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## Brother Rice on track at Shack swim meet

January 15, 2012

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The Schack Invitational Boys Swimming and Diving meet hosted by Cranbrook Kingswood provides a nice gauge as to where teams stand at this juncture of the season.

This year's 12th annual get-together was held Jan. 7 with six of Oakland County's top teams spanning three different divisions vying for top honors.

Birmingham Brother Rice won the high-quality meet which produced numerous state-qualifying swims with 250 points. Novi Catholic Central was a distant runner-up with 176 points, followed by the host Cranes (159), Bloomfield Hills Lahser (140), Bloomfield Hills Andover (92) and a split squad representing Birmingham Seaholm (68).

"We are itching for feedback," said Brother Rice's veteran head coach Mike Venos. "The Schack is a fun, fast meet with Oakland teams. With all the mega leagues and club teams, it's not often the Oakland County teams get to swim in a meet."

Cranbrook Kingswood head coach Tony Kurth, who led the girls team to its first ever state championship last fall, enjoys the competition.

"The Schack Invitational gives the swimmers a chance to get some valuable feedback," said Kurth. "After all the intensity of the winter break training sessions, it's a post-break, stress-relieving meet, but with some serious competition that helps us evaluate our progress."

Catholic Central head coach Shannon Dunworth also looks forward to the early feedback the meet provides.

"It's our first meet of the season, and we really use it to gauge the success of our pre-season work," said Dunworth whose team is on the rise as a state power since taking over the Shamrock program seven years ago. "In any other sport, a record of 0-8 would be a disaster. But with swimming, you can have a successful 0-8 season because you have many personal bests, though you did not manage to win a meet. You could still hold your head high."

Andover head coach Dave Zulkiewski, whose team has had to alter its training schedule because of pool reconstruction, called the meet a "good learning experience."

Brother Rice, No. 3 in the Division 1 state rankings, won all three relays and three individual events. Pat Nodland took the 50-free (22.45), Joe Krause won the butterfly (53.17) and Gus Kouvaris won the 100-free (48.98).

Cranbrook Kingswood junior Matthew Liu was one of the meet's two double winners. Liu raced to victories in the 200-IM (2:01.11) and the 100-breast (1:01.52).

Catholic Central's distance standout Colin Brinkman won both the 200-free (1:47.27) and the 500-free (4:55.32). CC teammate Jack Walsh won the backstroke (55.81).

Bloomfield Hills Andover took the top three spots and swept the diving competition. Ivan Spizzen topped the 11-person field with a score of 205.2. He was followed by teammates Connor Yee (190.05) and Truman Lorick (124.96).

Lahser's top swimmers included John Schihl who was second in the 100-breast and Joe Bujold who placed third in the 100-back.



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