

# Cochrane, Chernoff break Canadian records at Spring Nationals swim meet

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TORONTO - Ryan Cochrane of Victoria and Kendra Chernoff of Saskatoon broke Canadian records on Friday at the 2009 Spring Nationals short course swimming competition.

Montreal's CNPPO and Vancouver's UBC Dolphins also lowered Canadian marks in their respective 4x100 freestyle relays.

After three days of competition, Canadian senior marks have been bettered in 19 of 32 events.

Cochrane, 20, recorded his second individual record of the competition, clocking 3:41.28 in the men's 400 freestyle. That eclipsed the previous national record of 3:41.99 set by Rick Say of Victoria in 2002.

Hassaan Abdel-Khalik of Mississauga, Ont., was second in 3:45.65 and Ray Betuzzi of Calgary third in 3:45.83.

"It's been a while since I've gone a best time in this short course event so I'm really pleased to get the record," said Cochrane, the Olympic bronze medallist in the 1,500 freestyle last year in Beijing.

"I gained a lot of confidence for this race after a strong swim in the 4x200 relay yesterday. My sprinting this week has been very strong and tonight I put in a good second half as well."

Chernoff, 17, earned her first career national senior record, clocking 58.26 in the women's 100 butterfly. That bettered the 58.29 set by Audrey Lacroix of Montreal two years ago.

Lacroix was second in Friday's final in 58.58.

"The record was something I was aiming for," said Chernoff. "I gained a lot of confidence with a strong time in the preliminaries. I knew I had to go fast. In the final I was most pleased with my finish and the fact that I felt so comfortable.

"To beat Audrey, who has been up there so long, is a real thrill."

In the women's 4x100 freestyle relay, CNPPO clocked 3:37.78 to beat the previous mark of 3:38.74 set by the University of Calgary last month at the Canadian Interuniversity Championships. The CNPPO swimmers were Victoria Poon, Barbara Jardin, Sonia Wiechec and Genevieve Saumur.

Calgary was second in 3:40.28 and Etobicoke Swimming third in 3:41.79.

In the men's 4x100 freestyle relay, the UBC Dolphins with Brent Hayden, Tommy Gossland, Rory Biskupski and Brian Johns clocked 3:10.99 to smash the 3:15.42 standard set by the UBC Thunderbirds at the CIS championships last month.

Hayden has three individual and two relay national records so far this week.

Other winners in men's competition were Matt Rose of Victoria in the 50 backstroke, Joe Bartoch of London, Ont., in the 100 butterfly and Matt Hawes of Vancouver in the 200 backstroke.

Other women winners were Hanna Kubas of Calgary in the 50 backstroke, Katy Murdoch of Calgary in the

200 backstroke and Tanya Hunks of Vancouver in the 400 freestyle.

Also Friday, Elaine Tanner received a standing ovation as she was inducted into Swimming Canada's Circle of Excellence at the University of Toronto pool.

Tanner was the first athlete in Canada to win three medals in a single Olympic Games, earning two silvers and a bronze at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Those were the first medals ever won at an Olympics by a Canadian swimmer.

The significance of the Inner Circle of Excellence for me symbolizes a completeness," said Tanner. "There is a great sense of satisfaction in knowing where I started and just how far I came in order to have achieved this honour."