

THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

HALF HOLLOW HILLS Swim Team CAPTURES *FIRST EVER* STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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Winning is not a foreign concept for the HHH varsity swim team. However, one thing has eluded it for a long time: a state title. That ended March 4th in Buffalo when Hills West placed 1st out of all 1,539 public schools in New York. This achievement came right after the team was able to win their 10th straight county title. The HHH swim team has shown that its heart and dedication have led it to the pinnacle of success

The meet began with the 200 Yard Medley Relay team taking first in public schools with a blistering All-American consideration time. The relay team consisted of Dylan Chan, Alex Park, Ethan Tack, and Justin Chang. In the third Event of the day, Junior Alex Park captured his second consecutive state championship in the 200 Yard

individual medley. He touched out his opponent to win by one one-hundredth of a second. He commented on his narrow victory, "I am very grateful for the victory, and I've learned that it can be won even by the slightest of margins. It made me realize that I have to work even harder to avoid the same situation next year." In that same event Ethan Tack took fifth place and Daniel Lee captured 15th in public schools. Ethan

tack and Justin Chang would later take 9th and 15th respectively in the 100 yard Butterfly. Iron man Alex Park would come back to take 5th in the 100 yard freestyle only a half an hour later. Freshman Kabir Randhawa placed 15th in the 500 Freestyle with an impressive showing.

The 200 Yard Freestyle Relay finished first overall in the state with a new Suffolk County record time. The team consisted of Harrison Tack, Justin

Chang, Dylan Chan, and Alex Park. Mere Moments later, Dylan Chan would capture a 9th place finish in the 100 Yard Backstroke.

In the final event of the day with the title already clinched, the 400 yard freestyle relay team of Harrison Tack, Ethan Tack, Tyori Wyche and Justin Chang cruised to an 8th place finish. The team would like to thank the student body, teaching staff and administration for their support on their

journey to the State Championship!

A big factor that aided them in their goal to win a state championship was chemistry. Coach Blumenstetter used team building exercises leading up to the meet to help with this. He took the kids to an Escape room (which they successfully completed with 4 minutes to spare despite a 20% success rate) and held a swim-lym-



pics competition where the kids made entrances to the pool with musical accompaniment. These activities helped foster teamwork, and working cooperatively. It also got their minds off of the day-to-day pressures of swimming. Harrison Tack commented on how these activities effected him, "The escape the room was a great way for us to get our minds off swimming and focus more on our team rather

than ourselves. We had been working on our individual strokes for so long Coach thought we needed to focus on why we wanted to win States in the first place."

There cannot be a great team without a great coach. Through all the turmoil of the season Coach Blumenstetter never let anything outside the locker room impact them on their way to reaching their goals.

This year's HHH swim team has made their mark on not only the record books but history as well. Winning a state title takes nothing short of greatness. However, high level teams get labeled with high level expectations. Those expectations can be difficult to reach, but by the way things are going the future is only growing brighter.

