**Hamilton-Wenham swim team continues to improve
By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent , HW Chronicle
Posted Feb 8, 2018 at 3:43 PM**

For most of the season, it was the same tune for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School boys and girls swimming teams.

The Generals simply didn’t have enough weapons in their arsenal to be competitive. Not enough swimmers meant not enough participants in certain events; and their opponents benefitted.

In recent years the team had been co-ed and was able to compete with some of the upper-echelon teams, including Masconomet and Manchester Essex.

This year, the girls took fourth in the dual meet season and Cape Ann League championships this past weekend. Triton, Masconomet and Manchester Essex finished ahead of the Generals. The boys finished near the bottom of the league with only seven swimmers.

The girls had 30 but lacked depth, featuring many new and inexperienced swimmers.

All those lack of numbers didn’t keep the Generals down this season. They made the most of their circumstances, and some swimmers had excellent days at the Cape Ann League meet. And some of the swimmers are gearing up for sectionals – state-level competition – this weekend at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University.

Camille Martin took second in the 500 and was third in the 200 at the CAL meet.

Hamilton-Wenham coach Natalie Klobucher said Martin should do really well in the 500 at the sectionals level but mentioned there will be a lot of competition.

“She has her mind set right now on preparing not to take anything lightly.” Klobucher said. “She’ll have a lot of strong competition. It will be a challenge.”

Max Martin took first place in the 100 butterfly at the Cape Ann League meet. He was also second in the 200 free to complete his terrific effort in the pool at CALs. Klobucher said he, too, should be a threat in the sectionals butterfly but will be facing some super stiff competition. But she’s expecting a quality performance from her Hamilton-Wenham swimmer.

Austin Halstead was also a winner at CALs, taking first in the 50 free. He added a second place in the 100 breaststroke.

“Austin has some great opportunities in the breaststroke,” Klobucher said. “He’s come a long way over the last year.”

Caroline Pratt took second in the 100 breaststroke at CALs.

Camille Martin, Erica Luo, Jordan Reader and Pratt took fourth in the 200 medley relay and third in the 400 relay.

In all, it was a challenging season that had a positive ending, team-wise. The individual season is very much going strong with sectionals and possibly states depending on results.

“Toward the end we had a lot of kids getting sick and we lacked having a solid team which was difficult toward the end,” Klobucher said. “It was hard to have a good lineup. We did the best we could with what we had.”

Klobucher anticipates the same challenges for next season. The Generals are losing many strong seniors to graduation, and the coach is unsure who will be coming out for the program next winter.

She said the team already contends with a shortage of swimmers who can put up points and those who are working hard every day but lack the experience to be competitive on a dual- or league-meet level.

“Overall the swimmers in the Cape Ann League are magnificent,” Klobucher said.

Captains Max Martin, Maggie Perrotta and Tori Cooper did a nice job keeping the team upbeat despite the shortage of swimmers.

“They provided moral support, and everyone had a positive attitude,” Klobucher said. “I think that’s what prevailed in this whole season. The boys knew it was very difficult to come out with any wins, but they had a good attitude and were able to swim strong and hard. All of our swimmers did their best and all had their best times at the end of the season. They all improved. Hopefully they’ll have even better times come sectionals.”

**Hamilton-Wenham's Whelan nets quadruple-double**
**By Nick Giannino Staff Writer, Salem News**

**Feb 2, 2018**

Recording a triple-double at the high school level is a rare and remarkable feat in its own right. One-upping that and finishing with a quadruple-double is nearly unprecedented territory.

On Friday night in Hamilton, Generals junior guard Billy Whelan did just that. The versatile facilitator went off for 15 points, 11 rebounds, 11 assists and a whopping 10 steals in what is believed to be the first quadruple-double in school history.

"Honestly, I have never really thought about those crazy stats before," said Whelan. "When I got my fourth foul (assistant) coach West told me I had a triple double and I didn't really think about it at first. I was just worried about winning the game. But after the game was awesome in the locker room with all my teammates."

