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Davis and Prabhu win gold; NCS 2nd after Day 1

The NCS Zone Team did not waste any time getting down to the business of finishing their races with conviction with 13 individual scoring swims. "I can't remember any other opening session of this meet where a North Carolina team has opened as strongly with so many top swims," said Head Coach **Jonathan Watson** following the first afternoon of the 5-day meet.

The first day's events included the longest races swum by swimmers during the Zone meet—the 11-12 400m Free, the 13-18 Women's 800m Free and the 13-18 Men's 1500m Free.

12yr old **Shayna Elgart** started off the afternoon with a 3rd place finish in the 11-12 Girls 400m Free swimming 4:45.15. She was followed closely by teammates **Sloane Whelehan** (4:47.21, 4th) and **Madison Schmitz** (4:47.21, 5th). Not to be outdone, the 11-12 Boys finished 6th, 7th and 8th—**Gino Prabhu** (4:40.18), **Carter Medlin** (4:42.89) and **Thomas Greathouse** (4:43.56) respectively.

Audrey Pardue, swimming in the first heat of the 13-18 women's 800m Free, posted the fastest 13-14 time in the heat of 9:17.09, dropping almost five seconds and finishing 3rd overall in the event. Teammate **Sophie McCammon** also had a drop of 2+ seconds and finished 6th (9:28.47). 15-18 swimmer **Rose Sciaudone** dropped almost 4 seconds to swim a personal best 9:38.55 and **Natalie Hughes** finished 7th (9:46.41) to wrap-up the girls 800m results.

In the 13-18 Men's 1500m Free, NCS swimmers **Collin Davis** (18) and **Evan Prabhu** (14) both won gold in their age groups. Davis swam 16:39.53 and Prabhu swam 16:45.79, a personal best with both just off the Futures cut of 16:38.99. **Owen Nye** (14) finished 7th with (17:12.65).

Results of other NCS swimmers competing on Day 1 included:

13-14 GIRLS 800m FREESTYLE
15th—Tia Ormondroyd, 9:46.52

15-18 BOYS 1500m FREESTYLE
10th—Ryan Von Weihe, 17:10.91

11-12 relay crushes 2017 Zone Meet record in 200m Mixed Medley Relay

For just the third time in Zone history, the 200m Mixed Medley Relay was contested and the North Carolina relay teams did not disappoint. The 11-12 200m Mixed Medley Relay team of **Shayna Elgart** (back), **Gabe Hardy** (breast), **Owen Lin** (fly) and **Sloane Whelehan** (free) set a new Zone Meet record crushing a 2017 record set by Georgia (2:00.43). The NCS time of 1:58.96 will now stand as the new record in the event. A few minutes later the 13-14 Mixed Medley team of **Granger Bartee** (back), **Jack Wallace** (breast), **Zetta Bartee** (fly) and **Lila Connor** (free) would take the gold medal, finishing in 1:54.52. In the final relay race of the afternoon, the 15-18 relay team of **Collin Davis** (back), **Alexis Mast** (breast), **George Glassner** (fly) and **Emily Armen** (free) finished second overall with a time of 1:56.21.

NCS Swimmers Recognized

Alexis Mast and **Collin Davis** were named team captains of the 2021 NCS Zone Team. The **13-14 Boys** were the recipient of the day's **Jawsome Awards** for winning the greatest number of heats at the meet. And **Ryan Von Weihe** (17) won the Positive Energy Award for his leadership on the deck cheering on teammates and leading the team spirit. NCS finished second place in the overall scoring.