

# LAC fairs well at big meet



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from L to R: Kiley Vandevier (Flower Mound), Mackenzie Garcia-Hynds (Carrollton), Zakiyya Ellington (Allen), and Emma Garfield (The Colony).

## BY STEVE GAMEL

SPORTS EDITOR

The Lakeside Aquatics Club finished sixth overall at the recent Texas 14-and-under State Championship Meet in Austin.

LAC qualified 37 young swimmers for the meet, which capped an extraordinary season in which LAC was once again well-represented at the local, regional and sectional levels throughout the summer.

"I am very proud of how our team has done this season," age group head coach Jason Walter said. "We had some great clutch swimming the last few days of TAGS that propelled us into 6th place. This TAGS was unique because everyone who had to make finals that evening raised their effort to another level. It was fun to watch and great to see the kids have such great performances."

LAC is one of the fastest growing teams in the country and the largest in North Texas with close to 600 swimmers. LAC has locations in Keller, Flower Mound, The Colony and Denton. In this one event, the LAC was led by Brendan Feehery. Feehery, from Flower Mound, claimed the state title for 12-year-old boys in the 200 and 400-meter freestyle events

and was second place overall in the 100 and 200 backstroke and 200-meter individual medley.

Feehery broke four LAC team records and is ranked in the top 10 in the country in the 200 free, 400 free, 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke and 200 IM. Zakiyya Ellington, 10, claimed the state title in the 50 backstroke, and 100 backstroke -- both new North Texas records. Ellington was also a member of the winning 200 free, 400 free and 200 medley relay teams. Ellington was also a finalist in the 50 free, 50 breaststroke, 50 fly, 100 breaststroke and 100 freestyle.

Mason Mitchell, 12 from Carrollton, finished sixth in the 50 breaststroke, fifth in the 100 breaststroke and fourth in the 200 breaststroke. He was in nine different events on the weekend. Emma Garfield, 10, placed fourth overall in her age group in the 50 and 100-meter breaststroke. She also finished fifth in the 200 IM and sixth in the 100 butterfly. She was on all three relays finishing first in the 400 free, 200 free and 200 IM, respectively.

Another standout was Abbie Porter, 13 from Flower Mound. Porter swam personal bests in the 200 IM, 200 breaststroke and 100 breaststroke at the TAGS championship meet, getting Sectional cuts in both breaststroke events.