It was a performance to remember for the young playmaker, and picking up a 66-58 win over Cape Ann League rival Manchester Essex was the icing on the cake. Jake Lanciani added 13 points, James Lustig had 14 and Cole Dwyer scored 12 to help the Generals move to 12-2 overall and avenge on of their two CAL defeats in the process

**Hamilton-Wenham wrestlers in cooperative effort
Posted Feb 1, 2018 at 2:25 PM, HW Chronicle**

Relying mostly on the individual success of its wrestlers, Salem High School and Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School athletic programs have combined to form a cooperative team that includes Salem senior Co-Captain Jonathan Rodriguez and Hamilton-Wenham sophomore Calvin Dalton.

Dalton has been wrestling since third grade, as part of the Masco and Danvers, powerhouse programs.

A winter sport not currently offered at Hamilton-Wenham, wrestling is a demanding sport that measures an individual’s skill and mental toughness. Hamilton-Wenham discontinued the varsity and middle school programs a few years back, and so when some HW families approached Salem Coach Cliff Exilhomme, about forming a cooperative team, the four-year veteran generously welcomed the Generals.

Despite the frustration of being unable to field a full roster, forfeiting several weight classes each dual meet, the promise for the future exists in its freshman and sophomore class, according to assistant coach Diego Contreras, a product of Long Island wrestling and a guidance counselor at Salem High.

The Salem/Hamilton-Wenham team has found that each match is more about what they learn than the outcome. Competition has been fueled by the close relationship the team has with Swampscott-Marblehead, another cooperative team that they have practiced with frequently this season. Their practices have been intense with the added skill sessions that come with additional coaches.

This past weekend the team competed in the 13 team CAL/ NEC Tournament (Cape Ann and Northeast Conference) at Beverly High School where two wrestlers took medals and two wrestled well. Co-Captain Calvin Dalton (106 lbs.) placed second overall losing in a hard-fought match in the finals falling short in his comeback 13-6 against his Pentucket challenger.

After losing a close match in the first round co-capt. Johnnie Rodriguez (160) wrestled on winning his next three matching and a third-place finish including winning a re-match against the Triton wrestler who beat him in the first round. 170 Lbs. wrestler Tyrese Elmidor won his first match and lost 2 hard matches to the top place finishers. In the Junior Varsity Tournament Jack Mulvihill won all three of his bouts 9-2, 13-0 and by fall showing great promise for the future.

The team was slated to face Saugus, Wednesday, Jan. 31, before competing in the sectional tournament in Danvers in early February.

Last year, Dalton placed third in the sectionals and took a 4th in the state tournament, while Johnnie Rodriguez just missed placing. The team continues to look for opportunities to learn and grow as it develops its young base of underclassmen. Team members also include co-captain Gus Udden, Tyreese Elmidor, Justin Sapozhnik, Jack Wieman, Connor McRae, Braidon Bezzati and Jack Mulvihill.

**Hamilton-Wenham girls co-op hockey team nearing playoff goal
By Scot Cooper / HW Chronicle, Correspondent
Posted Jan 31, 2018 at 3:59 PM**

They don’t have their seatbelts buckled just yet, but the Marblehead/Hamilton-Wenham co-op girls hockey team is definitely sitting in the driver’s seat as they rev things up for a tournament spot. The Headers pulled away from Medford in the third period on their way to a 2-0 win, and another two points, Jan. 27. Marblehead has earned playoff points in three of their last four games.

Marblehead improved to 7-3-1 this past Saturday, with six games left in the regular season. There are several ways the team can qualify for the tournament, with the easiest being finishing at .500 or above. The team captains said they want to win every game they can and make the playoff picture easy for everybody to figure out.

With last Saturday’s win, keyed by a great final 15 minutes, Marblehead swept the season series with Medford. It was another strong third period in the game, Jan. 7, that resulted in a 4-0 Header win, the second of goalie Grace Bertagna’s three shutouts.

Bertagna said her confidence is lifted each game because her teammates know how to put the puck in the net up front.

