

Newsletter Jan/Feb 2008

COACH LARRY SHOFE – GENERAL/TEAM

I hope everyone is excited about the upcoming Championship Meets. Before the YMCA State Championships, Thursday night, February 7th, we will be passing out 2008 Championship Shirts. Don't miss out!

TEAM DVD

We are in the process of putting together a, “new member”, team introductory DVD. Mr. Peter Hegwein is heading up this project and with his direction; it should turn out very nice. Thank you Peter.

We are sorry that the following information deals with so many financial issues.

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments were due November 1, 2007. To date we have many families who have not met the deadline. This money is crucial to covering Coaches expenses to swim meets. If you have not sent it in, please do so. We will be sending out a letter to those who have not fulfilled the team requirement by February 8, 2007.

ENTRY/ESCROW ACCOUNT

Rosemary Shofe, who has volunteered her time the past four years, has handled this account. The YMCA is on a new computer system and in the next few months the YMCA, not Rosemary Shofe, will handle all family entry/escrow accounts. There will be an expectation that all accounts are paid in full.

There are about 20 family accounts, which have not made a payment for their child's entries, in over a year. If these are not brought up to date immediately, your child will not be entered in the next meet. So, expect a call from your coach if your account is not paid up by the time the Florida JO entries are due.

YMCA CARING CAMPAIGN

The Sarasota Family YMCA just launched its Annual Caring Campaign, which is a fundraiser to assist our scholarship program, which benefits kids/families who financially cannot afford the YMCA programs. Please donate if you are able.

AREA 3/5 VOLUNTEERS

We are hosting the Area 3/5 Championships. Please, if your child is swimming or not, please sign up to help out. The meet will have seven (7) sessions and is a great meet.

SARASOTA YMCA SHARKS AWARDS BANQUET – APRIL 13th

Our Annual Banquet is earlier this year than in the past. Mr. Steve Largo has allowed us to continue this event at Pine View. Be looking for more information about the event in the near future. The money we make at home swim meets helps pay for everything for this event; awards, facility rental, D.J., food for immediate family members.

COACH LARRY SHOFÉ – NATIONAL / SENIOR I GROUPS

Congratulations to Cha-Cha Bugatti, Ashley Reid, Jessie Piper, and Kirt Davis for their selection to attend the USA Swimming 2008 Southern Zone Select Camp, May 29-June 1, 2008 at the University of North Carolina.

USA SWIMMING ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

With a group grade point average over 3.75, everyone should apply for this award. It takes some work at school, but it would be nice to have 20 plus swimmers be recognized. I will have the applications at practice or you can download them off the USA Swimming website.

SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE

Our original schedule had Long Course YMCA Nationals listed. After more in depth research into the meet, we have decided not to attend the meet. The past four years, we have given swimmers the opportunity to reach the highest levels in USA Swimming, and now with school starting later, we have great options, that still allow for a later family vacation.

We will go to the Florida Senior Championships, July 24-27, 2008, in full force as a team. We will add any 13-14's who wish to participate.

With the Southern Zone Championships, July 29th – August 2nd, and the possibility of Coach Brown being the Head Coach and Coach Matuszak being on the staff, this is a great option, if selected. If you achieve a Summer US Open cut, you are ineligible to participate.

We will attend the USA Swimming US Open, July 29th – August 2nd in Minnesota, for those who are qualified. This can be a college swimmer or an 18 & under athlete.

For the first time, maybe ever, we will participate in the USA Swimming Speedo Junior nationals, August 4th-8th. If you are 18 & under and have a US Open qualifying time/event (s), you will have the option to swim at the US Open and then at the Junior Nationals.

If you compete at Junior Nationals, you have two weeks out of the water, one with no school and one during the first week of school.

I hope it is not too late for families to adjust their vacation plans.

More to come out on this in the future.

Age Group From Coach Watts

Age Group Meet Schedule 2008

Jan 25-27	Team Orlando	Orlando
Feb 8-10	Y – States	Orlando
Feb 16	Below J.O. Meet	Selby
Feb 21-24	J.O.s	Clearwater
March 7 – 9	3/5s	Selby
	<small>Below J.O. Times only</small>	
March 29-30	All Star Dual Meet	Indian River
	<small>Qualify top six from J.O.s</small>	
April 18	St. Pete Friday Night Races	St. Pete
April 26 – 27	Highlander	Orlando
May 16-18	SYS Memorial	Selby
May 31	Open Water J.Os	Ft Myers
June 6-8	CVST	St. Pete
June 19-22	Shark Open	Selby

July 12	Brandon Last Chance for J.O. times	Brandon
July 17-20	J.O.s Qualifiers	Gainesville
July 26-27	Area 3/5 Below J.O. Senior is Open	St. Pete
July 29 to Aug 3	Zones	Atlanta

