

Six Andover-North Andover YMCA athletes chosen to East Zone Junior All-Star team



ANA Synchro athletes, shown above, in the 13 & over, 11-12 age group and U-10 intermediate categories are together during the East Zone Invitational at Wheaton College in Norton after participating in the annual regional meet earlier this month. Courtesy photo
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NORTH ANDOVER

In back-to-back weekend competitions, ANA Synchro athletes, representing the Andover-North Andover YMCA, were credited with 32 Top-8 placements, including six gold medals, plus four were named to the East Zone Junior All-Star team.

The East Zone Junior-Senior Championships were held March 11-13 in Buffalo, N.Y., where 136 athletes from 16 different teams traveled from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to compete.

ANA Synchro athletes Grace Alwan, Sophia Ju and Reverie Nedde of Andover, and Maxie Zimmerman of North Andover earned all-star recognition by placing within the Top 16 scores for technical elements and a flexibility test.

The East Zone Invitational was held March 19-21 at Wheaton College in Norton. A total of 146 athletes from 10 different teams came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New Jersey to participate.

ANA Synchro's 13 & Over intermediate team dominated its age group, earning gold in Team, Duet, Trio and Figures events.

ANA Synchro, with its nearly 70 athletes in all age groups and experience levels, sent large contingents to both competitions.

"Our athletes worked very hard these last three months to bolster their conditioning levels, and master the choreography of their routines," said ANA Synchro Head Coach Leah Pinette.

"To do so well this early in our season is a real accomplishment! I'm particularly proud of the strong showing of our Intermediates – they are the future of the team!"

The public has a chance to see all the ANA Synchro athletes in action at the program's 39th annual show – Celebrate! – April 2 at 3 and 6 p.m., and April 3 at 3 p.m. at the brand new Andover-North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill Street, Andover.

For tickets and more information, go to the Y's front desk or online at www.anasynchro.org.

East Zone Junior-Senior Championship Results

Jr. Team (Fifth): Grace Alwan, Gates Bryan, Sophia Ju, Lakshita Motwani, Reverie Nedde and Naomi Turner of Andover; Laila Cross and Maxie Zimmerman of North Andover; and Kyra Donahue of Methuen.

Jr. Duet (Silver): Alwan and Ju.

Jr. Solo (Eighth): Zimmerman

Jr. Figures (the technical elements of synchronized swimming): Alwan (Sixth), Ju (Eighth), Nedde (11th) and Zimmerman (13th).

Sr. Duet: Alwan (Technical routine) and Zimmerman (Free routine) with Alwan and Ju (Silver).

Jr. Combo, a part of New England Synchro's Combined Combo: Alwan, Bryan, Ju, Nedde, Cross, Zimmerman (Bronze).

East Zone Invitational Results

Ages 13 & Over Intermediate

Team (Gold): Addison Earle, Mia Hayes, Maitri Naik and Ysabella Ouyang of Andover; Katerina Guerrero of Lawrence; Caitlin Robinson and Lucy Topping of North Andover; Anusha Tandon of Acton; and Isabella Hesselton of Pelham, N.H.

Duet: Hayes and Ouyang (Gold); Nicole Jo of Tewksbury and Gabriela Estrella of North Andover (Sixth); Jillian Alden and Jill Shechter of Andover (Seventh)

Trio: Guerrero, Robinson and Naik (Gold); Jo, Alden and Estrella (Fifth)

Figures: Robinson (Gold), Ouyang (Silver), Guerrero (Fourth), and Hayes (Eighth).

Ages 11-12 Intermediate

Duet: Emma Pantazi and Dia Arora of Andover (Seventh).

Solo: Ilinca Hirtopanu of Andover (Fourth)

Ages 10 & Under Intermediate

Team (Silver): Lily Brown, Hannah Chen, Julie Mahoney, Annabel Tu and Sophia Xu of Andover; Eleanor Kahn and Erika Wojcik of North Andover; Ashley Morin of Dracut.

Team (Fourth): Bella Falco, Sabrina He, Kate McCready, Sophia Venetiou and Athena Zhang of Andover; Threya Devan and Mercy Rule of North Andover; Maura Krueger of Tewksbury

Duet: Rule and McCready (Fifth)

Trio: Tu, Chen, Mahoney (Gold)

Figures: Brown (Fifth), Tu (Sixth)

Ages 16 & Over

Duet: Gates Bryan and Naomi Turner of Andover (Gold).

Ages 11-12

Team (Bronze): Mariana Boullie, Rachel Cordio, Mara Duran-Clark, Pia Lee, Sofia Sampedro and Aisling Stack of Andover; Camille Robbe of Acton; Maddie Koenig of North Reading; and Anyé Kachulis-Moriarty of North Andover

Duet: Kachulis-Moriarty and Koenig (Seventh)

Solo: Robbe (Seventh); Erika Wojcik of North Andover (Eighth)

ANA Synchro is the competitive synchronized swim team of the Andover-North Andover YMCA. Girls wishing to join the team or try the sport for the first time should contact Head Coach Leah Pinette by phone at 978-685-3541, or by email at lpinette@mvyymca.org.

Introductory Synchro Splash sessions meet twice per week, and are held regularly throughout the year.

Synchronized swimming combines music, dance and swimming into the ultimate team sport. Through the artistry and athletics of synchronized swimming and team competition, girls build lifelong friendships and skills, while developing confidence to dream big and pursue their goals. The team is open to girls, ages 6-19.

For more information, again contact Head Coach Leah Pinette by phone at 978-685-3541, or by email at lpinette@mvyymca.org.