“I would definitely say I’m improving each time out, in every practice I’m moving better, and this season has really been a lot of fun,” the goalie said. “The hard thing is staying focused while they’re down the other end working to score goals, but that’s ok, I just have to stay ready, they give me a lot of confidence, knowing they’re going to score.”

Coach Chris Wells said the team really cranked it up in the third, getting goals from Sydney Cresta and Bella Peters. Grace Maroney assisted on both Header goals, and Chloe Trudel also had a helper.

The co-captains all said they’re pleased with the way the team has been playing of late, and how they’ve improved as a team since the beginning of the season.

“I feel that if we keep it (the puck) out of the middle, we really do a good shutting down the other teams,” Caroline Kinne said. “I think we’re much faster than we were at the start of the season, and our play in the corners is much better now.”

“I think certainly, we’re getting better shots on net now, than we were earlier in the season,” Grace Maroney said. “Our biggest team asset is our speed, I think, so if we outskate and outwork teams, we’ll have success in the upcoming games.”

“We know the defense and (our goalie) are going to do their jobs, so we have to come out and do our jobs up front, we need to get points in all our games this week,” Sydney Cresta said.

Marblehead will hit the ice on Friday night, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m., against Oakmont at the Connery Rink on the Lynnway. The team will visit Archbishop Williams on Friday, Feb. 9, with a 6:45 p.m. puck drop.

**Hamilton-Wenham gets power surge, tops Tech**[**By Matt Williams Staff writer**](https://www.salemnews.com/users/profile/Matt%20Williams)

**Jan 31, 2018**

MIDDLETON — Hamilton-Wenham junior Aidan Daly might have been hurting after taking a leg check that led to a major power play for his Generals in Wednesday night's tilt with Essex Tech.

The play came at the tail end of the first period, though, and the break gave him the breather he needed to get back on the board. Daly tied the game on that major early in the second and netted the winner in the third as the Generals skated away from Essex Sports Center with a hard-fought 4-2 win.

The bout was knotted at 2-2 headed into the third and the Hawks (7-6) carried play for the first eight minutes of the final frame. H-W drew another power play, though, and with 5:19 to go Daly buried his second goal of the game from the right circle for the winner.

"I'm sure it felt good for Aidan to put two in there," said H-W coach Rob Ryan, his team now 5-5-3. "He said he was feeling pretty good and he definitely looked pretty good out there."

On the next shift, sophomore Keegan O'Shea got free in the slot and launched a rocket by Essex goalie Shane Ahlin (24 saves) for a quick two-goal advantage. It was a tough pill to swallow for the Hawks, who peppered H-W's Finn Brophy (21 stops) and made the go-ahead goal seem inevitable for long stretches of the third, only to fall behind by two in the blink of an eye.

The Generals then did an excellent job keeping the Hawks from pressing over the final four minutes, aided by another power play that came with 2:46 to go and prevented Essex from pulling Ahlin for the extra attacker.

"At that point in the game, they didn't really have a lot of time to strike back," Ryan said. "We did a great job of keeping the puck out of our end in those last four minutes."

H-W got its first lead in the second when defenseman Griffin Penn slapped a backhander on goal. O'Shea was screening the goalie, who couldn't pick up the puck as it slip home for a 2-1 edge. Henry Jones had three helpers for H-W and Penn assisted on another marker.

"Once we get into the zone we have a pretty good forecheck," Ryan said. "We talk about wanting shots inside the house, those high percentage shots, and I think most of our shots were within six feet of the net tonight."

Nick Ippolito drew Essex even with 3:54 left in the second when he fired one home from up top. The Hawks had dominated much of the opening period with Chris Masta's goal giving them an early 1-0 edge. Brophy was at his best in the early stages of the first, thought, and prevented Essex Tech from building a multi-goal advantage.

Having taken points in three of their last four games and evening their record, the Generals could be closing in on the postseason in just their second season back as a varsity squad.

"One of their stretch goals is to make the state tournament and right now with seven games left we need seven points," Ryan said. "There's still a lot of hard work to do and a lot of good teams on the schedule. We've got a shot at it."