

Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Woodley Swim Team, July 20, 2010 No. 8

Woodley Only Eight Points Shy of First

Only eight points separated first, second, and third place at last week's divisional relay carnival. Stratford scored 200 points, Annandale 194, and Woodley 192. For the first time in many years, we were not scrambling to make substitutions, we were not frantically calling missing swimmers, and like last year, we filled every event with an official relay. All of our swimmers arrived before warm-ups and even though some of them looked a little sleepy, they were soon animated and ready to go. Several of our swimmers were so enthusiastic in cheering on their teammates that they lost their voices.

Thank you to the Hunts and Marsilii's, both of whom hosted movies prior to the relay carnival. This ensured that our swimmers stayed out of the heat and sun for a few hours. Thank you too, to the lifeguards that worked overtime during our pool party after the relay carnival ended. Yes, it did get a little out of hand as the swimmers let off some steam and in comparison to adult night, I must say this sense of adventure and daring must be hereditary. Let's just remember in the future, that the lifeguards are there for our safety and we need to respect their authority.

Woodley Goes To 3 – 1

After edging out Springfield this past Saturday, Woodley's record improved to 3 wins and 1 loss making us tied for second place with Annandale in the division. The ultimate test is going to be this Saturday's last dual A meet against Stratford at Woodley. Stratford is the largest team in the division and is currently in first place. If we can beat Stratford, there will be a three way tie for first place. In order to do this, we need to stay healthy and have every athlete available to swim in order to create a challenging and competitive meet. I strongly encourage everyone to attend this meet even if you are not on the meet sheet in order to show support for our team as we strive for this first place tie.

In fact, this will mark the beginning of a very busy weekend at Woodley. We have home meets Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, with the A meet, Mini Meet, and the last B Meet, respectively. We will need all hands on deck to disburse the workload whether it be setting up, concessions, timing, being a deck official, or simply being there to support in any other way. This is our chance to show the Northern Virginia Swim League and its teams what kind of swimmers and volunteers we are.

Last Home Meet for Our Senior

This Saturday's home meet vs. Stratford will also be known as David Day. It will be David Blincoe's last home meet in his illustrious Woodley career. David joined the Woodley Warriors when he was very young. My earliest memories of David are of a young, very light blonde-headed boy who constantly ran around the pool with a sense of security and confidence while his grandmother sat under an umbrella in the shade, keeping an eye on three month old Josh Sims. At the meets, we always knew when David was swimming because his family cheered so enthusiastically. His grandparents would score the meet as it progressed and David would flash his big smile, jump in and swim his favorites which when younger, were backstroke and butterfly. It was during this time, that he made it to All Star Relays with three of his teammates.

As he got older, David's love for swimming continued and he became a very fast freestyle sprinter. He joined the Falls Church High School team and in his senior year, was captain of that team. On both of his swim teams, high school and Woodley, David encourages his teammates to do their best whether it be convincing them to wear a swim cap, joking around to ease any nervousness, or by using his vocal chords to lead the team in cheers. What you may not know is that David has a strong sense of doing what is right when no one is really paying attention. Upon hearing of an incident involving one of his teammates, David accompanied that teammate to clerk of course offering a sense of companionship and protection without making it obvious. It was this quiet show of support and strength that proves to us what a remarkable young man David Blincoe has become. We will miss him as he starts a new chapter in his life at Old Dominion University. Good luck David and thank you to the Blincoe family for allowing all of your children to grow up at Woodley. It marks the end of an era as your last swimmer graduates.

Five Teams Qualified For Relay Championship Meet

The Relay Championship Meet is not the same as the NVSL All Star Relay Meet. It was developed to offer a racing opportunity to those relay teams placing first in their divisional relay meet but not qualifying for the All Star Relay Meet. This year, there were 60 teams from Divisions 8-17 offered this opportunity. Woodley had five relay teams finish first at divisional relays that were invited and seeded for the Relay Championship Meet. Of those five, four of our teams attended due to the efforts of Robin Tingley, Deirdre and Catherine Prahm, and the parents of those swimmers who planned out warm-ups, car pools, and officials. Congratulations to those who swam:

8&U Boys 100m Modified Medley Relay: Aaron Tingley, Jason Giroux, George Lewis, John Cascella (substituted for Daniel Schmidt)

9-10 Boys 100m Freestyle Relay: Matt Bednar, Noah Morales, Anthony Suarez, Jake Wald

13-14 Boys 200m Medley Relay: Joey Kammerer, Bobby Dubas, James Sturges, Sam Palencia

13-14 Boys 200m Freestyle Relay: Sam Palencia, Joey Kammerer, Eva Massaro, James Sturges

What Exactly Are Divisionals?

