin Mumford (1) & Kyle Talwar (2), 50 free by Megan Fonteno (1) & Dana Nessler (2), 100 free by Dana Nessler (2), 200 free relay by Casey Sandlin, Ashley Butler, Gwen Vanden Noort and Taylor Josserand (2) and in the 1meter diving by Danielle Risley (3). In the boy's side they finished in the podium in the 200 free by Blair Schiller (2), 200 IM by Marco Aldabe (2), 50 free by Tommy Gutman (1), 100 fly by Timmy Romano (3), 100 free by Blair Schiller (1) and Tommy Gutman (2), 100 breast by Sergio Lujan (1) and the 400 Free Relay by Blair Schiller, Marco Aldabe, Timmy Romano and Tommy Gutman (1). Most of the rest of our swimmers finished in the top 16 in their events.

While the Bolles School won two more championships this year, those victories were also thanks to the effort and unity of our entire **Team** which includes dozens of swimmers who train here at Bolles but compete for other high schools in our area. Raymond DePadua (Bishop Snyder) finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly at the 1A Championship. Kathryn Brewer (Creekside) finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the 100 butterfly and her teammate Zach Lowe finished also 11<sup>th</sup> in the 100 free at the 1A Championship. Matt Schlytter (Nease) finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 Free and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 freestyle at the 2A

championship, John Michael-Hayes (Bishop Kenny) finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200 IM and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 100 back, and Ian Apple (Paxon) finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200 IM and 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100 free. In the girl's side Grace Hoffman (Nease) finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle at 2A. Heather Coutts (Bishop Kenny) took 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 2A championship in the 100 butterfly, with Anastasia Ivanova (Stanton) taking 4<sup>th</sup>, Caroline O'Leary (Bishop Kenny) getting 8<sup>th</sup>, and Gemma Hoffman (Nease) placing 9<sup>th</sup>. At the 3A Championship Alyssa Bodin (Bartram Trail) took 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breaststroke and 12<sup>th</sup> in the 200 IM.

Not all student-athletes who train here at Bolles and competed in high school swimming and diving scored in the top 16 at their respective State Championship meet. Not all qualified to compete at the meet. But what makes our **Team** so special is that whether a member needed a best time to make the State/Region/District meet or now holds a national record, each person is a member of the same **Team** and is committed to the same goals of becoming a better person, a better student, and a better swimmer. These are individual goals that are different for each person, but reaching them takes the strength, dedication, and will of a true **Team**.

Congratulations to everyone who played a role in making our **Team** the best in Florida and let's stay committed to our goals, expand our horizons, and ride the wave of this championship season to a brighter future for our entire **Bolles Sharks Swimming Team**.