

2016 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: DAY 4 FINALS LIVE RECAP

Jared Anderson | March 19th, 2016

33



Olivia Smoliga's gutsy 100 free title helped Georgia win its third NCAA title in the last four years. Current Photo via Tim Binning/

TheSwimPictures.com

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2016 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Wednesday, March 16 – Saturday, March 19
- McAuley Aquatic Center – Atlanta, GA
- Prelims 10AM/Finals 6PM (Eastern Time)
- Defending Champion: Cal – [Results](#)
- [Championships Central](#)
- Live stream: [All prelims, Wednesday finals, & Thursday finals](#) (Other sessions will be on ESPN3)
- [Live results](#)

Early heats of the timed finals in the 1650 free begin at 3:30 Eastern Time. [You can follow live updates on the afternoon heats here.](#)

One of the tightest NCAA team battles in recent history has Georgia, California and Stanford all in the hunt for the team trophy heading into the final night of action.

Georgia leads the way, using a sneaky 200 free win from [Brittany MacLean](#) last night as a microcosm of their entry into the team race as an underrated threat rising to the top. MacLean is up for a 1650 title tonight, but will have to beat out 500 free champ [Leah Smith](#) of Virginia.

Also in line for a second individual title for Georgia is junior [Olivia Smoliga](#), who broke the NCAA record in the 50 free and leads the 100 free after prelims.

Defending champs Cal sit second heading into tonight, with **Amy Bilquist** looking to get back to her Pac-12 time for a shot at the 200 back title. Kentucky's **Danielle Galyer** leads that event out of prelims.

And perhaps the favorites coming into the meet, Stanford's loaded roster is still trying to dig itself out of the points hole created by a DQ in the 200 free relay. [Lia Neal](#) is the 2-seed in the 100 free and **Ella Eastin** the same rank in the 200 fly. The freshman Eastin has already won NCAA titles in both of her events so far this week.

As for the top individual seeds, [Kelsi Worrell](#) of Louisville is chasing her second-straight sweep of the 100 and 200 fly races. She set a new American 100 fly record last night and isn't far off the 200 mark heading into tonight. And Indiana freshman [Lilly King](#) crushed the first-ever 56 in the 100 breast last night and is the leader of the 200 breaststroke on day 4.

Keep refreshing this page for live, event-by-event updates of all the action from Atlanta. And follow [@SwimSwamLive on Twitter](#) for even more NCAA coverage.

1650 FREE – FINALS

- NCAA Record: [Leah Smith](#), Virginia, 15:23.30
- American Record: Katie Ledecky, Nation's Capital, 15:13.30
- U.S. Open Record: Katie Ledecky, Nation's Capital, 15:13.30
- Championship Record: [Brittany MacLean](#), Georgia, 15:27.84
- Pool Record: ~~Jessica Thielmann, Florida, 15:50.74~~
- 2015 Champion: [Leah Smith](#), Virginia, 15:34.46

Top 3:

1. [Leah Smith](#), Virginia – 15:32.72
2. [Brittany MacLean](#), Georgia – 15:39.29
3. Rose Bi, Michigan – 15:45.26

Virginia's [Leah Smith](#) won her second consecutive NCAA mile title, doubling up on her 500 free win from day 2 with a 15:32.72 in the meet's longest race.

That's 7 seconds slower than Smith went in winning the ACC title, but still shattered the pool record and won the national title by almost 7 seconds.

Georgia's [Brittany MacLean](#) finished second overall in 15:39.29 – that caps an outstanding senior campaign for the Bulldog, who was second in the 500 and won the 200 in a major photo finish last night.

Michigan freshman **Rose Bi** had a great swim, cutting five seconds to go 15:45.26 for third, and NC State showed off its freestyling range with a 4th-place 15:47.20 from **Hannah Moore**.

Indiana senior **Haley Lips** was the top swimmer out of the afternoon heats and held on for fifth overall in 15:50.54. The entire top 5 were under the pool record prior to this week's meet.

