A League That They Own

The women's swimming and diving team captures its sixth straight Liberty League title, while the men pick up their third in four years.

By Dennis O'Donnell

Swimmer Lauren Bailey ’15 may have her own record book by the time she graduates in May.

The senior chemical engineering major from Ossining, New York, was named the women’s Liberty League Swimmer of the Year for the third straight year, winning four individual events and playing a key role as the women won their sixth straight league championship in December.

In one of the meet’s marquee races, Bailey edged out the league’s second- and third-seeded swimmers to win the 200-yard butterfly by nine-one-hundredths of a second and provisionally qualify for the NCAA championships in February.

The win capped a meet in which Bailey also won the 100-yard butterfly as well as the 200-yard intermediate medley and the 200-yard freestyle. She helped power winning relays in the 200- and 400-yard freestyle and the 400-yard medley.

In a dominating display by the Yellowjackets at the Speegle-Wilbraham Aquatic Complex, both the women and the men won league titles.

The men won five events and two relays to claim their third team title in the last four years. The men have won six league swimming and diving crowns over the last nine years.

Freshman Gunnar Zemering of Delmar, New York, was the men’s Rookie of the Year, winning the 50- and the 100-yard freestyle and placing first in the 200-yard freestyle. He also swam on four winning relays: the 200- and 400-yard freestyle and the 200- and 400-yard medleys.

Danielle Neu ’18 of Hammondsport, New York, won Diver of the Year honors, finishing second on the one-meter board and first on the three-meter board. Joanna Wallace ’16 of Fairbanks, Alaska, was third overall at three meters.

During the two-day meet, the Yellowjackets set several pool and league records. They included:

- Bailey’s time of :57.02 in the 100-yard butterfly set a pool mark and qualified her provisionally for the NCAAs. She also set a pool record in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:54.71.
- The Yellowjacket team of Julia Herman ’19, Alex Veech ’18, Khamai Simpson ’18, and Emily Simon ’18 set a pool record of 1:48.35 in the 200-yard medley relay.
- Herman also set a league record in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of exactly one minute.
- The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Simon, Hongjue Wang ’19, Bailey, and Simpson set a league and pool record with a time of 3:35.01.
- The 200-yard medley team of James Frauen ’16, Patrick Davis ’16, Brian Wong ’16, and Zemering set a league record with a time of 1:35.67.

The 400-yard freestyle team of Frauen, A. J. Brewer ’18, Zemering, and Dylan Sharkey ’16 posted a league record of 3:10.57.

In the 400-yard intermediate medley, Sharkey’s time of 4:12.76 was also a league mark.

Dennis O’Donnell is director of Athletics Communications.