

Swimming notebook: Feining Huang, Leo Tran give Sharon a dynamic duo in the pool

By **Julianna Schwindt** Globe Correspondent, Updated January 12, 2026, 3:00 a.m.



Sharon's Leo Tran (left) and Feining Huang are both reigning Division 1 state champions. JULIANNA SCHWINDT

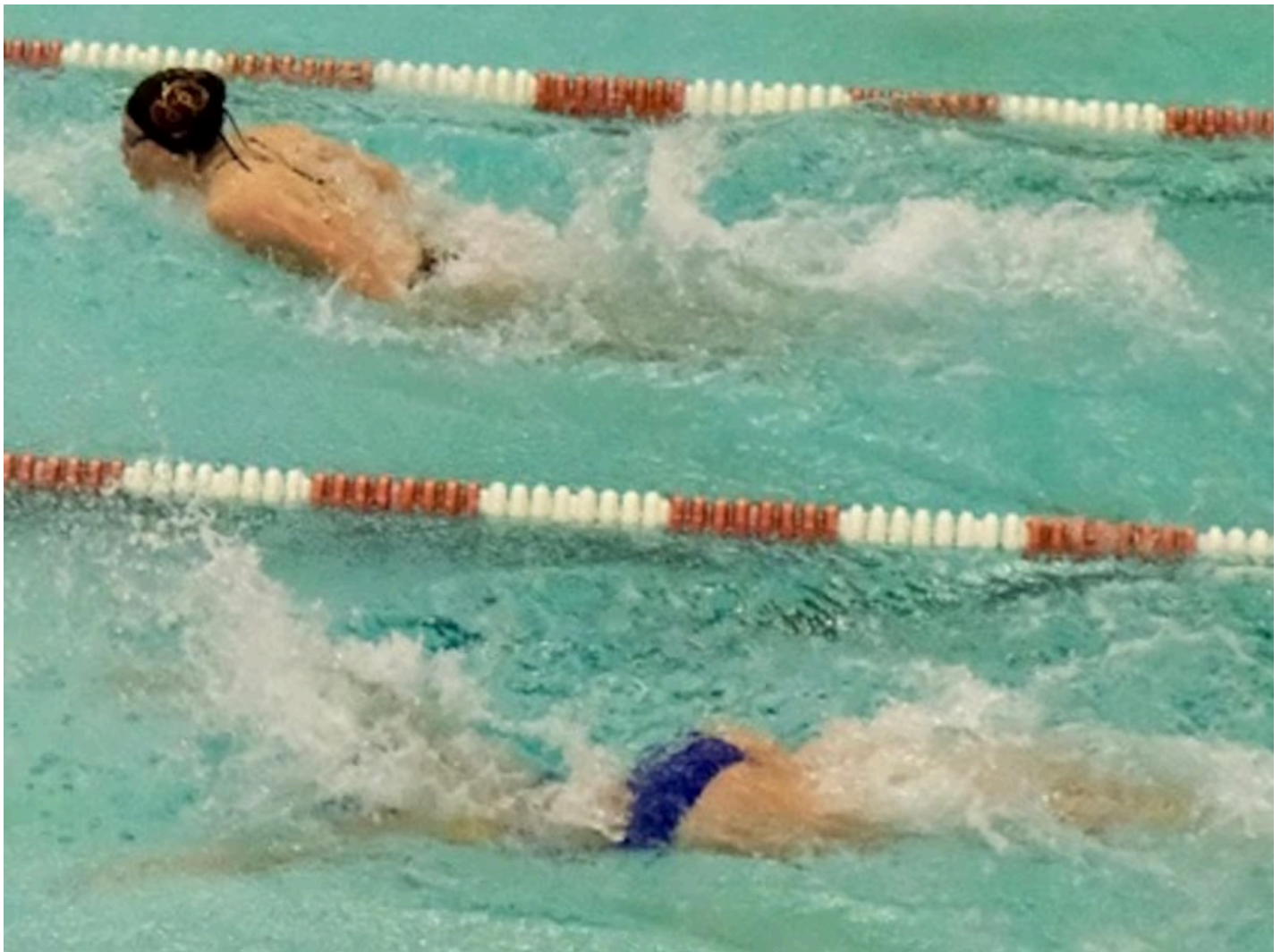
Sharon swimming and diving coach **Sara Barbera** first worked with **Feining Huang** and **Leo Tran** for a recreational program when they were in elementary school.

She remembers Huang holding her hand and walking around the deck with her. Tran was a hyper kid, Barbera said, and she remembers him swimming with his older brothers.