Lips kicked off a run of Big Ten swimmers to round out the top 8. Big Ten champ **Lindsey Clary**, last night's 400 IM runner-up, was 15:50.66 for sixth, competing for Ohio State. Wisconsin's **Danielle Valley** went 16:00.42 for 7th and Minnesota

for Ohio State. Wisconsin's **Danielle Galyer** went 16:00.45 for 7th and Minnesota sophomore **Brooke Zeiger** nabbed an All-America slot in 16:00.64 for 8th. Fellow Big Ten swimmer **Gillian Ryan** was 9th for Michigan.

Team Points Race: MacLean's big finish helped Georgia pull away from Cal – they now lead the meet by 37.5. Cal and Stanford remain just 2.5 apart with neither scoring any milers. Meanwhile Virginia jumped past Texas A&M for fourth on Smith's second event win.

200 BACK – FINALS

- NCAA Record: Elizabeth Pelton, California, 1:47.84
- American Record: Elizabeth Pelton, California, 1:47.84
- U.S. Open Record: Elizabeth Pelton, California, 1:47.84
- Championship Record: Elizabeth Pelton, California, 1:47.84
- Pool Record: ~~Courtney Bartholomew, Virginia, 1:49.87~~
- 2015 Champion: Missy Franklin, California, 1:47.91

Top 3:

1. Danielle Galyer, Kentucky – 1:49.71
2. **Courtney Bartholomew**, Virginia – 1:50.29
3. Kennedy Goss, Indiana – 1:50.37

An incredible 200 backstroke battle came right down to the wire, with Kentucky junior **Danielle Galyer** and Virginia senior **Courtney Bartholomew** swimming to a tie at the 150-mark.

Galyer roared home, though, for Kentucky's first NCAA swimming title of all-time, going 1:49.71 and becoming just the 10th woman ever under 1:50 in the event. Galyer now sits 6th all-time.

Bartholomew was 1:50.29 for second place, off her lifetime-best 1:49.35 from last spring. She did hold off a surging **Kennedy Goss** of Indiana, though – Goss had the field's second-best closing split and came within a tenth of silver, finishing third in 1:50.37.

The only better closer than Goss was fourth-place **Lisa Bratton**, who was 27.74 on the final 50 but was too far out of the top pack to jump into the top three. Bratton would finish in 1:50.80 just ahead of Cal's **Amv Bilquist** (1:50.88) who was the top seed

...just ahead of **Clara Smiddy** (1:51.01), who was the top seed coming into this meet after winning Pac-12s.

Michigan sophomore **Clara Smiddy** was 6th in 1:51.01, followed by NC State's **Alexia Zevnik** (1:51.06) and Georgia's **Kylie Stewart** (1:51.20).

Texas's **Tasija Karosas** won the B final, some redemption after a disappointing meet so far. She was a declared false start in the 100 back Friday while coming in with a time that would have scored. Then she gained two seconds in prelims of this event to fade to 15th. Her finals swim was great, though, just off a season-best in 1:50.89.

Team Points Race: A strong event for Cal pulled them to 25.5 back of Georgia, with Stanford dropping off a bit – the Cardinal are now 42 behind UGA, but do have a strong 100 freestyle event up next.

100 FREE – FINALS

- NCAA Record: Simone Manuel, Stanford, 46.09
- American Record: Simone Manuel, Stanford, 46.09
- U.S. Open Record: Simone Manuel, Stanford, 46.09
- Championship Record: Simone Manuel, Stanford, 46.09
- ~~Pool Record: Natalie Coughlin, 46.85~~
- 2015 Champion: Simone Manuel, Stanford, 46.09

Top 3:

1. **Olivia Smoliga**, Georgia – 46.70
2. **Lia Neal**, Stanford – 47.00
3. Kasia Wilk, USC – 47.35

In a race that could be huge for the team points battle, Georgia's **Olivia Smoliga** outlasted 2015 NCAA runner-up **Lia Neal** of Stanford in what turns out to be a 6-point swing in the Bulldogs' favor.

