

SHARKS FINISH 2008 RANKED EIGHTH IN THE COUNTRY

While only half way through the short course season, our Sharks team finished the year at its highest national ranking ever. Five years ago USA Swimming helped create a new program called Virtual Club Championship [VCC]. Each team is scored with two swims per event, each swimmer scoring in up to four events, scoring uses power points in each age and gender [i.e. 11 yr. old, 12 yr. old, etc. up to 17-18 yr. old]. Scoring is done for each season, long course and short course.

Our highest finish before was a ninth place in the 2007 long course season. The rest of our finishes have been 13th and 14th places. You can see the full program by going to the USA Swimming website, or try this URL -

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/Report/ReportHolder.aspx?TabId=901&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en&ItemId=35&mid=2594>

The Sharks continue to lead both the state of Florida as well as all YMCA's in these rankings. Proudly, we are also by far the smallest club among the top 10 teams, with some of those teams being larger than 1500 swimmers. One of our many goals for the season, is not only improving on our best finish of 9th place but to finish among the top five teams in the nation. VCC does not accept HS Championship times for rankings, since this was a large part of our fall season it has definitely made a difference in our overall score. So we have great room for team improvement. GO SHARKS!!

IMX TEAM RANKINGS

The IM Xtreme Challenge is a USA Swimming program to help motivate athletes to work at being well rounded swimmers. Our team IMX records can be found at the following spot at our website, <http://www.sysharks.org/info/SYSRecords/sharks-imx.pdf> Each athlete has the ability to be ranked against other swimmers their age in the nation, the zone [Southern Zone] and the LSC [Florida Swimming]. For 12 yr. old and younger it is in five events [100 fly, 100 back, 100 breast, 200 IM, 500 free or 200 free]. For 13 yr. old and older it is in six events [200 fly, back, breast, 500 free, 200 & 400 IM]. Once you have swum all of those events in a season you receive an IMX score.

Currently 58 Sharks are ranked for the 2008 – 09 short course season. Several new team records have been created as well. Nicholas Caldwell has set an all time club high and new 15 yr. old boys record with 4995 points and currently ranks 3rd in the nation. Corinne Showalter has already broken her own record for 18 yr. olds with 4475 points and ranks 2nd in the nation. John Orban, with 4162 points has also reset his own record for 18 yr. old boys and is ranked 6th in the nation. The other new team record has been set by 13 yr. old Ian Amistoso with 3778 points.

Our team goal for the year is at least 100 individuals with an IMX rank. Several upcoming meets will be great opportunities for all the Sharks to gain or improve their IMX rankings.

FIRST EVER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

In the summer of 2010 the International Olympic Committee will host the first-ever Youth Olympic Games [YOG's]. They are to be held in Singapore. The number of sports and events will be limited, but with the continued development of professionals in all sports the decision was made for a program that will allow youth and amateurs the opportunity to develop internationally.

In swimming the USA will be sending four men and four women. They will be selected from performances from this summer's World Championship Trials, as well as the US Open and Junior Nationals.

The swimmers ranking the highest in any YOG swimming event will be selected to attend and represent the USA at this new Olympic venue. Normal events that will not be contested or selected for will be 400 IM for boys and girls, 800 free for girls and 1500 free for boys. Girls will need to have a birthday in 1994 or 1993, boys in 1993 or 1992.