

## McCormick Divers Show Presence in CIF-SS Finals

With the spring season winding down and summer fast approaching, McCormick Divers shows what's in store for the competition in the next few months. For the first time in 10 years, McCormick Divers help field competitors in all 4 Divisional Finals in the CIF-Southern Section Swimming and Diving Championships this past Tuesday and Wednesday. Earning tremendous points for their respective swim teams, 6 of 8 divers finished in the top 16 in each division.

### Div IV and III

Nyko Bodnar of St. Anthony's and Adam Springer of La Serna H.S. made huge impressions on their respective fields. Nyko scoring a 415.90 to clinch the Div IV title and a spot in the CIF-SS "Master" meet completely dominated the field. A smiling Nyko had this to say, "I'm pretty stoked to win it as a freshman! Guess now I'll try to have to win it next year and start a streak," Not bad after returning from a 3 year hiatus last October.

The day before saw a close contest between fellow McCormick diver Adam Springer of La Serna, and Drake Escofani of Rio Mesa. These two athletes went at it tooth and nail for the eleven rounds of the diving final. However, Drake got the upper hand and forced Adam to take the silver by only 11-points and a berth in the "Master" meet. "I'm happy with second," says Adam. "I've been working on some new dives recently and finally got them good enough to compete. I don't have a whole lot of time before I have to do them again so I need to get back in the pool and get them better!"

### Div II and I

In Division II, Sarah Gellman, senior of Peninsula HS, didn't have a good meet. Being only diving for 9 months, this is Sarah's first and last Divisional meet for high school before setting out for Indiana University. "I've only done a hand-full of meets for club and high school, so I'm kind of just going with the flow." Sarah, injured gymnast-turned-diver, became interested with diving and McCormick divers after watching the Olympic Games last summer. "I've had a great time! Only wish that I did better in the finals." Sarah came in 11<sup>th</sup> place.

The Division I meet for both men and women was the best in recent memory. Being the premier class, McCormick Divers athletes proved that they're a force to be reckoned with. In the men's, AAU National Champ, Deon Reid of Poly and AAU All-American Larry Reinhard of Wilson came in 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively, amongst a heavily talented field. "We see all these guys in the club circuit and it's always a toss up for the winner," explains Reid. Reinhard concurs, "And with the inclusion of using the 3-meter board you have to go all out and throw your absolute hardest dives up there to have a chance." Both divers qualified for the "Master" meet.

In the women's, things were much tighter. Three McCormick Divers made it into the meet, however, only two made it to finals. Erica Curry of Fountain Valley did make one of her goals at this meet. "I just wanted to pass the first cut and I did! I didn't make finals but that's ok. I'll be there next year for sure," says Curry, who only missed finals by one spot. In the finals, the best came out in all the divers. Sydney Czaus of Los Alamitos and Paulina Guzman of Milikan

turned up the heat by executing their last few dives. In the end, our very own Paulina made the podium to claim 1<sup>st</sup>, dethroning current Div. I champion Halley McNamara! “I knew it was close but didn’t know I had it until the scores were finalized”, says Paulina. I’m just happy to be here after overcoming my injury and just getting in this meet. Sydney has this to say, “I know I’ve could do better but I wanted to finish strong and see if I could make up a spot or two and I did. Now I have to wait and see if I make it to Master meet. I’m confident that I will!”

*McCormick Divers is headed by Debby McCormick and trains all ages in the sport of competitive diving in the Long Beach area and beyond. The Club is supported by the McCormick Divers Booster Club, a 501c (3) non-for-profit organization. For more information, please contact Debby McCormick at 714-846-5731*