Smoliga used the speed that earned her a 50 free title on day 2 to power away early in 22.40. Neal, who said she's been focusing on her front-end speed and led much of the 200 free last night, gave chase with a 22.45 at the turn, but Smoliga was able to better maintain that speed, finishing in 46.70 – tied for the 7th-best swim of all-time.

Neal wound up going 47.00, just off her lifetime-best of 46.8 from last year's NCAA meet.

USC's **Kasia Wilk** touched out Texas A&M sophomore **Beryl Gastaldello** for third, 47.35 to 47.38. Behind them, another touchout, this time Michian's **Ali DeLoof** (47.54) over Florida's **Natalie Hinds** (47.59), who won bronze in this event last year while swimming about four tenths faster.

Cal's **Farida Osman** and USC's **Anika Apostalon** rounded out the championship heat in a Pac-12 showdown, with Osman going 47.63 to Apostalon's 47.72.

Texas sophomore **Rebecca Millard** won the B final, exactly matching her prelims time with a 48.03.

Team Points Race: Smoliga's win has Georgia firmly in the driver's seat, up 28.5 on Cal and 45 on Stanford. Though Cal is still second, Stanford is probably the bigger threat to catch Georgia, with roughly 30 points expected in tonight's platform diving event compared to none for Georgia or Cal. Virginia and Texas A&M continue to duel for fourth, with the Cavs leading the Aggies by 10.5.

200 BREAST – FINALS

- ~~NCAA Record: Emma Reaney, Notre Dame, 2:04.06~~
- ~~American Record: Emma Reaney, Notre Dame, 2:04.06~~
- ~~U.S. Open Record: Emma Reaney, Notre Dame, 2:04.06~~
- ~~Championship Record: Emma Reaney, Notre Dame, 2:04.06~~
- Pool Record: **Lilly King**, Indiana, 2:06.43
- 2015 Champion: Kierra Smith, Minnesota, 2:04.56

Top 3:

1. **Lilly King**, Indiana – 2:03.59
2. Miranda Tucker, Indiana – 2:06.27
3. Emily Escobedo, UMBC – 2:06.43

In a huge coup for Indiana, the Hoosiers took down NCAA, American, U.S. Open and NCAA meet record plus the top two spots in the women's 200 breaststroke. Most of that came courtesy of **Lilly King**, the freshman sensation who smashed the national record by about half a second with a 2:03.59.

King completes a breaststroke sweep of the meet and becomes Indiana's first national

champion in the 200 breast. Her time takes down the national records previously held by Notre Dame's Emma Reaney from 2014.

Her freshman teammate **Miranda Tucker** went 2:06.27 for second place, giving IU a rookie sweep of gold and silver on the national stage.

UMBC junior **Emily Escobedo** was 2:06.43 in one of the best swims we've seen from a mid-major conference swimmer this year. She takes home bronze, beating out Stanford senior **Sarah Haase** (2:06.50).

Texas A&M finished two inside the top 7, with **Bethany Galat** going 2:07.18 for fifth and **Esther Gonzelz** 2:08.49 for seventh. That should help them make a leap in the team battle against Virginia, especially with Cavalier **Laura Simon**, last year's runner-up, fading all the way to 16th.

Georgia continued to stockpile points, getting 13 from 6th-place finisher **Annie Zhu** (2:08.18). And in a freshman-heavy event, USC frosh **Kirsten Vose** was 2:10.42 for 8th place.

Missouri went 1-2 in the B final, with **Katharine Ross** winning in 2:07.24.

Team Points Race: Georgia is looking better and better out front, now 41.5 up on Cal and 43 ahead of Stanford. The Cardinal should be passing up Cal at any point for second place, especially with a title contender in the next event. Currently, Cal is in second place by just 1.5 points over Stanford. Texas A&M also leapfrogged Virginia for fourth, while Indiana made a big move past USC into 6th place.

