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## Seventh Grade Swimmer Breaks National and State Records

December 5, 2007, Jacksonville, Florida – Episcopal seventh grader Ryan Murphy competed in seven events during December 2, 2007 Gator Swim Holiday Classic (GSHC) swim meet, hosted by the University of Florida in Gainesville. As a member of both the Episcopal FHSAA and Episcopal Amberjax club USA Swimming teams, Ryan took charge during the GSHC swim meet to set a new national record, three new Florida state records, and six new Episcopal team records for the boys age group 11-12.

Ryan's GSHC swim meet record-breaking races and times are as follows:

- 200-yard backstroke: set team, state and national records with finishing time of 1:57.34 (previously 2:02.68, set in 2003)
- 50-yard backstroke: set team and state records with finishing time of 26.80 (previously 26.90)
- 200-IM: set team and state records with finishing time of 2:03.70 (previously 2:03.89)
- 100-IM: set team record with finishing time of 58.71 (state record is 58.32)
- 50-butterfly: set team record with finishing time of 25.89 (state record is 24.29)
- 200-freestyle: set team record with finishing time of 1:52.66 (state record is 1:48.18)

Additionally, during the November FHSAA state swim meet, Ryan set, and currently holds, the state record for the 100-backstroke, with a finishing time of 54.75.

When asked what the secret to Ryan's early-career success is, Episcopal Head Swim Coach Benji DeMotte replied, "Talent and hard work. Ryan and I are working together to get his 100-backstroke time under 54.25 before long course starts in April. He is in a unique place to have the talent to break that national record. However, what really sets him apart is that he has an opportunity to set at least four national records before he turns 13. Training Ryan is a constant exercise in adaptation because he consistently performs ahead of where I expect him to be. This record certainly means a lot to Ryan. Although he grasps the magnitude of his accomplishments, he is still only 12-years-old, and I think the magnitude of being the fastest kid to ever swim backstroke hasn't hit him yet."

The FHSAA Episcopal swim season runs August through the November state championship, while the Episcopal Amberjax club USA Swimming team practices and competes year-round. Both teams practice at Episcopal's Semmes Aquatic Center, and are led by Episcopal Swim Coach DeMotte, who is in his first year of coaching at the School. In one year, DeMotte has increased the Episcopal swimming program from 14 swimmers to 110 swimmers to date.

Follow these links for more information about [Episcopal and Amberjax swimming](#) or [Florida swimming records](#).

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