

Cougar swimmers help hungry kids

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Cedar Rapids Kennedy girls swim team did its part to help feed hungry kids around the world this past weekend by working for a charitable organization in Minnesota.

Having accomplished their mission, the Cougars returned home and opened the 2011 season with a resounding 138-48 victory over Iowa City High at the Kennedy pool Tuesday night.

The Cougars worked with an organization called "Feed My Starving Children" during their trip to Minnesota, where they helped prepare 29,000 meals for shipment to children 5-and-under in impoverished countries around the world. As an example, those 29,000 meals would feed 44 kids in Haiti for a year.

Kennedy Coach John Ross said his team has worked with "Feed My Starving Children" for seven years, helping to prepare more than 200,000 meals during that time. Ross is proud of his athletes for volunteering again this year.

"A great group of kids, great senior leadership," he said. "We had a lot of fun up there. It's a really great team bonding weekend."



The Cougars combined charitable work with a good swimming workout on their trip, getting a three-hour practice at Gustavus Adolphus College where they swam 8,000 to 10,000 yards

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apiece.

The Cougars didn't have to swim nearly that far Tuesday night to sink City High. Lexi Scharmer, Jessica Schmeiser and Sam Jacobsen were all quadruple winners and Amanda Jacobsen won three events.

Scharmer placed first in the 200 medley relay, 200 individual medley, 100 butterfly and 400 free relay. Schmeiser was triumphant in the 200 free, 100 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay.

Sam Jacobsen was a winner in the 50 free, 200 free relay, 100 backstroke and 400 free relay. Amanda Jacobsen finished first in the 200 medley relay, 200 free relay and 100 breaststroke.

Hannah Botkin and Larkin Aldrich were double winners. Botkin swam on the winning 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays, while Aldrich won the 500 free and swam on the 200 free relay.

Kennedy won all 11 swimming events. Iowa City High won the diving competition.

KENNEDY 138, IOWA CITY HIGH 48

200 medley relay - Kennedy (Henna McCoy, Amanda Jacobsen, Lexi Scharmer, Hannah Botkin) 1:57.63; 200 free - Jessica Schmeiser (K) 2:06.42; 200 IM - Scharmer (K) 2:26.01; 50 free - Sam Jacobsen (K) 26.56.

Diving - Jindalae Suh (ICH) 189.70; 100 fly - Scharmer (K) 1:04.30; 100 free - Schmeiser (K) 58.20; 500 free - Larkin Aldrich (K) 5:52.12.

200 free relay - Kennedy (S. Jacobsen, A. Jacobsen, Aldrich, Schmeiser) 1:46.33; 100 back - S. Jacobsen (K) 1:04.69; 100 breast - A. Jacobsen (K) 1:15.33; 400 free relay - Kennedy (Botkin, Scharmer, S. Jacobsen, Schmeiser) 3:53.05.