200 FLY – FINALS

- NCAA Record: Elaine Breeden, Stanford, 1:49.92
- American Record: Elaine Breeden, Stanford, 1:49.92
- U.S. Open Record: Elaine Breeden, Stanford, 1:49.92
- Championship Record: Elaine Breeden, Stanford, 1:50.98
- Pool Record: **Kelsi Worrell**, Louisville, 1:50.61
- 2015 Champion: **Kelsi Worrell**, Louisville, 1:51.11

Top 3:

1. **Kelsi Worrell**, Louisville – 1:50.96

2. Ella Eastin, Stanford – 1:51.04
3. Megan Kingsley, Georgia – 1:53.10

In a big showdown of multi-time NCAA champions, Louisville's **Kelsi Worrell** hung on for a gritty 200 fly title over Stanford freshman **Ella Eastin**.

Worrell, the defending NCAA champ in this event, is mostly known as a sprinter, and used her elite speed to build a lead of a full second at the halfway mark. But the versatile Eastin, who won the 200 and 400 IMs earlier this week, started reeling Worrell in big-time over the final 50. Worrell dropped from a 28.3 to a 30.3 in her final split, while Eastin was 29.0, but it was Worrell who won the Cardinal vs. Cardinal matchup 1:50.96 to 1:51.04.

That's three tenths off Worrell's prelims swim, but still ranks in as the third-fastest swim of all-time. Eastin, meanwhile, moves to #4 all-time with the 7th-fastest swim in history.

With her win, Worrell finishes a two-year sweep of the butterfly races at the NCAA level.

Eastin's runner-up swim was big for Stanford, but Georgia fired back with places 3 and 4. **Megan Kingsley** was 1:53.10 and **Hali Flickinger** 1:53.32 as the Bulldogs continue to roll towards another NCAA title, which would be their third in the past four years.

California also had two in the final. **Kelly Naze** tied Texas A&M's **Sarah Gibson** for fifth at 1:53.55, while **Noemie Thomas** was 1:54.84 for 8th. In between, Virginia Tech's **Klaudia Nazieblo** went 1:53.77 for 7th.

Stanford made a charge through the B final, getting the heat win from **Lindsey Engel** in 1:54.13.

Team Points Race: Georgia is up 48 on Stanford at the moment, though that margin should shrink considerably during the diving portion. Stanford and Cal are now exactly tied at 332 points apiece, though Cal has no divers in the final compared to two for the Cardinal.

Texas A&M is up 21 on Virginia, while Indiana continues to roll in 6th place, ahead of USC and Louisville to close out the top wave of programs.

PLATFORM DIVING – FINAL

Top 3:

1. Gracia Leydon-Mahoney, Stanford – 346.15
2. Yu Zhou, Minnesota – 331.80
3. Mara Aiacoaboe, Arizona State – 289.10

There was good and bad for Stanford's title hopes in the platform diving. At the top, sophomore **Gracia Leydon-Mahoney** jumped from the 2nd prelims qualifying spot to the NCAA title, a gain of 3 points for the Cardinal. On the other hand, senior **Lilly Hinrichs** fell from 3rd to 6th, a loss of three points – that left Stanford even compared to prelims seeds.

The total haul of 33 points puts them within striking distance of Georgia, but with a 15-point gap, they'll either have to count on a Georgia DQ or winning the event while Georgia takes 7th or 8th.

Minnesota's **Yu Zhou** continued to rebound well from a 1-meter disappointment, taking the silver medal. She's one of three Golden Gophers to score in this event in a big boost for the Big Ten program.

Bronze went to Arizona State's **Mara Aiacoaboe**, who beat out Northwestern freshman **Olivia Rosendahl**.

400 FREE RELAY – FINALS

- NCAA Record: Stanford, 3:08.54
- American Record: Stanford, 3:08.54
- U.S. Open Record: Stanford, 3:08.54
- Championship Record: Stanford, 3:08.54
- ~~Pool Record: USC, 3:10.97~~
- 2015 Champion: Stanford, 3:08.54

Top 3:

1. USC – 3:09.69
2. Georgia – 3:10.82
3. Texas A&M – 3:11.91

USC capped off the meet with a historic swim taking their first women's 400 free relay title in NCAA history. That came courtesy of a blistering 46.77 split from **Anika Apostalon** on the anchor leg.

