

Judge, Bingham swim to Holiday Classic titles

By Dan Rasmussen
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Probably the most significant aspect of the second-annual Judge Memorial Holiday Classic was the fact that it offered a preview of how the 4A girls swimming championships might turn out.

Timpview edged East for the 4A girls title a year ago, and those two squads were part of an 11-school field at the Classic, which concluded Saturday morning.

The top-ranked Thunderbirds, behind Kanani Roberts, Meagan Stone and Co., demonstrated why they remain the team to beat in 4A. Timpview finished second overall to Judge and was nearly 100 points ahead of No. 2 East on the girls side.

"It was a good little sneak peak of what to expect (at state)," said Timpview coach Jessica Laws.

Meanwhile, surprising Bingham won on the boys side, beating out Springville 362 points to 332.

In fairness, East's girls team was without star junior Shelby Bull, due to illness. Also, because of a school dance, it didn't have BYU-bound senior Sara Jayne Christiansen on Saturday. Christiansen did swim—and win—two individual events Friday, but she only swam in one relay and would have helped the Leopards in other ways.

Nonetheless, it was a solid outing for Timpview, which was looking forward to swimming against East.

"It's just really good for us to kind of see where we measure up against them," said Laws.

Asked to assess how she thought her squad matched up with East, Laws responded: "We're shooting for state, but we'll see what happens. You never know. That's our goal: To defend our championship."

On the other hand, Bingham coach Andee Bouwhuis was surprised at how well both her teams swam at the Classic.

"This weekend shocked the heck out of me," she said.

On the boys side, the Miners finished 1-2 in the 500 free. Jeremy Koyle dropped a whopping nine seconds en route to the win, beating out teammate Josh Rueckert.

On the whole, coaches praised the Judge Memorial Holiday Classic, which was held for the second time. Judge coach Matt Finnigan, responsible for organizing it, noted that Tooele High also had an invitational this weekend.

"People want to come to this meet," Finnigan said of the Classic, "and we're proud to have them. We're looking at having the same spots next year."