



**Featured Athlete/Coach Archives**  
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### Previous Featured Articles for 2006

[VSA Championships Part B](#)  
[VSA Championships Part A](#)  
[Rec Championships 7/29 and 7/30](#)  
[Far Western LC Championships](#)  
[Terrapins Qualify 10 for Nationals](#)  
[Mitchell and Mom Inspire Heim-Bowen](#)  
[2004 Olympic Gold Medalist Brendan Hansen](#)  
[2006 NCS Championships](#)  
[2006 BCS Championships](#)

### Previous Featured Articles for 2005

[2005 County Championship](#)  
[Black Hawk Strikes Back at VSA Championship](#)  
[Vista Diablo & Diablo Water Polo's Mason Kinnard](#)  
[Gehring Gators Go Gang Busters...](#)  
[Michael Phelps at May's Stanford Grand Prix](#)  
[NCS in Walnut Creek](#)  
[De La Salle Invitational](#)  
[College Park HS & Gehring Gators](#)  
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 3](#)  
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 2](#)  
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 1](#)  
[Cal-Stanford Women Diving](#)

## AT Feature: Valley Swim Association Championships Part B

Photos by Deborah Johnson



*Blackhawk's Madison White (11) taking the plunge to swim 50 yard backstroke, emerging the victor in a 30.8,3.8 seconds under county time and just .7 seconds off VSA league record, which I expect she will smash next year!*

### An exciting day at VSA Championships!

Story by Howard Klein, Pres. Blackhawk Swim Team

They began arriving before 6 a.m.--the slamming of car doors and the hauling out of pop-up canopies breaking the silence of the otherwise serene morning. What was a quiet, park-like setting an hour before, was now the temporary encampment of umbrellas, chairs, team colors and youthful anticipation!

For the past few years, the Valley Swim Association (VSA), which is comprised of nine swim teams from the Alamo-Danville-San Ramon area, has been the premier recreational swim league in Contra Costa County. In 2004 and 2005, the County swim champions were VSA teams; and last year, the three highest scoring teams at the County Championship meet all hailed from the VSA. Furthermore, this season, those three teams--Crow Canyon Sea Lions, Blackhawk Hox and Round Hill Heat--all swam very tight dual meets against each other, with Round Hill eventually emerging as the undefeated dual meet champion. So, it was no surprise that the VSA Championship meet held Saturday, August 5 at Chabot College in Hayward, was phenomenally fast and spectacularly close! But, no one could have predicted the surprise finish that was in store for what remained of the some 1,500 swimmers who decided to wait for the results nearly an hour after the meet concluded.

It took only four events before the first of what would be thirteen new meet records were set during the course of a very long day. That race, the 9-10 boys

Cal-Stanford Women, Part 2  
 Cal-Stanford Women, Part 1  
 Olympian, Michael Phelps  
 Olympian, Ian Crocker

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 Olympic Diver Kimiko Soldati-Part 1  
 DVC Men's Water Polo  
 Aquatic Times Hosts Bottomline Aquatic Clinic  
 Pacific Masters 2004 SC Champs  
 Natalie Coughlin in at NorCal in WC  
 Olympic Diver, Kimiko Hirai Soldati  
 Crow Canyon Coach Matt Struempf  
 Aquanut Show II  
 Aquanut Show I  
 County Championships II  
 County Championships I  
 VSA's Championships  
 Caitlyn Gunn  
 Tri-Valley Master Water Polo Team  
 Forest Parks' Marco Brunamonti  
 Crow Canyon Coaches  
 WHO's Charlotte Brown  
 Antioch Delta Skimmer, Emily Gonzales  
 Bentley HS and WCAB Swimmer, Dash  
 Rothberg  
 Lamorinda Water Polo Coach, Boyd LaChance  
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Coach Leonard Chaplin-DVC  
 Coach Brian Holm-Dewing Park  
 Coaches From Around the League 4  
 Coaches From Around the League 3  
 Coaches From Around the League 2  
 Coaches From Around the League 1  
 Coaches-Walnut Creek Championships  
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 Jocelyn Chang  
 Ryan Wall  
 Dewing Park 8&un Girls  
 Jimmy Bailey-Diablo Valley College  
 Blake Henderson  
 Chelsea Allard  
 Suzanne Heim-Bowen

100 yard I.M., was won by Dillon Williams of Crow Canyon. The stage was set, and throughout the rest of the day records fell as swimmers from Crow Canyon, Blackhawk, and Roundhill, along with the other VSA teams--Sycamore Stingrays, Danville Sea Devils, Del Amigo Dolphins, San Ramon Aquacats, Club Sport of San Ramon Marlins, and the Diablo Sharks battled it out in Chabot College Pool.

At the end of the breaststroke events, with slightly more than half of the meet finished, Crow Canyon clung to a slim lead over Round Hill, with Blackhawk in a solid third place. After backstroke, Crow Canyon had extended their lead to more than 140 points over Blackhawk, who had edged above Round Hill. By the end of the butterfly events, Blackhawk would still be trailing Crow Canyon, but by chopping off more than 100 points from the lead, trailed by a mere 36 points!

