

FitzMall.com features:
 CarFind Search new and used
 AutoMalls Find products and services

Copyright © 2008 Post-Newsweek Media, Inc./Gazette.Net
 Contact Us | About Us | Privacy Policy | FAQ | E-Letters | Place Classified ad |
 The Gazette 2008 Montgomery County, Md. 20870-1000 Phone: 301-670-2565, classifieds: 301-670-2500

Fitzgerald
 FitzMall.com SINCE 1966

Way

All vehicles have discounted, delivered, no haggle prices. Shop now!

AFI Silver
 Summer movie schedule
 FIND A MOVIE >>>

Gazette.Net

Maryland Community Newspapers Online

Now 84° Sun 88°/76° Mon 90°/70° 5-day forecast Traffic

Search
 Advanced Search

Montgomery | Prince George's | Frederick | Carroll | Sports | Politics | Business | Entertainment | Speak Out | Jobs | Autos | Homes | Classifieds

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

National-level swimmers relish local competition

Friedland leads bevy of stars in MCSL divisional meet
 by Jennifer Beekman | Staff Writer

[E-mail this article](#) | [Print this article](#)

After setting Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming Championships meet records in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 breaststroke last winter, recent Walter Johnson graduate Eric Friedland has had a busy summer.

More News

- [School board gets tour of Oakdale](#)
- [Church offers labyrinth for reflection](#)
- [Magruder grad earns Kiwanis award](#)
- [Gaithersburg West waits until next year](#)
- [Coffee drinkers cool cafe closures](#)

The University of Texas-bound swimmer, 17, finished 16th of 65 athletes in the 200-meter breaststroke at the 2008 Olympic Trials, June 29-July 6 in Omaha, Neb. He didn't make this year's Olympic squad, but earned an invitation to represent the United States at the FINA Youth World Championships in Monterrey, Mexico July 7-14, where he finished sixth in the 100 breaststroke and was part of the bronze-medal-winning 400 freestyle relay.

Despite his success at the national and international levels, Friedland hasn't forgotten his swimming roots. He was at the Upper County Swim Club at 7 a.m. Saturday, representing Tilden Woods at the Montgomery County Swim League Division A meet.

"I grew up with Tilden Woods, these guys are like my second family," Friedland said. "I don't know where I'd be if it weren't for them, so it's important for me to come back."

Friedland won four races: 100 free, 100 IM, 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke, setting a league record in the latter. It wasn't enough to push Tilden Woods into first, though.

Rockville won its fourth consecutive divisional meet Saturday, with a 1029.5-960 advantage over TW. Mill Creek Towne finished third with 807.5 points and Bethesda (688.5), Upper County (649) and Flower Valley (492.5) placed fourth, fifth and sixth.

"I'm not disappointed with second," Friedland said. "We knew it was a long shot to win. But we all worked our butts off and put our heart and soul into the meet. We did better than we were supposed to do."

The MCSL consists of 89 teams, spread throughout Montgomery County and split into 15 divisions. The six-week season culminated over the weekend with the divisional meets.

THIS WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.
 Search right this second
 Gazette.Net



J. Adam Fenster/The Gazette
 Eric Friedland wins the 100-meter individual medley for Tilden Woods Saturday in the MCSL Division I meet. Friedland also won the 100 free, the 100 back and the 100 breast.

THIS WEEKEND

Find out where to be and what to see.

Search Gazette.Net's
NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY CALENDAR
 right this second. GO ▶

FEATURED JOBS

BUS OPERATORS WANTED
 EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE! Starting Pay \$16.36/hour
 Paid Training/ 2 More

HAIR STYLIST Experienced
 hair stylist wanted for recently renovated downtown Silver Spring
 More

SECURITY Armored Driver/
 Messenger (FT/PT) Bowie, MD Up to \$2,500 Hiring Bonus (terms and conditions More

DENTAL ASST Rock/
 Gaith area. Mon-Thurs. Experience preferred. MD x-ray certification required. More

See All Featured Ads

TOP JOBS

GOT JOB? The
 Gazette & Star's ONLINE Job Fair
 September 15th - 26th Attention

CLASSIFIEDS

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Merchandise](#)
- [Apartments](#)
- [Legals](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Place an ad](#)

SEARCH DIRECTORIES

Search all directories
 or pick a category below to search now

Categories

Pick One
 Childcare Assistance
 Childcare Wanted
 Convalescent Home (C
 Domestic Services Of

SEARCH

their communities, as well.

MCSL is not the same environment as U.S. Swimming competitions, but it's where most of these swimmers' careers were cultivated. The league is ripe with friendly neighborhood rivalries, and these swimmers relish in the opportunity to represent their communities.


Chuang won four events — 100 free, 100 backstroke, 100 IM, 50 butterfly — to lead Rockville to victory. Fox set three MCSL records in helping Hallowell to first place in the Division B meet and Stewart won four races — 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 100 individual medley, 50 butterfly — to lead Woodley Gardens to the Division C title.

“[Saturday's] meet was definitely close, my heart was pounding as they read the scores out,” Chuang said. “Division A has a lot of top swimmers, so I think it came down to the small details, whoever had better turns, better finishes. ...

“Around here we may be the top dogs but you go to a big meet like Olympic Trials and it's very humbling and puts you in your place. Meets like this give you confidence. You always try hard to win.”

Division assignments for next year haven't been finalized, but teams do move up and down based on each year's results. Swimmers' times are put together in a computer and based on that each team is given a certain score. Teams are divided into divisions each year by those scores.

MCSL officials intend to have the 2009 division alignments set within the next couple of weeks.



STAUNTON
VIRGINIA

Call today
for your Free Visitor's Guide
1-800-342-7982
www.VisitStaunton.com