

Tigershark swimmers reach national championships

CUYAHOGA FALLS: Seven members of the Cuyahoga Falls Riverfront YMCA Tigersharks swim team earned the chance to compete on a national level during recent championship events.

Swimmers had to achieve national qualifying times to participate in individual or relay events during the 2012 YMCA Nationals in Greensboro, N.C., and at the National Age-group Swimming Association (NASA) Showcase Classic in Clearwater, Fla. Both prestigious meets took place in April.

At the NASA meet, Giovanna Cappabianca of Stow finished third overall among 58 girls in 10-year-old age group.

Cappabianca swam to first-place finishes in the finals in three events: the 100-yard breaststroke (1:13.15), 50 breaststroke (34.16) and 200 individual medley (2:21.21). She also finished second in the 100 IM, fourth in the 50 butterfly, sixth in the 200 freestyle, seventh in the 50 freestyle and 500 freestyle and eighth in the 100 freestyle.

Andrew Appleby, 17, of Silver Lake placed highest among the Tigershark swimmers at the YMCA Nationals, finishing seventh in the boys' 100 backstroke with a time of 50.26. Unlike the NASA event, qualifying times and results for the YMCA national championship were not separated by age.

Appleby, a two-time high school state championship qualifier, also took 15th in the 50 freestyle (21.19) and 21st in the 100 freestyle (46.37) and 200 backstroke (1:50.89).

Lauren Heller, 14, of Stow finished 18th in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:52.12. She also finished 24th in the 50 freestyle (23.90) and 100 freestyle (51.89).

Other Tigershark swimmers who competed at the YMCA Nationals include Ryan Hillyer, 17, of Silver Lake; Alyssa Heller, 15, of Stow; Becca Hoffman, 17, of Solon; and Morgan Lydic, 17, of Cuyahoga Falls.

“I’m proud of our National swimmers for their achievements,” Tigersharks head coach Dale Craddock said. “They represented the Tigersharks and the region well at these championship events.”

The Tigersharks swim team is based at the Cuyahoga Falls Riverfront YMCA and holds its home meets at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium. The Tigersharks compete against other YMCA swim teams from throughout Northeast Ohio, as well as in USA Swimming meets.

The team is open to competitive swimmers of all ability levels and experience. For more information, visit <http://www.cfyntigersharks.com>.