“[Huang] would get up on the blocks and she’d swim a 25-meter race, and she’d be done by the time the other kids were halfway down the pool,” Barbera recalled. “[Tran] was a great swimmer. He stayed with it, and he grew into his body and his strength.”

Now, the pair have four state titles between them. Huang, a senior committed to Bryant University, has Division 1 titles in the 200 free (2024), 100 butterfly (2024), and 200 individual medley (2025).

Tran, a junior, is the defending Division 1 champion in the 100 freestyle. Both also swim for Bluefish Swim Club and the Eagles.



Sharon senior Feining Huang is a three-time Division 1 champion. JULIANNA SCHWINDT

Huang was born in China and immigrated to the United States with her mother when she was 5. A synchronized swimmer in China, continuing to win helped her adjust to life in a new country.

Although her father still lives in China, he often comes to watch her compete. Swimming connects them across the world.

“I realized that I was good at it, so I continued doing it, and I loved it,” Huang said.

“When I’m swimming, it just makes me forget about all my other problems.”

Huang holds multiple school records, including the 100 backstroke and butterfly, the 200 IM, and the 500 freestyle.

“She’s definitely one of the best swimmers I’ve coached,” Barbera said. “Swimming is her life.”

Huang and Tran go to school, have club practice for 2½ hours, take a short break to do homework, then have high school practice for another hour. They often don’t get home until 10 p.m. or later.



Sharon junior Leo Tran is the defending Division 1 champion in the 100-yard freestyle. JULIANNA SCHWINDT

Tran takes multiple AP classes, which means hours of homework each night. He sometimes sleeps in the clothes he'll wear to school the next day so he can sleep a little longer.

"It's really hard. I get pretty stressed, especially with this year and how it's pretty important," Tran said. "When I jump in [the pool], I get into another mode and turn my brain off. I don't stop thinking, but I think practice helps me calm down."

Tran holds the Hockomock League for the 200 freestyle. His 6-foot-2-inch frame is an asset, Barbera said.

"Leo lights up a room when he smiles. And he really is a presence," Barbera said. "He doesn't realize his worth. You have to recognize what you're good at and what you're bad

at, and [he's] a good swimmer. It's OK to be a little cocky about that."

Tran loves swimming as a way to connect with his brothers, who are now in college. It's also taught him important life lessons.

"[I've learned] just to move forward, like, if I have a bad meet or I have a bad race, I can't really stay on that," Tran said. "If something doesn't go my way, I just have to let that go. I can only focus on the next phase."

In Sharon's sweep of Hockomock rival Attleboro Saturday at Milford High (boys, 96-70; girls, 102-68) Huang won the 200 individual medley (2:13.89) and the 100 free (56.11). Tran took first in the 200 individual medley (1:59.34) and the 100 butterfly (54.79).

The two also swam a leg on the victorious 200- and 400-freestyle relays.

Sharon has three more dual meets before the Hockomock Championships Jan. 30 back at Milford.

"They're qualifying for state, they're faster than they were last year, and I think they're happy," Barbera said. "It's been a really great season so far."

Diving in

▪ Seekonk senior **Lydia Craft**, the Globe's reigning [Division 2 Girls' Swimmer of the Year](#) after taking the 100-yard breaststroke and 100 freestyle at the state meet, headlines returning Globe All-Scholastic selections. The girls' list also includes **Serenity Coleman** (New Bedford), **Molly Connors** (Ashland), **Sarah Fortier** (Concord-Carlisle), **Cara Hill** (Wayland), **Kate Krueger** (Weston), **Maddie Reif** (Norwell), **Elisabeth Reiling** (Concord-Carlisle), and **Bea Turretini** (Concord-Carlisle). For the boys, it's **Grant Dwyer** (Salem), **Porter Mulgrew** (St. John's Prep), **Brendan Titley** (St. John's Prep), and **Brian Story** (Haverhill).

▪ The North and South boys' sectional championships are scheduled for Feb. 8, at Boston University's Fitness & Recreation Center, with the North at 8:15 a.m. and the South at 1:45 p.m. For girls, North and South diving is scheduled for Feb. 5, at the Anthony Mucciaccio Dedham Pool. And with BU unavailable Feb. 7, the swimming portion will be held Feb. 6, at the Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, North at 8:15 a.m. and South at 1:15 p.m.

The Division 1 and 2 state meets are scheduled for MIT's Zesiger Center, with the girls on Feb. 14 and the boys Feb. 15.

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