USC was 3:09.69, a huge improvement from last year when the Trojans were just 3:16.7 and missed the A and B finals. **Chelsea Chenault** (47.87) was the lone holdover from that 2015 relay. Apostalon joined the team in a transfer from San Diego State, freshman **Kirsten Vose** (47.45) joined the program in recruiting and senior **Kasia Wilk** chipped in a 47.60 leadoff leg fro USC.

Needing nothing more than a 6th-place finish to ice their team points win, Georgia rose all the way up to second, going 3:10.82. **Olivia Smoliga** continued to sizzle, leading off ina field-best 46.87 to give Georgia an early lead. Also impressive on that relay: distance freestyler and NCAA 200 free champ **Brittany MacLean** was 47.64 on her leg, one of the better splits in the field.

Texas A&M held off Stanford in the waning yards to take 3rd, 3:11.91 to 3:12.08. A&M had a 47.19 leadoff leg from French import **Beryl Gastaldello** and a 47.71 anchor job from **Sarah Gibson**. Stanford, the two-time defending champs in this event, made a huge push on **Lia Neal**'s 47.17 anchor leg, but couldn't quite pass up the Aggies.

NC State (3:12.61) and Cal (3:12.84) took 5th and 6th, with the former getting a 47.91 leadoff from **Alexia Zevnik** and a 47.53 from anchor **Courtney Caldwell** and the latter seeing 100 back champ **Rachel Bootsma** split 47.83 and **Farida Osman** 47.53.

Louisville's **Kelsi Worrell** was an impressive 47.33 on the leadoff leg, combining with freshman **Mallory Comerford** (47.76) to help the Cardinals go 3:13.21 for 7th. And Tennessee rounded out the A final in 3:13.42, getting a 47.86 from anchor **Faith Johnson**.

TEAM SCORES

We'll update these scores as each event happens.

A big team effort helped Georgia earn its third NCAA title in the last four years. That 200 free relay DQ by Stanford on day 1 turned out to be a backbreaker, costing the team 40 points when they ultimately finished 19 away from the NCAA title.

Cal finished 3rd and an impressive run from Texas A&M brought them to within 50 of the defending champion Golden Bears. Virginia rounded out the top 5, 45 back of the Aggies.

USC's final-event victory powered them past Indiana into 6th place, with the Hoosiers holding onto 7th over surging Louisville. Further back, NC State and Michigan rounded out the top 10, just nipping Missouri.

Final Team Scores (through 400 free relay):

1. Georgia	414	2. Stanford	395
3. California	358	4. Texas A&M	309
5. Virginia	264	6. Southern Cali	244.5
7. Indiana	228	8. Louisville	220
9. NC State	155	10. Michigan	150
11. Missouri	139	12. Arizona	120
13. Tennessee	111	14. Ohio St	84
15. Texas	79	16. Minnesota	70
17. UCLA	68	18. UNC	66
19. Florida	63.5	20. Nevada	56
21. Wisconsin	49	22. Kentucky	40
23. Purdue	35	24. Miami University (Ohio)	33
25. Virginia Tech	23	25. Penn St	23
27. LSU	21	28. Alabama	20
29. South Carolina	18	29. Umbr (W)	18
31. Arizona St	16	32. Northwestern University	15
33. Auburn	14	34. Harvard	11
34. Kansas	11	34. Air Force (W)	11
37. Denver	10	38. Iowa	9
39. University of Nebraska-Lincoln	7	40. Miami (Fl)	6
40. Smu	6	42. Pittsburgh	4
42. University of Hawaii (W)	4	44. Wyoming (W)	3
44. Eastern Mich	3	46. Cincinnati	2
47. Florida Gulf	1	47. Rutgers	1

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33 RESPONSES TO 2016 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS: DAY 4 FINALS LIVE RECAP

SEANSWIMMER

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 2:58 pm

Really polling for Courtney Bartholomew to win the 200 Backstroke. She always loses out.

