

Pittsford rolls to 12th title

Ryan Miller
Staff writer

Lindsay Stone and Katie Smith are best friends. They do everything together. Swim. Travel. Go to church.

They even break state records together.

Smith and Stone each won two individual events and teamed with senior Stephanie Andrews and freshman Emma Corby to break the state mark in the 200-yard freestyle relay as Pittsford captured its 12th consecutive Section V Class A title at Webster Aquatic Center on Friday.

"As Katie was coming to the wall I didn't think that state record would soon be ours. It was crazy when we looked up to the board," said Stone, who was named the Swimmer of the Meet. "It's rewarding to see the hard work and rigorous training pay off when a team comes together to put up awesome times."

The group set the sectional standard in preliminaries but finished in 1:35.58 in the finals, besting the time set by Clarence (Section VI) last year.

The Panthers cruised to victory with 524 points.

Smith and Stone have formed a formidable tandem. Smith dominates the sprints and Stone the distance races.

"We probably do see each other more than our parents," Smith said. "We're with each other all day, every day. It's great to have someone to grow with mentally, physically and spiritually."

"When I was in first grade we moved a couple of houses down from (Smith)," Stone said. "Our families are friends. (Smith) and I would walk over and have sleepovers all of the time. We're inseparable. We're practically the same person."

Well, almost. Pittsford coach Marty Keating, who has won 21 sectional championships in his 40 years leading the girls team, said their talent levels are comparable but their paths are distinct.

"Smith is sort of an enigma. She's the quieter one. A year and a half ago she was an average swimmer. We put her on a program and she just blossomed," Keating said. "Stone is just cold-blooded. She'd ram a bull."

Stone, a freshman, handily won the 200 freestyle in 1:52.42. She defended her title in the 500 freestyle and was followed by a cavalcade of teammates as the Pan-



Pittsford's (clockwise from top) Stephanie Andrews, Katie Smith, Lindsay Stone and Emma Corby celebrate.
ADRIAN KRAUS

thers placed 1-3-4-5.

Smith, who held off Megan Burns of Rush-Henrietta for the second straight year in the 50 and 100 freestyles, set a Class A meet record in the 100 (52.32). The sophomore anchored the winning 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

Stone, Smith, Andrews and Becca Evans set a new Section V record of 3:30.34 in the 400 freestyle relay to close out the meet.

Natalie Zaravella made a splash in the Victor's first year in Class A. She broke the 10-year old meet record in 200 individual medley, finishing in 2:07.8. The Blue Devils took second place.

A youth movement emerged with a freshman or sophomore winning eight of the nine individual events. That bodes

well for the future of Section V, which took the top sectional spot last year at states.

Keating isn't slowing down either.

"I'm getting ready to go to another clinic next month," he said with an exuberant smile. "My mother always said to me, 'You find something you love and you'll never work a day in your life.' I love this."

RCMILLER@DemocratandChronicle.com



Victor's Maddison Chapin, left, Natalie Zaravella and Abby Fenn react to winning the 200 yard medley relay with a time of 1:50.63, out touching Fairport by 0.01.
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