Article for consideration. Thank you.

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St John’s County has experienced record-breaking growth over the past couple of years and with that growth, St John’s County opened a new high school on the east side of I-95, Beachside High School (BHS), on August 15th, 2022.

Being on a new sports team, at a new school, can sometimes be difficult to kick off the season. There is a lot of planning involved, along with many obstacles to overcome. But, for the BHS Barracudas' swim team, the swimmers, the coaches, and the parents jumped right in to assist and help build the success of the program.

The 2022-2023 inaugural swim and dive team is made up of swimmers at all different skill levels aged 14-17. There are no Seniors this year as the first graduating class will be in 2024. The swim team consists of 28 total swimmers made up of 21 female swimmers and 7 male swimmers.

This Cinderella story continues with this small but mighty swim team performing above and beyond throughout the season at a 2A level. BHS Barracudas went on to compete at the local level at the 2A Districts competition in Gainesville with all 7 male swimmers competing, 12 female swimmers along with 2 divers. BHS walked away with the girl's 200 Medley Relay championship and the 200 Free Relay championship with Haylee Hite, Gina Faunce, Kyra Lagatoris, and freshman Reese Boswell leading the way to an overall 2nd place girls' finish.

Other notable finishes include the following:

Boys

* 400 Free Relay – 3rd place
* 200 Medley Relay – 2nd place

Individual Performance Boys

* 3rd place 50 Free – Nico Garvey
* Champion 100 Breaststroke – Peter Manelis

Individual Performance Girls

* 3rd Place 100 Back – Reese Boswell
* 2nd Place 100 Back – Gina Faunce
* Champion 100 Back – Haylee Hite
* Champion 200 IM – Haylee Hite
* Champion District Diver – Olivia Riegler

The next stop was the Regionals 2A in Pensacola at the UWF campus. The BHS Barracudas swimmers competed with 17 swimmers and 1 diver and finished with the following times:

* 2nd place 200 IM – Haylee Hite (sophomore)
* Champion 100 Back – Haylee Hite
* 3rd Place Individual Diver – Olivia Riegler

As the season concluded, the Barracudas attended the 2A State competition in Stuart, Florida with the team bringing an impressive 9 swimmers and 1 diver that included 2 relay teams and 4 individual event contenders. The BHS Barracudas came home with medal-placing finishes:

* 2nd Place 100 Breaststroke – Peter Manelis
* 2nd Place 100 Butterfly – Peter Manelis
* 6th Place 200 IM– Haylee Hite
* 5th Place 100 Back – Haylee Hite
* 2nd Place Diving – Olivia Riegler

The BHS Barracuda swim team is under the supervision of Coach Lauren Huss and Cyro Tavares. These gifted athletes have made the school proud while adding to the trophy collection now featured at the school.



District Trophy

Left to right Haylee Hite, Gina Faunce



2nd Place District Champs Girls BHS Barracudas



Back Row

Reese Boswell, Olivia Riegler, Haylee Hite, Gina Faunce, Kyra Lagatoris

Front Row

Kohen Pitochelli, Jonathon Wilson, Peter Manelis, Alejandro Lopez, Nico Garvey



2nd Place State Champion 100 Brest, 100 Fly

Left to right

Coach Cyro, Peter Manelis