

Eagles nab fourth at BoCo Invite

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Monday, January 26, 2009

It's taken Kia Dobie four years to get back to the sort of times she posted as a freshman. Saturday at the Boulder County Invitational swim meet, she returned to her first-year form en route to helping Broomfield to a fourth-place finish.

The senior took home a pair of second place finishes in the 200 individual medley and 500 freestyle, and posted her best times in four years. She swam a 2:09.22 in the 200 IM and 5:11.49 in the 500 freestyle, and was bested only by 5A swimmers.

"Kia did a phenomenal job," said Eagles coach Emily Austin. "She hasn't gone that fast in four years. I'm really happy for her."

The Eagles got plenty of help from Dobie's teammates. Heather Shaver also scored big for the Eagles. She finished sixth in the 100 freestyle with a time of 57.63, and seventh in the 100 breaststroke in 1:10.98. Freestyler Lexie Roach also scored in the meet, adding to Broomfield's tally seventh place in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:06.60.

Katalena Laufasa-Duncan placed in the 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke. She earned sixth and fourth places, respectively, with times of 2:16.41 and 1:00.47. Her times in the pool were close to personal bests, which left her feeling confident amid the pool of talented swimmers.

"Doing well in a meet like this definitely boosts my confidence," Laufasa-Duncan said. "I still have work to do, but it's nice and lets me know what kind of competition is out there."

Broomfield's relay teams also had a successful day. The 200 medley relay team placed fourth with a time of 1:55.17, and the 400 freestyle relay team placed fifth in 3:47.03. As a testament to the level of competition at the meet, the top two finishers in the 400 freestyle relay set meet records and posted All-American times.

Coach Austin knew her team would benefit from being in the same pool with swimmers of that caliber.

"Swimming against these great swimmers, whether they're 4A or 5A, just pushes us," Austin said. "Knowing where we are right now after this meet tells me that we're gonna have some more state qualifiers and a good showing at state. It's very encouraging."

Broomfield has one remaining dual meet against Skyline today. The Eagles then head to the Northern League championships before state competition begins.

