

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Woodley Swim Team, July 13, 2010 No. 7

Two New Woodley Records!

Meaghan Wheeler and James Sturges broke two Woodley records at the A Meet held this past Sunday at Hollin Hills. Meaghan, a 9-10 girl, swam the 50m Backstroke in 39.95 seconds. James by less than .5 seconds, out touched his opponent and posted a 29.91 in 50m Butterfly as a 13-14 year old.

Filling lanes and strong finishes seemed to be the theme that helped us defeat Hollin Hills by a score of 205-181. There were two very close races that came down to the timers. James Sturges by only .03, yes three hundredths of a second, placed first in 13-14 freestyle. Likewise, Frank Mazza placed second by only .01 of a second and Joe Dubas placed first by .24 seconds. If any of these swimmers had coasted to the finish line, the results would have been very different.

Due to the rainy Saturday morning and the decision to reschedule the meet for Sunday, many officials and swimmers were not able to make it. This was an unfortunate circumstance that could not be avoided. If the meet were held in the rain, the safety of the swimmers might have been at risk and most certainly, the officials, table workers, and timers would have been miserable. Can you imagine what it would have been like trying to keep the paperwork dry, especially the time cards and DQ slips? As a result, we put out a general plea for anyone that was able to show up and substitute.

Several swimmers stepped up to the plate and not only swam events they weren't necessarily comfortable but in several cases, swam kids several years older than themselves. Abigail (Abby) McCall, Jenna and Julia Chichester, Jason Giroux, and Joseph Canan were among the many that substituted for previously scheduled swimmers. For Abby and Julia, this was their first A Meet and they competed with a calm, determined manner. In fact, Julia enabled us to field a 13-14 girls' relay even though she is only 11 and anchored the team in a victory.

Several parents stepped up too and substituted for missing officials. Ken Sims morphed into Matt Wald who then morphed into Wes Wheeler as a Stroke and Turn Judge. Without a second's hesitation or maybe because her sister-in-law asked, Rachel Burgess became our Clerk of Course. Julie Hayden and Peggy Marsilii combined their energies at the table to perform multiple tasks while Shelly Blincoe became a Relay/Takeoff Judge and several other parents filled in as timers.

The ability to complete a rescheduled meet with almost all of the lanes and positions filled turns a swim rep's nightmare into a dream come true. Thank you to everyone that helped make this happen.

McFlurry Sweeps

Obtaining sweeps at the Hollins Hills meet were Elena Marsilii, Katie Flach, and Marisa Sims in 15-18 50m Freestyle and Jason Giroux, Daniel Schmidt, and John Cascella in 8 and Under 25m Breaststroke. Congratulations!

The Divisional Relay Carnival

All of the divisional relay carnivals within NVSL will be held and completed on Wednesday, July 8. Then, the fastest 18 relay teams overall in the league will qualify and advance to the All Star Relay Carnival on Wednesday, July 15.

Our divisional relay will be held at Springfield pool. Each age group competes in a medley relay and a freestyle relay with the exception being that the 8 and unders swim a modified medley relay (one lap of backstroke and breaststroke and two laps of freestyle). Swimmers, even if you are not on the selection list for this meet, I would like to strongly encourage you to attend the meet and wear your bathing suit. At several meets, we have had to make substitutions at the last minute due to a variety of reasons. This meet in particular is difficult to field as each race requires four swimmers in that particular age group – there is no swimming up. For example, we only have four 13-14 year old girls so if one of you is unable to swim, all of you will be unable to swim.

Upon the completion of the divisional relay carnival, we will return to the pool for an ice cream party and some much deserved, relaxation.

B Meets Are For Kids

Somehow luck was on our side for the Monday night B meet. Parliament didn't mind the storm delay as it gave all of their parents a chance to eat dinner. This resulted in yet another great night for concessions and our volunteers worked harder than ever. With everyone's help, setting up the pool and concessions went quickly and efficiently. A special thanks goes out to Rose Phelps who figured out how to get the microphone up and running.

B Meets are for the kids. It gives our youngest ones racing experience and they learn from the older kids. The older kids not only get a chance to improve their times but also learn how to be role models for example, one of our five year old girls had a personal best in backstroke simply because she gazed at Sam Palencia the whole 25m and listened to him encourage her.

The Iglesias girls once again showed off their talents. Juliana is the ultimate salesperson for the 50/50. She does all of the monetary calculations in her head to provide the best deal and makes sure she asks every person not once, but twice to buy those tickets. I was learning how to be a runner – a job I have never held. I thought I was doing pretty well when Frankie Iglesias came over and told me I was fired. It turns out “running cards” is her job and she was afraid I would collect her pay (a treat from concessions).

The best quotes of the night came from the boys. Brendon and Patrick Tingley told me they didn't know how to cheer and then proceeded to yell, “Go Woodley Guy Whoever You Are!” After the race finished, they looked at me and asked “Why are all the timer dudes wearing white shirts?”

Lastly, I bumped into Josh and asked him what he had for dinner. He replied, “Don't worry Mom, I ate a whole can of Oreo cookies.”

Mystery Volunteer and Swimmers

Last week's answers: Mike Hayden, Evan Massaro, and Faith Weiss

Volunteer: This volunteer maintains the Woodley Pool web-site and considers a two day turnaround time too long for posting newsletters. It has been rumored that this person maintains a personal supply of orange toilet paper that sometimes appears on other people's lawns. This adult is also one of our hottest volunteers at any home meet!

Male Swimmer: Believe it or not, this is the first summer swim team and first season as an NVSL swimmer that this person has ever been on. Participating in our winter program last year, this swimmer worked very hard to legalize his strokes, has participated in every meet, and I believe has come to almost every single practice.

Female Swimmer: This young lady is always on the verge of a breakthrough into the top ranks of an A meet swimmer. She willingly swims in any event or age group when asked. The swim reps for some odd reason always get her mixed up with her siblings and cheer for the wrong name. She also participated in our winter swim program to improve her speed. Rumor has it that she spends a good bit of time in Chincoteague, one of the Sims' favorite locations.

Upcoming Dates

July 14: Movie Day After Practice and Bring Your Own Lunch: 10 and Under at the Hunt House, 11 and older at the Marsilii House

July 14: Swim Team Divisional Relay Carnival at Springfield, 4:00p.m.

July 16: **Team Breakfast:** Dubas and Tingley

July 16: Pool Set Up Approximately 8:00p.m.

July 17: Swim Team A Meet vs. Springfield at Woodley, Warm-ups at 8:00a.m.

July 18: **Hot Dog Dinners:** Cascella and Ann Wald **Sunday Sundaes:** Cascella and Rachel Burgess

July 19: Swim Team B Meet vs. Camelot at Camelot, Warm-ups 5:20p.m., Leave Woodley at 4:45p.m.

- Janet Sims, 703-207-3098, simbaugh@gmail.com

- Robin Tingley, arktingley@msn.com