



Crean Lutheran girls win fourth straight section title

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RIVERSIDE – The competition was so close that it generated a new name. There also were fresh, temporary tattoos and an updated number to flash in the celebration.

Crean Lutheran's girls won all over again Saturday at the CIF-SS Division 2 swimming finals but with a renewed style and team approach at Riverside City College.

The Saints captured their so-called "dual meet" with Glendora, outscoring their CIF rival, 308-295, to defend their Division 2 title and claim a fourth consecutive section title overall.

Crean Lutheran hoisted four fingers in the celebration.

"It was really awesome to see all the girls step up and do their part," said senior **Emily Eastin**, her black "Saints" tattoo on her right cheek. "We all came together and put together a great score. That's almost more exciting. It was just so close."

Crean Lutheran trailed Glendora by 51/2 points entering the finals based on a scoring of prelims. But the Saints quickly jolted the projections by moving from the No. 5 seed in the 200-yard medley relay to capture the race in 1 minute, 44.63 seconds.

Veteran Crean Lutheran coach **Craig Brown** inserted **Rachel Taylor** as the new breaststroker and the junior combined with Eastin, **Tianna Jorgenson** and **Katia Young** for the victory.

"That set the tone," Brown said of the 12-point swing.

Crean Lutheran and Glendora were tied, 123-123, after the 50 free and were close throughout. The Saints produced individual champions in **Elise Garcia** (50 free, lifetime-best 22.99), **Brittany Kampfer** (500 free, 4:49.89) and Eastin (100 back, 54.34).

Crean Lutheran took the lead for good on Eastin's backstroke victory and sealed the title with a safe-starts, sixth-place finish in the 400 free relay.

Sunny Hills junior **Courtney Tseng** impressed in Lane 8 in the 500 free with a runner-up touch in a lifetime-best 4:51.27.

The county crowned four champions on the boys side and nearly produced the runner-up to champion Damien (258). Mission Viejo placed third with 137 points, four points away from runner-up Los Osos.

Junior **Min Zhi Chua** led the Diablos with victories in the 200 individual medley (1:50.76) and breaststroke (56.76) with lifetime-best times. Sonora's **Ben Blevins-Boor** touched first in the 100 free with a lifetime-best 45.60. El Toro captured the boys 200 free relay as **Jack Leighton**, **Chad Nelson**, **Aaron Leighton** and **Connor Wilde** combined for a 1:25.79.

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