



2019 U.S. Bank State Swimming & Diving Championships



La Cueva Wins Boys Team Title

The 2019 U.S. Bank State Swimming Championships were not decided until the very last race of the day. The La Cueva boys clinched the blue trophy with 280 points, following their performance in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The Bears posted the second-best time in the event at 3:12.18, just behind Cibola (3:11.85). Los Alamos finished second with 276 points and Albuquerque Academy took third with 272.5. This was La Cueva's first swimming championship since 1996. Santa Fe Prep claimed the boys' team A-3A title.

One state record was broken and another swimmer tied a state mark in the finals. La Cueva senior Jack Hoagland set a new record in the 200-yard individual medley. The Notre Dame-bound standout swam the event in a time of 1:48.01, a mere 0.03 seconds off the mark set by Cibola's Josh Harlan the season before. Hoagland also helped his team total by winning the 500-yard freestyle race in a time of 4:37.92.

Cibola's Keelan Hart tied the state record in the 100-yard Freestyle event. Hart touched the wall in a time of 44.72 seconds, matching Cibola's John Holler from 2015. Hart also won the 50-yard Freestyle event in a time of 20.68. The Cibola senior was also a part of the Cougars' winning team in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay. Aidan Gallegos, Ryan Cordray and Keelan's younger brother, Jamin, clocked a winning time of 1:27.81.

The day started with the Cleveland boys winning the 200-yard Medley Relay. The team of Eli Meyer, Kendall Southwell, Camron Pazand and Brady Peters posted a time of 1:35.58, just edging out the La Cueva boys.

Sandia senior Josph Cecco won the 200-yard freestyle event in a time of 1:42.39. His teammate Max Hawton took first in the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 49.57. First place in the boys' 100-yard Butterfly went to Eldorado sophomore Darien O'Donnell, with a time of 49.42. Albuquerque High's Pierce Holler won the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 56.56.

The boys 1-meter diving title went to Eldorado's Isaac Newman. The junior scored 567.60 points, coming up a little short on his attempt at the state record. Newman did, however, break his own pool record from the previous season by more than 10 points.



Chargers Hoist Blue Trophy for the Third Straight Year

For the third year in a row, the Albuquerque Academy girls' swim team captured the U.S. Bank State Swimming Championships. Depth was the name of the game once again for the Chargers. Academy finished with 383 points. La Cueva was second with 314 and Clovis third with 225. Santa Fe Prep claimed the small school's blue trophy.

Academy's young roster was led by Allison Bernier. The super sophomore claimed her first victory of the day in the 200-yard individual medley, winning the event in a time of 2:05.61. Bernier also claimed another individual title in the 500-yard freestyle, touching the wall in a time of 4:59.30. Bernier was also a part of Academy's first place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay, along with Sofia Taylor, Sowang Kundeling and Kaci Jarry (1:38.93).

Despite their second-place team finish, a couple of La Cueva seniors produced some winning moments. Chrysten Pacheco won the 200-yard freestyle (1:52.09) and the 100-yard butterfly (56.11). Her teammate Natalie Jones won individual titles in both the 50-yard freestyle (23.71) and 100-yard freestyle (52.46). The La Cueva team of Emma Long, Jones, Pacheco and Hannah Meek won the girls' 200-yard medley relay in a time of 1:47.79. Long, Pacheco and Jones also joined Hannah Grenemyer on La Cueva's winning 400-yard freestyle relay team (3:31.78).

Sandia's Fiona Trotz-Chavez won the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 57.90. The 100-yard breaststroke title went to Grace Gehlert of Eldorado (1:05.07).

The girls' 1-meter diving title went to Albuquerque High's Jessica Albanna, with a score of 469.05, edging out her teammate Nadine Coulie by less than 17 points.