The swim team divisionals meet that will be held Saturday, July 31 at Stratford Pool is different than a dual meet or a “B” meet. Similar to the relay carnival, divisionals involves all six teams within Division 16. Each team is guaranteed two lanes in each event therefore creating a meet with two heats in every stroke (6 teams x 2 lanes = 12 lanes). This means that for each age group, boys and girls, Woodley will have a total of 10 lanes to fill – two each for freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and IM. All of the entries are based upon the time ladder printed after the last “B” meet against Burke Station on Monday, July 26. Each swimmer can be entered in no more than two events and must swim in their age group. For example, if Janet Mansfield is the fastest 9-10 female for the Woodley Warriors in all 4 strokes and the IM, she must choose with the help of the Coaches, which two events she should enter. Then, the next person in the time ladder will have the next choice. Of course not everyone is located on the same ladder rung in each event which makes the process just a bit more complex. Once the time ladders are analyzed and the entries are made, there is yet another step. Some of the teams within our division may not have enough swimmers to fill their 10 lanes for example, Team X has only four 13-14 girls so it will only use 8 of its 10 lanes. In this case, Team X gives up its empty lanes to the other five pools. The next fastest alternate swimmer from the 5 pools combined, is placed in that available lane. The seeding meeting when we merge our entries with those of the other pools is held on Wednesday evening. Therefore, by Wednesday morning, the decisions for Woodley’s entries must be final. At this time, selections are also made among the five teams as to who the officials will be.

If you are not available for this meet, please inform the coaches and swim representatives no later than Monday morning, July 26. Divisionals is the only meet for the individual swimmer to qualify for the Individual All Stars meet held the following weekend. In Divisionals, plaques shall be awarded for the first six places and ribbons shall be awarded for the 7th through 12th places of each event. For more information on the NVSL rules regarding the Divisionals meet, please consult your handbook. For information on how your swimmer is seeded within the division or league, go to <http://nvsl.nvblu.com/plasma/core/site/nvsl> . The link will connect you to the NVSL web-site in which all of the teams within the league upload and download “A” meet results each week.

Mystery Volunteer and Swimmers

Last week’s answers: Pim van Wijngaarden, Mynor Barraza, and Jenna Chichester

Volunteer: This person has had many years of experience on the swim team and does such a good job that the league is always trying to recruit her/him for more events. This volunteer also has one of the longest commutes on our team – working in Philadelphia Monday through Friday only to return home and work every Saturday meet. This person has been a mentor and friend to many of our deck officials, quietly (well not always quietly) instructing them on how to do their job better and more efficiently.

Male Swimmer: This young man is a fantastic swimmer and diver. He works extremely hard on both teams and shows up to every single practice. He is not quite as outgoing as his sister but has developed many solid friendships within the team. I do believe the only person I have ever seen him complain to is his mother.

Female Swimmer: This is the first year that this young lady has been on a summer swim team. She swims in every single meet unless she is out of town camping. She usually strolls in looking half asleep but once the meet begins, there is definitely a transition. She is the most animated relay swimmer we have had in a long while. She steps up and makes enthusiastic gestures and facial expressions to her teammate across the pool. She is one of our fastest 25m backstrokers and provided us with a total of 11 points at the last meet.

Upcoming Dates

July 22: Putt Putt Day After Practice, More Information Coming

July 23: Surprise (not cereal) **Team Breakfast:** Antezana, Barraza, Buendia, Samayoa

July 23: Pool Set Up Approximately 8:00p.m.

July 24: Swim Team A Meet vs. Stratford at Woodley, Warm-ups at 8:00a.m.

July 24: Senior Day

July 25: Woodley Mini Meet, See Bulletin Board for Details

July 25: **Hot Dog Dinners:** Phelps and Suziedelis **Sunday Sundaes:** Flach and Marsilii

July 26: Swim Team B Meet vs. Burke Station at Woodley, Set Up 4:15 p.m., Warm-ups 5p.m.

July 29: Swim and Dive 13 and Older Progressive Dinner, *Will need volunteer homes for each course

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