VAST takes 9th in state

The summer swim season has come and gone and the Vermillion Area Swim Team had yet another outstanding showing at the state meet. VAST scored a total of 910.50 points en route to a ninth-place finish out of 19 teams at the South Dakota Long Course State Championships held in Rapid City July 27-29.

Capturing first place in the team standings was the powerhouse Sioux Falls Snowfox, followed by the Aberdeen Swim Club and third was the Pierre Swim Team.

Only 17 swimmers from VAST attended the meet.

Providing a majority of the points were the VAST swimmers in the 11-12 age group. Three state champions were crowed in multiple events along with relays.

Araceli Topete took home five gold medals out of seven individual events at the meet. She also placed second in the two other events.

Along the way, she earned National AAAA level times in three events - the 50 meter free, 50 meter butterfly, and the 50 meter backstroke. She

also won the 100 meter freestyle and the 200 meter freestyle.

Maddie Lavin grabbed two gold medals during the weekend in the 200 meter Individual Medley and the 100 meter butterfly. She touched the wall in the 100 meter butterfly nearly five seconds ahead of the competition.

Lavin also finished second in four other events.

Madisen Martinez swept both the breaststroke events in the 11-12 age group as well. Martinez clocked a national AAA time in the 100 meter breaststroke on Saturday finishing first by 1.5 seconds. She also took home the gold in the 50 meter breaststroke.

Topete, Lavin, and Martinez also teamed up with 11 year old Anna Van Holland of Vermillion in the 11-12 girls 200 freestyle and 200 medley relays during the weekend as well. On Saturday, they took first place in the 200 freestyle relay by 3.41 seconds over the team from Aberdeen

They also dominated the 200 medley relay on Sunday, winning

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the event by 6.32 seconds.

In the girls 9-10 division, Olivia Granaas, Megan Muriuki, Annika

Holdhusen and Toria Andre teamed up to place 4th in the girls 9-10 200 Freestyle Relay and 5th place in the 200 Medley Relay. It was the first ever trip to the state meet for Granaas and Andre.

Kyleigh Moran, Alma Topete, Anna Hackemer, and Lexie Malimanek teamed up

in the girls 13-14 division during the weekend to take 5th place in the 400 meter freestyle relay and 4th place in the 400 meter medley relay.

Other great swims were turned in all weekend by many VAST swimmers.

Tally Allison, age eight, dropped 16.96 seconds off of her personal best in the 8 and under girls 200 meter freestyle on Friday night. She finished the event in 12th place. She also finished as high as seventh in the 50 meter freestyle.

Annika Holdhusen took seventh place in the girls 9-10 100 meter backstroke. She shaved eight seconds off of her personal best during the event. Megan Muriuki also represented VAST in the division and placed as high as ninth in the 100 meter freestyle.

Olivia Granaas took 24th in the 50 meter backstroke and Toria Andre took 22nd in the 100 meter backstroke. Andre also finished in 27th in the 50 meter backstroke.

Hunter Lavin, Brady Martinez, and Yovani Topete were the only boys that VAST had in the 9-10 division. Lavin took sixth in the 100 meter breaststroke while Martinez 14th in the 50 meter breaststroke. Yovani Topete finished in fourth place in five of his events on the weekend.

Anna Hackemer dropped time in every event she swam during the weekend in the girls 13-14 division. She finished as high as 11th in the girls 13-14 100 meter freestyle. Kyleigh Moran finished in eight place in the same division in the 200 meter freestyle. She knocked off almost four seconds off of her personal best in the event.

Lexie Malimanek finished the weekend with a bronze medal in the

girls 13-14 400 meter Individual Medley. She also took fifth in the 400 meter free and fourth in the 800 meter free. Alma Topete rounded out this division for VAST - she grabbed 12th place in the 50 meter freestyle and 15th in the 100 freestyle.

Jacob Krier represented VAST in the boys 15-16 division. Krier touched the wall in sixth place in both the 50 meter and 100 meter freestyles at state and also achieved a national AA time in both events. Jacob also took home a fourth place finish in the 200 meter backstroke.

The summer season will end after this weekend as three VAST swimmers have qualified to the Central Zones Swimming Championships. Maddie Lavin, Madisen Martinez and Araceli Topete will represent VAST as part of Team South Dakota during the championships to be held in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin this weekend. All three swimmers will also take part in relays for Team South Dakota as well.

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Carl Thompson, 4864 Highway 50, Cherokee, IA; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs

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Ross Elliot Loebs, 510 11th Ave., Britton, SD; Speeding other roadways, \$79.00 plus costs

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Douglas Lloyd Ganschow, 45619 306th Street, Wakonda; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

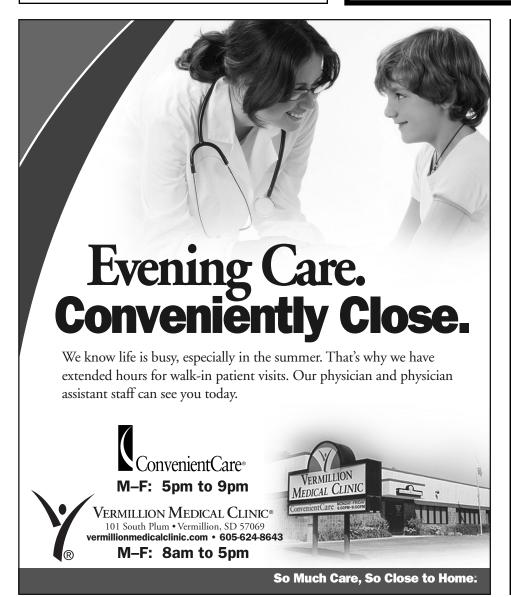
Thomas Neil Taggart, 912 Cottage Ave., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Teena Barrett, 1208 E. Clark #103, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00; Passengers between 14-18 required to wear seat belts, \$25.00

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