My Predictions:

200 Backstroke: Courtney Bartholomew 1:49.67 (+0.04)

100 Freestyle: Lia Neal 46.85 (-0.12)

200 Breaststroke: Lilly King 2:04.10 (-1.48)

200 Butterfly: Kelsi Worrell 1:50.57 (-0.04) NCAA record, not AM record

JOEL LIN

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 3:02 pm

I also hope Bartholomew pulls through, and expect she will.

JOEL LIN

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 3:12 pm

Am I the only one suspecting that because of Trials in June Smith is not peaked out rested for this meet?

KP

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 3:21 pm

I was just wondering the same thing. She may have her eyes on June.

DAN DINGMAN

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 3:39 pm

Hey Everyone! It's Dan from Commit here. Check out our new live results site: womenncaa2016.commitswimming.com.

No more of this: <https://swimswam.com/psa-what-to-do-when-hy-tek-live-web-results-arent-updating/>

It's a trial run, so if you have any issues reach out to founders@commitanalytics.com. You should not need to refresh your browser at all to see results pour in.

We also built a mobile app. Search "ncaa swimming" on the Google Playstore or Apple App Store to find our app and test it out.

Thanks for the help! Feedback welcome as always!

-Dan

HULKSWIM

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 3:41 pm

Bartholomew had an atrocious approach to that last wall... wow, I thought she'd take that at the

100...

HULKSWIM[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 3:50 pm

I... LOVED that reaction from Smoliga... 46.7, whatever... 20 points... everything.

HULKSWIM[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:06 pm

203... smash!!!

KP[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:26 pm

Hulk- where have you been? We've missed you!

HULKSWIM[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:30 pm

It's so difficult to post via mobile now, constantly refreshing and reloading and backing out, just got annoying. Little easier on the tablet, but can only use that when at home on wifi.

HULKSWIM[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:30 pm

I mean, Hulk No Tech Nerd. Hulk Smash Phones

HULKSWIM[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:24 pm

Ouch, that last 10y for Worrell... smash anyhow!!!

SEANSWIMMER[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:28 pm

Georgia wins

CRAIGH[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:35 pm

March 19, 2016 at 1:55 pm

Yes, Stanford would have to go 1-2 on the Diving and then Georgia would have to tank the relay for the Card to win.

UBERFAN

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:31 pm

Smoliga owns this meet. She's on fire and I'm not just talking about her times.

SWIMDOC

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 6:23 pm

Except the prelims of the 100 back. That would've been a heckuva race in the finals.

MORGAN PRIESTLEY

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:37 pm

I have a bad feeling Stanford is going to lose this meet by 3 or 5 points...

HULKSWIM

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 4:46 pm

That'd be a heartbreaker... who are the seniors leaving? With (presumably) Manuel and Ledecy coming back, and whatever class they recruited thus time around, this is a dangerous, dangerous squad.

THETROUBLEWITHX

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 5:16 pm

Georgia up by 15 going into the 400 free relay. If I'm doing my math correctly, the only possibilities for a Stanford win are:

- A) Georgia DQ
- B) Stanford wins the relay and Georgia finishes 7th or 8th

SANTA FE

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 5:24 pm

Incredible feat by O. Smoliga, 46.7 100 free while chewing gum!!

HIII KSWIM

[REPLY](#)

March 19, 2016 at 5:33 pm

Great showing by Georgia tonight. Took care of business.

PORKCHOP2244

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 5:39 pm

ACC with 3 top 10 teams!!!! NC state at #9!
When's the last time that happened?

Pressure is on Duke
UNC has to have more than one individual swimmer score in one event

But go ACC!

STAYHUMAN

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 6:02 pm

-Congrats to the Dawgs. Well-earned! AR for Smoliga.

-Heartbreaker for Stanford, especially the seniors, but no shame- major props for bouncing back courageously after the early DQ, and for coming SO close despite redshirts by Ledecy and Manuel. They will be amazing next year.

