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| **BRANDON HIGH SCHOOLBOYS VARSITY SWIMMING** |
| Boys Varsity Swimming beats Fenton 89 - 88 |
| Thursday, February 1, 2024**6:00 PM** |
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| Brandon High School | vs | Fenton High School |

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| Game Recap |
| Thursday, February 1st, 2024, the Brandon & Goodrich Boys Swim Team was supposed to face the Fenton Tigers at the Brandon Aquatic Center. Warm-up had just started when both teams were informed that the pool pump had broken and thus the meet would need to be cancelled and made up at a different time. Friday, February 2nd, 2024, the Warhawks boarded a Goodrich bus to travel to Fenton High School. A win would put them in control of their destiny to potentially reach the top of the Flint Metro League. Both coaches had run various simulations of the event, all pointed to a close fought match up between both programs. Fenton had clawed their way back into second place in the power rankings and were looking to remain undefeated after defeating a close battle with Swartz Creek/Flushing the week prior. First race, the 200 yard Medley Relay. The Tigers were favored to win the event, but the Hawks were hungry to prove themselves. Rider Jannette held close on the Backstroke leg, Dominic Mahan and Luke Alward pulled ahead in Breaststroke and Freestyle respectively, everything came down to whether freshman Phinneas Roberts could hold off a speeding Tiger. Yet it was Roberts that touched the wall earning the upset by a tenth of a second. A disqualification in the Hawks' B-relay however hampered their lead allowing the tigers to stay close. Score after event 1: BG 8, Fen 4.Next up was the 200 yard Freestyle. This race ahad been a huge weakness for the Hawks in their early season competition versus Owosso. This time they held strong. Max Williams, Ike Roberts, and Jack Junga all dug deep going personal and season best times. Williams won second, Roberts won fourth in a close finish, and Junga won fifth. Score after event 2: BG 15, Fen 13For the 200 individual medley, Mahan was favored to win the event but Jannette needed to get third in order to keep pace with the tigers' score. Both boys were successful going just under their season and personal bests set two weeks prior. Score after event 3: BG 24, Fen 20The 50 freestyle had been a deep event for the Hawks all season and it was most needed with a few key members of the sprint unit banged up that meant others had to step up. Luke Alward led the event in the closest race he'd had this season but still winnning first. Coming in clutch were Daniel Geiser and Ian Stevenson with a pair of season best times and a win for third and fourth respectively. Score after event 4: BG 35, Fen 25The tigers bounced back after diving with a ten point swing that tied the teams at 35. They then followed it up with a overwhelming push in the 100 Butterfly. As the Tigers had three competitors to the Hawks' one, but Avery Forton delivered a new personal best on his way to a second place win. Score after event 6: BG 39, Fen 45The 100 Freestyle was a chance for the Hawks to retake the lead with Alward once again leading the pack. Alward won a tight finish by four tenths, powering through the final 8 yards to reach the wall first. Max Williams returned for his second event along with Gage Palmer to secure third and fourth respectively. Score after event 7: BG 50, Fen 50Next came the 500 yard freestyle. The distance race had proven a tricky event for the Hawks in the past and while both Jack Junga and Ike Roberts earned new season and best times in their event Fenton outscored them with a 1-2 punch earning twelve points to the Hawks' four. Score after event 8: BG 54, Fen 62.Down, but not out, it was up to the Hawks to put their sprint depth to the test. If their B-relay could upset the Fenton A-relay it would make up the deficit in the 500 freestyle. The Brandon-Goodrich A-team cruised to a dominant ten second lead but the race for second caught the eyes of all the spectators as slowly the Hawks began to catch the Tigers. Ike Roberts, fresh off his new best time in the 500 stepped onto the block and chased down the Tigers to close the gap. Score after event 9: BG 66, Fen 64The 100 Backstroke was a close event with Fenton leading for much of the race until Rider Jannette found another gear before taking the lead and diving back for a beautiful finish that found him with a new best time and the first place win. Avery Forton and Gage Palmer helped keep a strong lead as the tigers went 2-3 in the event. Score after event 10: BG 75, Fen 71Breaststroke had been another conistent strength amongst the Hawks. Dom Mahan was the top seed with Ian Stevenson and Joel Redburn providing depth to the event. The Hawks outscored the Tigers but even more exciting was Mahan breaking the school record on his way to first place. A record that had been set seven years ago by Jacob Carney. A record that Mahan had his eyes on since he was a sixth grader watching Carney compete at the 2018 State Finals. Score after event 11: BG 85, Fen 77It all came down to the 400 Freesyle relay. All the Hawks had to do was get second and they'd walk away with the one point victory. Jannette, Geiser, Ike Roberts, Williams had given everything they had. They were hurting, exhausted, but they hung in there staying ahead of a young Tigers squad eager to carry the mantle. When the bubbles settled the warhawks emerged victorious celebrating by throwing their coach in the host team's pool. While the battle for the Flint Metro League is far from over, to engage in such a close contest with such a competitve and capable competitor is something these boys will remember for years to come. |