

MIAA DIVISION 2 BOYS' SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

# By focusing on the wall, Mystic Valley's Christian Antonucci sets meet record at Division 2 boys' swimming

By **Julianna Schwindt** Globe Correspondent, Updated February 15, 2026, 9:23 p.m.



Wayland junior Luke Kroncke was celebratory after winning the 100-yard freestyle, along with the 50 free, in propelling the Warriors to the Division 2 title at MIT. ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Mystic Valley Charter senior Christian Antonucci followed the advice of his coach, Andrew DiGiacomo, during the 100-yard breaststroke at Sunday's MIAA Division 2 boys'

swimming championships: look straight ahead, not at your competitors.

So Antonucci had no idea until he stood on the podium just how fast he swam.

Antonucci touched the wall in 56.34 seconds, setting a meet record at MIT's Zesiger Pool, breaking the mark set in 2022.

"I'm very happy right now," Antonucci said. "You have to be ready. You can't think before you race. You just have to go."



Mystic Valley senior Christian Antonucci reacts after his record-breaking swim in the 100 breaststroke. ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

His win helped Mystic Valley (262 points) place third overall, behind Wayland (291), which repeated as champion, and Weston (263.5).

"They didn't give up this year. We had a large group of seniors who were why we won last year," Wayland coach Mike Foley said. "And this year's group of seniors really had the

rest of the team believe it's not over yet.”

For Wayland, junior Luke Kroncke finished a breakout season with wins in the 50 freestyle (21.25) and the 100 freestyle (a personal-best 46.66). Last year, his best individual finish at states was seventh place.

“I’ve been working hard all year,” Kroncke said. “I did swim in the fall, lots of lifting. I’ve just given my all at practice, no matter how I feel.”

He also dyed his hair neon pink, because he wanted to go all-in for states. And it worked.

“He qualified as a freshman and maybe scored a point or two, like, he snuck in,” Foley said. “This year, he came into the season ready to go. Some of these guys that he raced here today beat him during the season, beat him at our league meet. And he was very confident saying, ‘I got this. I know what I need to do.’ ”

In the end, the Wayland victory was a team effort, with strong performances from Kroncke and senior Kevin Jia – a runner-up in both the 200 IM and the 100 breaststroke – and divers Ben Pyhtila and Nathan Oh, who placed fifth and seventh, respectively.

“I held my breath for 11 of the 12 events and then I took a breath after breaststroke,” Foley said. “Even then you have to worry about the relay, it’s like, ‘Don’t false start.’ Mystic Valley probably swam the best meet out of everyone here. They were just a couple bodies short.”

Wilmington/North Reading co-op junior Cole Falk won the 100 butterfly (a personal-best 49.87) and the 200 freestyle (1:43.31).

Salem junior Grant Dwyer won the 200 individual medley (1:52.63) and the 500 free (a personal-best 4:40.3), shaving 10 seconds off his seed time.

Masconomet senior Landen Boutilier won the 1-meter dive (464.80) while Dedham senior Sean Leahy had the highest-scoring dive of the meet (52.65).