-Disappointed that my Golden Bears seemed to have missed their tapers for the most part, but they hung in there for 3rd despite the red-shirt by Weitzel, transfer of Runge, McLaughlin's injury, and failure of Pelton to return to full form after her injury.

-Congrats to Pac-12 for their 2nd, 3rd, and 6th place teams , including excellent final relay by USC, and overall the Pac-12 up and coming freshman class. SEC close behind with 1st and 4th, and ACC with 5th/8th/9th, B1G with 7th and 10th, and King of Indiana possibly the swimmer of the meet with 2 ARs/NC2A records.

BIG BLUE

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 7:43 pm

Congrats to Georgia (and heartbreaker for Stanford), but some serious props need to go to Mike Bottom and Michigan. This team was 36th (!!!) three years ago when he took over, and now they are 10th. Ali DeLoof was one of the best swimmers at this meet that nobody was talking about, and she wasn't even recruited as a sprinter!

UBERFAN

REPLY

March 19, 2016 at 8:50 pm

This meet was all around great for Smoliga, she's been off ever since she won her freshmen year and she got her form backdown it's gonna be awesome watching her and Manuel next year.

CALEB

REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 7:37 am

+Abby Weitzel 😊

BOBO GIGI

REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 3:15 am

1650 free

The expected battle. Leah Smith once again slower than at her conference championships, I don't like that, but enough to win. MacLean solid meet. Good 3rd place for the freshman Bi of Michigan. Very disappointing meet for Gillian Ryan overall. She was so promising in 2010/2011.

200 back

The girl with the greatest shape the D-day won that very open event. And it was Danielle Galyer who was the most well prepared. Bartholomew died in the last 50 as usual. Bilquist not amazing this week but very solid for her first NCAAs. Kylie Stewart disappointing since her high school senior year.

100 free

I'm stunned by Olivia Smoliga's win. She's on fire this week but I didn't see Lia Neal lose that race. Olivia was at her very best, her underwaters are a huge force in short course and based on what she did since day 1, it's not surprising to see her under 47. But I expected so much more from Lia Neal. Without Simone and Abbey it was her last chance this year to win the 100 free at NCAAs. Disappointing performance after very good 50 free and 200 free.

200 breast

What to say except WOW!

After the prelims I had mentioned 2 options about Lilli King's tactics.

Either she tried something crazy in prelims (59.09 at the 100) and died in the second part of the race or she was in total control and would break the American record in final.

It was the second option.

What a meet for her! What a season for her so far!

2 American records crushed as a freshman!

Can't wait to see her summer in long course. It's gonna be fast. Very fast.

If she can manage in the best way possible her taper to peak in Rio, the 100 breast olympic gold isn't out of reach in my opinion.

1-2 for Indiana girls with Miranda Tucker who swam a little under the radar because of her training partner's amazing performances but her season is huge too.

200 fly

Logical win for Kelsi Worrell but much closer than expected. She must start to manage better her energy throughout a meet. All her useless crazy fast prelims have almost costed her the win on that last day. She died in the last 50 (30.32) but it was enough to win. She isn't a 200 fly swimmer. She can survive in short course thanks to her great underwaters but in long course it's another sport. But the work she does to improve her endurance will pay off in long course in the 100 fly. An overall very successful meet for the Louisville senior who finished in a great fashion her college career. I think no many people had predicted in 2014 the last 2 seasons she's just accomplished. Now all focus on long course and the 100 fly. She has everything in store to swim at least 56 mid next summer and play the silver medal behind the unbeatable Sarah Sjöström. Welcome in France Kelsi for the next few weeks.

Ella Eastin broke once again her PB. 3 races. 3 new best times crushed. I love that. Peak when it counts the most! Congrats to Ella and her coach. Hopefully she can convert her great progression into long course now. If yes, times about 2.09 and 4.33 look possible next summer.

4X100 free relay

No real star in the USC relay but the most homogeneous team.

