

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the 2009 Woodley Swim Team, June 23, 2009 No. 5

Brandywine at Woodley Was a Washout

This past Saturday, approximately 14,000 swimmers and 15,000 parents in the NVSL participated in this season's first A meet and about 18,000 wet towels were loaded into washing machines throughout Northern Virginia. For the first time ever, several of the meets were "called" or finalized prior to completing all of the events. The league made the final decision yesterday that any events that were not completed would be entered into the databases as No Swimmers instead of leaving them blank. If you are interested in seeing how our swimmers ranked within the team, division, or league, the NVSL web-site is nvsl.nvblu.com and we are in Division 15.

Despite the absolutely miserable weather and the lopsided score at the end of 41 events, there were several good things that occurred this past Saturday. Even though the Brandywine swim team was twice as large as us, there were very few empty Woodley lanes. There were 13 swimmers who competed in their very first "A" Meet as a Woodley Warrior. Can you imagine how many empty lanes we would have had if these swimmers did not join the team this year? Likewise, there were many new parents that helped move furniture Friday and Saturday and participated in the meet wondering I am sure, why the heck we don't provide rain coats!

The 15-18 year old Woodley ladies dominated both the backstroke and the butterfly obtaining sweeps in both events – Catherine Prahm, Caroline Hendrick, and Emily Sturges for back and Elena Marsilii, Emily Sturges, and Helen Landon for fly. A sweep is when the same team places first, second, and third in a race and therefore, obtains all of the points for that event (First Place – 5 points, Second Place – 3 points, Third Place – 1 point). Swimmers achieving first place finishes for Woodley were Caroline Hendrick 15-18 free, Aaron Tingley 8 & Under back, Meaghan Wheeler 9-10 back, Evan Massaro 11-12 back (this was Evan's last meet participating as a 12 year old), Marilisa Morales 13-14 back, David Blincoe 15-18 back, Catherine Prahm 15-18 back, Bobby Dubas 11-12 breast, Marilisa Morales 13-14 breast, Elena Marsilii 15-18 breast, James Sturges 13-14 fly, David Blincoe 15-18 fly, and Elena Marsilii 15-18 fly. Also obtaining points for Woodley by placing second or third were Samantha Banks, Joshua Sims, Helen van Wijngaarden, Jonathan Burgess, Nicole Drucker, Sam Palencia, Marisa Sims, Catherine Prahm, Nejev Polo, Bobby Dubas, Serena Morales, Caroline Hendrick, Emily Sturges, Aaron Tingley, Henry Lewis, James Sturges, Laura Massaro, Meaghan Wheeler, and Helen Landon.

It was very difficult for me to admit that even if we won the remaining relays by postponing the events, there was no way we could catch up. This is the competitive nature of swimming. Unfortunately, no matter how fast a swimmer is, there is a faster swimmer out there. It is a hard lesson to learn as a parent and can be very humbling. What we as a team need to take from this loss is the fact that our kids were giving it their best under poor weather conditions and no matter how they did, they are still our kids with the same hopes, dreams, determination, frustrations, and funny little quirks and we love them all.

B Meet vs. Holmes Run Acres at Holmes Run June 22

The weather for last night's B Meet was thankfully the exact opposite of last Saturday. Under a clear sky, with a nice breeze, we watched many of our young swimmers improve their times. A comment from Holmes Run is one that I have not heard in a very long time. They remarked on "how large our team is and look at all of these Woodley heats". Of course there is always a story at every meet that makes each one unique. To keep things interesting, Josh obtained a nice, red bloody nose while playing in the team area. It took approximately 20 minutes to stop the bleeding while Holmes Run tried to slow up the meet (did you notice?) as Josh's first race of the evening was IM. He fortunately made it into the IM just in time but had to race the girls. I do believe there's a healthy competition between Meaghan Wheeler and Josh Sims!

Do you hate matching socks? Bring white socks to Tie Dye Day!

Eliminate the need to match socks by bringing a bag of white ones to Tie Dye Day! Or bring a t-shirt, towel, or whatever else you would like to color. Tie Dye Day will be held after practice this Thursday, June 25. There may be hot dog lunch served if someone is willing to grill the dogs on Thursday for a cost of \$3 each. Questions may be directed to Peggy Marsilii.

A Few Slots Left For Hot Dog Dinner and Sundae Sundays Volunteers

There are still a few slots left that need volunteers to run hot dog dinners or sundae Sundays. In particular, there is no one signed up for hot dog dinners this Sunday. There are 51 families on swim team and 4 more on dive team. This means that there are 55 families that could fill a slot. No one should have to do hot dog dinners twice or Sundae Sundays twice. This money helps pay our expenses. If these slots are not filled, I may have to resort to assigning names. Please check the bulletin board and sign up if you have not already done so.

Todd Potts I.M. Carnival July 1 at Forest Hollow Pool, Entries Needed by Friday, June 26

The Todd Potts I.M. Carnival will be held Wednesday, July 1 at Forest Hollow Pool. The I.M. Carnival is an invitational meet in which swimmers only swim one event – the Individual Medley or I.M. This is a 100m race consisting of one lap each in the following order: butterfly, backstroke, breast, and free. The coaches will recommend and sign up the swimmers that should participate. If you can swim a legal IM, the coaches will ask if you can participate in this meet. **Entries are due by Friday, June 26 to ensure everyone that wants a lane, gets a lane. Please let the coaches know if you can't participate as there is an entry fee per swimmer paid for by the Woodley Team.**

York Racing and Sprint Clinic Friday, June 26

All members of the swim team are asked to make a special effort to attend practice on **Friday, June 26, 8-9a.m. for 11 and older, 9-10a.m. for 10 and under.** In place of the regular practice, there will be a racing and sprint clinic conducted by the York Swim Club coaches. *This does not affect the Dive Team practice schedule.*

Swim and Dive Team Pictures Monday, June 29

Swim and Dive Team pictures will be taken on Monday, June 29 at **7:45 a.m.** (team pictures are taken first) by Splendid Portraits. All members of the swim and dive teams (including coaches) **need to be at the pool at 7:30 a.m.** wearing their team suits and t-shirts. Order forms for team, individual, or family pictures will be placed in your mailbox the week before.

FISH Stroke Clinic June 29

All members of the swim team are asked to make a special effort to attend practice on **Monday, June 29, 9-10a.m. for 11 and older, 10-11a.m. for 10 and under.** In place of the regular practice, there will be a stroke clinic conducted by the FISH Swim Club coaches. *This may affect the Dive Team practice schedule.*

Upcoming Dates

June 25: Swim/Dive Team Tie Dye Day 11a.m.

June 26: York Racing and Sprint Clinic in place of regular practice

June 27: Swim Team A Meet vs. Parklawn at Parklawn, Warm-ups 8:20a.m. Leave Woodley Pool at 7:45a.m.

June 28: **Hot Dog Dinner** – No one signed up **Sunday Sundaes** – Kline and Prahm

June 29: Swim/Dive Team Pictures 7:45a.m.

June 29: FISH Stroke Clinic in place of regular practice

June 29: Swim Team B Meet vs. Burke Station at Burke Station, Warm-ups 5:20p.m. Leave Woodley at 4:30p.m.

- Janet Sims, 703-207-3098