

Kennedy Catholic Girls Swim Team Begins Season on a Positive Note at the Al Buncher Relay Carnival

Following two solid weeks of training at Lincoln Hall, the Kennedy Catholic Girls Swim and Dive Team opened its 2008 season by participating in the 28th annual Al Buncher Relay Carnival at White Plains High School on Sept. 10.

The Kennedy team has faced extensive turnover from the previous two seasons, with seven seniors graduating after the 2006 campaign and three seniors and five underclassmen leaving after last year. In fact, the only swimmer remaining from the 2006 season is junior captain Alexandra Panzarino '10. Joining Alex back from last season's squad are juniors Kathryn Windas '10, Megan O'Connor '10, and April Mante '10, plus talented sophomores Laura Krasniqi '11 and Gabrielle Spalvieri '11. Fortunately, there have been some fine additions to bolster the 2008 team: Seniors Paige Hoffmann '09 and Melanie Palmietto '09, sophomores Meghan Lenzi '11, Kelsey Royael '11, and Jacqueline Tosta '11, and freshmen Victoria Holzinger '12, Grace Mante '12, and Meaghan Sullivan '12.

Under the tutelage of returning head coach Paul Alvarez and Michael Panzarino, the team has rapidly assumed a new identity and outlook. At the Relay Carnival, Kennedy took an unprecedented three gold medals, winning three of the six swim relay events in Class C.

In the 200 Breaststroke Relay, the Kennedy team comprised of Gabrielle Spalvieri, Melanie Palmietto, Grace Mante, and Laura Krasniqi captured first place in a time of 2:48.20. Next, Kennedy was victorious in the 200 Butterfly Relay in a time of 2:18.79. The butterfly contingent was Laura Krasniqi, Jacqueline Tosta, Victoria Holzinger, and Captain Alexandra Panzarino. In the final swimming event, the Lady Gaels squad of Paige Hoffmann, Gabrielle Spalvieri, Alexandra Panzarino, and Meghan Lenzi won the 200 Medley Relay in 2:05.30.

This event was a great confidence builder for the Kennedy Catholic swim team. Come out and cheer on your Lady Gaels on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 5 p.m., as the team takes on Keio at Westchester Community College.

– Reporting by Jim Coughlin