Next year results will be well different with Simone Manuel and Abbey Weitzeil in the line-ups. Frenchwoman Béryl Gastaldello finished her meet, average so far, with her best swim of the week in 47.19 to lead-off Texas A&M relay. A new PB. She was not fully tapered this week because of French championships at the end of the month so that's promising.

Team race

Congrats to Georgia. Always a team which knows how to peak when it counts the most. Great team effort. Smoliga on fire. MacLean back to her best. Team win.

Stanford lost because of its DQ in the 4X50 free relay. But that is part of the game. Great fight overall with Ella Eastin as major swimmer of the meet.

Cal 3rd. They could not expect much more in my opinion. With no divers, no breaststrokers (hopefully they finally recruit a good one soon) and Katie McLaughlin absent fopr injury, the 3rd place is a good 3rd place. Not a fantastic meet for Cal but a solid meet.

Overall a week with plenty of amazing performances. Much better than expected by most of swim fans at the start of the season. With Missy Franklin turning pro, Abbey Weitzeil and Katie Ledecky deffering and Simone Manuel redshirting, that women's college season could look a little bit pale. But some girls have stepped up. A great freshman generation has come and some seniors wanted to finish in a great way.

Best individual performances:

Ella Eastin with a 200 IM American record

Kelsi Worrell with a 100 fly American record

Lilly King with 100 breast and 200 breast American records. She's my swimmer of the meet.

Next season will be the season of fireworks with Abbey Weitzeil at Cal and Simone Manuel and Katie Ledecky at Stanford.

A lot of records will be crushed!

BOBO GIGI

REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 3:22 am

Day 3 and 4 race videos please.

BOBO GIGI

REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 4:07 am

I've found Lilly King's races

100 breast

<https://twitter.com/IUSwimAndDive/status/710978304996614144>

BOBO GIGI

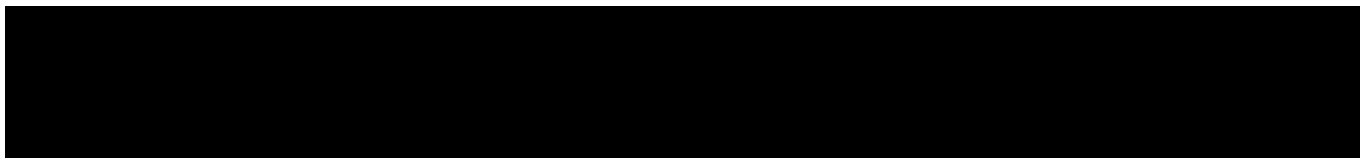
REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 4:11 am

200 breast

Soniesque rhythm

Impressive finish





BOBO GIGI

REPLY

March 20, 2016 at 7:36 am

I believe I've never mentioned a single time this week the word "Gators".

Is it me or Florida had a catastrophic meet?

As an outside observer from France, Florida is a big name in terms of US college sports. They should play the first places every year, no?

Weirdly, they look pretty satisfied in the recaps they post on their website.

I don't know what were their expectations, maybe they didn't expect anything with their current roster, but I find the numbers very bad.

19th in team standings with only 63,5 pts

Only 3 individual top 16!

Only 1 individual top 8!

Best individual finishes: 6th place in the 100 free

11th in the 1650 free

12th in the 50 free

Best relay finishes: 14th in the 4X100 free relay

16th in the 4X200 free relay

Outside of top 16 in the 4X50 free relay, 4X100 medley relay and 4X50 medley relay

We'll see how things go next week on the men's side, it should be much better with Dressel and the others, but they were also disappointing in track and field last week.

Texas 14th, not much better for another big college swimming powerhouse. Here too, the men

will save the team from disgrace.

FLOPPY

[REPLY](#)

March 20, 2016 at 10:00 am

Yes, Florida was a bit disappointing. I thought Natalie Hinds might finally pop out an individual win this year. She's so talented, but didn't look her best this year.

BOBO GIGI

[REPLY](#)

March 20, 2016 at 7:48 am

I talked only about swimming for Florida best individual finishes. Fortunately for them, they have a diver who finished 3rd and 6th. Imagine without diving....

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