All that remained were the freestyle relays. Of the 12 freestyle relay events, Blackhawk would win six and Crow Canyon would win five. But, with the top 16 places scoring and each team able to score points for second relays, it was impossible to predict the outcome. As teams waited by the pool, officials huddled over the computer churning out results. The results--tabulated, checked, and checked again--were finally ready. Dividing nearly 4,900 points between them, Crow Canyon and Blackhawk ended the meet in a tie with 2,428 points each! Reactions ranging from jubilation to disbelief swept over the crowd, who finally made their way to the parking lot after a long day of swim races. Round Hill finished with a strong third about 120 points behind. Moving up to fourth place and entering the A Division for the first time were the Diablo Sharks, who finished 200 points ahead of fifth place Del Amigo. Rounding out the standings were San Ramon (6th), Danville (7th), Sycamore (8th), and Club Sport (9th). Club Sport was awarded the most improved team, adding more than 200 points to their 2005 total.

### RECORDS:

Besides Dillon Williams' record in the 100 I.M., other records were set by *Crow Canyon* were:  
 Daniella Orlandi (9-10 fly), Byron Gruendl (13-14 free), and Dillon Williams again (9-10 fly).  
*Blackhawk* record setters were: Makenna Turner (6 & under fly), Georgi Cappelletti (15-18 free), Forrest White (7-8 back), Noah Sol (7-8 breast), David Morgan (9-10 free), and Steven Stumph (11-12 I.M.).  
 Charlotte Meier of *Del Amigo* set the 6 & under back record.  
*Diablo's* Natalie Knowles of set the 7-8 back record.  
 And, Christina Ray of *Round Hill* set the 11-12 free record.

### In addition to the 13 individual records set at the meet, there were seven RELAY RECORDS set at the meet:

*9-10 Girls medley and freestyle relays by Crow Canyon*  
*7-8 Boys medley relay by Blackhawk*  
*9-10 Boys medley and freestyle relays by Crow Canyon*  
*15-18 Boys medley and freestyle relays by Crow Canyon*

### AWARDS:

High Point awards were given to the following swimmers who placed first in 2 of their individual events:

*6 & Under Girl-* Charlotte Meier (Del Amigo)  
*6 & under Boy-* Sean Gerberich (Blackhawk)  
*7/8 Girl(s)-* Abigail Miller (Blackhawk) and Natalie Knowles (Diablo)  
*7/8 Boy(s)-* Forrest White (Blackhawk) and Connor Doyle (Crow Canyon)  
*9/10 Girl(s)-* Jennifer Barcelona and Daniella Orlandi (both from Crow Canyon)  
*9/10 Boy-* Dillon Williams (Crow Canyon)  
*11/12 Girl(s)-* Madison White (Blackhawk) and Christina Ray (Roundhill)  
*11/12 Boy-* Stephen Stumph (Blackhawk)  
*13/14 Girls-* Diedre Clute and Kelly Peterson (both from Roundhill)  
*13/14 Boy-* Byron Gruendl (Crow Canyon)  
*15/18 Girl-* Georgi Cappelletti (Blackhawk)  
*15/18 Boy-* Chris Glass (Crow Canyon)

As the day ended, calmness set back over the venue, with just a handful of forgotten towels, a few stray papers, and a whole bunch of shattered records

Dave Boatwright  
Lauren Rogers

---

left behind in the wake of a VSA Championship Meet unlike any other.



*Matthew Maxwell (11-12, Crow Canyon) did a super job raising money in the hot sun for former Crow Canyon Head Coach, Dave Madden, who has cancer. AT will be running a special story about Dave and how some very awesome swimmers, Michael and Matt Anderson, took it upon themselves to "Make a Difference." So, stay tuned and find out how you can make a difference...*



*This sweetie is Emily Allen (6, Roundhill) who swam breast and fly. I can always depend on her bright, cheery smile and fun attitude!*



*Blackhawk's Forest White (8) having some fun while waiting to swim backstroke in which he held the VSA record (17.29). He broke his own record at this meet, too, in a winning time of 16.51!*



*That's Mitchell Briggs (8, Crow Canyon) on the right (with his arm up) Forest coming in 3rd with a 18.61*



*Crow Canyon's Kyle Kearns (9) off to a great start! He placed 2nd with a 37.19.*



*More officials and coaches*



*And, here's cute little Annie Raines (Blackhawk) getting ready for butterfly and a 10th place finish out of 59 other 6 & Under girls, doing a 25.1, one second better than her seeded time!*



*And, this is Annie's brother, Alex (7) diving in for his butterfly race in which he showed very good form! He came in 5th in an impressive 17.5!*



*Velocity Sports Performance was on hand giving away one free visit to anyone who did vertical jumps. That's Madison White leaving a good distance between her and the ground.*

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[Back to Top](#)