

## Team Trophy Awarded to the Hamden Heronettes at the 2010 East Zone Junior Championships



The Hamden Heronettes Synchronized Swim Team traveled to Westfield, NJ over Valentines Day weekend, February 12 – 14, and came home with the Team High Point Trophy! There were a total of 114 junior athletes representing 22 teams from across the northeast region of the United States. Junior swimmers are between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. There are 5 events at a synchronized swim meet, compulsory figures, trio, duet, solo, and team. At the junior level, the events are not broken out into age groups. The Team High Point trophy is awarded to the club earning the most points from each routine event from the final competition.

Swimming together for the 1st time as a trio was Emma Baranski, Hannah Finch, and Samantha Griggs. They swept the gold medal from start to finish – preliminaries, semi-finals, and the final event! Their score of 76.375 put them in the lead over the ANA Synchers of Andover, MA who scored a 75.000. “The girls made it their goal to win this Junior Championship before the routine was even choreographed. It takes a tremendous amount of hard work to achieve such a goal so early in the competitive season”, said coach Marjorie Ardito.



In the duet event, Hannah Finch and Samantha Griggs had a 7th place finish, earning points toward the team trophy. Emma Baranski and Renee Collett won the silver medal and were also named to the East Zone 13-15 year old All Star Team. Individually, Collett's solo finished 9th while Baranski earned the gold for the compulsory figure event of all 114 athletes.

The Heronettes had 2 teams competing at this competition. The team of Lauren Bourque, Alexandra Cusano, Erinn Hines, Oliva LeVine, Christina Samela, Frances Santiago, and Jennifer Zhu placed 10th out of 27 teams in their first attempt at swimming at this level.

Swimming with 7 girls had already put our 2nd team of Emma Baranski, Renee Collett, Hannah Finch, Samantha Griggs, Elizabeth Hogan, Caitlin Murphy, and April Simell at a disadvantage. In the team event, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  point is added for each competitor after 4 and up to 8, the maximum amount allowed in this event. But that didn't stop the drive and determination that won them the gold medal! Their score of 78.250 put them in the lead over the ANA Synchers of Andover, MA who scored a 76.625. "Last year at this meet, our top junior team placed 5th in this event," said head coach, Teena Griggs. "We were thrilled and proud of this huge accomplishment. There were many very good teams competing here."



You can see the Heronettes perform at the **"Forty and Fabulous" Water Show** as they pay tribute to the 40 years that the team has been in existence.

Shows are on May 7th at 7pm & May 8th at 2pm and 7pm  
at the Hamden High School Pool.

Pool.