Qualifiers

All-Star Dual Meet

March 29-30 is the All-star swim meet against the Florida Gold Coast. The meet takes place at the Indian River Community College. To qualify swimmers must score top six in one event or more. We will go as deep as eight places to fill the team as some will choose not to attend the All-Star Dual Meet. So if you are top eight – fill out and application ! Applications can be downloaded from the Florida wb site and will be provided during J.O.s. There will be an All-Star Desk on deck during Friday, Saturday and Sunday competition. The cost is \$50.00 and families provide there own transportation as well as hotel. Please go to the Florida web site for additional info. The age groups are 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14. Lets kick some tail!

Zones

July 29 to Aug 3

Florida Swimming won this great meet last summer for the first time in 10 years. Coach Mark and Helena were on staff as well as 14 Shark swimmers out of a total of 48 swimmers. I have been told this was one of the greatest meets ever! I am still excited! Selection is on the Florida web site and it goes like this... Age groups are seven 11-12's, seven 13-14's, and ten 15-18's. That 48 total swimmers. The entire 15-18 age group will be selected off of the S/C times. For the other age groups, five out of the seven will be chosen in the same way. Each event will be ranked and given a point total and tallied. Swimmers will be contacted starting in mid April. The final 8 spots for the 11-12s and 13-14s will be chosen at J.O.s in July. These swimmers will be selected off of the high point system at the meet. The next two swimmers with the highest total will be chosen. Lets get 20 Shark swimmers qualified this year!

Spring Break Swim Camp

This will be held at the Selby Aquatic center Spring break week. Monday thru Friday 9:00 to 12:00 noon. This will be for white, Novice and Pre-team ages 6 to 12 yrs. Emphasis is on the four strokes, starts, and turns. Sign up at he front desk in the main building. Go Sharks!

News from Coach Brown – Junior 1 Group/Senior 1 Group

First off I would like to thank everyone whom gave me a gift around the holidays; I know that I was gone for a week right after Christmas, and I never really got a chance to formally thank everyone for your generosity, but a sincere thanks, my wife, daughter and myself greatly appreciate it.

All of the swimmers did a fantastic job making the attendance requirements over the holidays, and the few that didn't did a great job making those up with the Junior 1 group, staying until 8 p.m. on those respective nights. Hopefully next year some of you won't put yourself in that position.

The Championship Season is rapidly approaching, let's make sure that all of you swimmers are staying on top of your homework, getting adequate rest, and continuing to eat properly. After training since the middle of August what is more important to you now? Swimming fast or goofing around and wasting precious energy that could be used during practice or competition.

As the championship portion of our meet schedule descends upon us, lets make sure that we don't leave any stone unturned, as far as making sure that we do everything possible for you to swim at your best during your big meet(s). Be sure to get any negative thoughts out of your mind, and remember that after training since August you all will do well, it is just a matter of how well! A large part of that depends on you the athlete!

I am challenging all of you athletes to try and keep up the amazing run of success that we have been able to have the past few years. Keep working hard, stay healthy, stay positive, and swim fast!

Until next time,

Coach Brown

From Coach Mark

Hey guys, real happy with the turnout we had during Christmas break as well as the job you did. Keep up the good work. Looking forward to our biggest team meet of the year, Y States February 8-10th. Hope all you parents have made reservations. Don't forget the Y State Party February 3rd at the Bari Brooks Teen Center. Thanks to Linda Showalter for once again putting on this event. All senior and junior 2 swimmers will be participating in the Saturday at the Races meet here at our pool Saturday February 16th. Warm-ups will be at 12:00; the meet will start at 1:00 and be over by 3. We will once again need parents help for this meet. As of now you will definitely have the week of spring break off and am deciding if the week before or after will be optional. We will be resting for Senior Champs, Area 3/5 or both. The next month of training is very important. Best of luck.

Here it is:

From Coach Terri:

The ESJ pre-, novice, and white teams are doing a GREAT job at practices! I am very pleased with the improvements in strokes that I am seeing at practice every night. I also

LOVE the way the swimmers are encouraging each other after a difficult swim or set...that makes it easier when everyone is working together AND it builds a STRONG team! Keep up the great work - you are a pleasure to coach!

Most of you should have received an email about the 'B' meet coming up on Feb. 16 at Selby pool. I strongly encourage every swimmer to attend if at all possible. This is a great meet for the more beginner or younger swimmer, with no pressure and a chance to see what competition in a USS meet is like. If you need information, please give me a call, or email me.

The new developmental meet schedule is ready. I will hand out copies of this at practice as well. Developmental meets are for preteam and novice swimmers as well as for white team swimmers who have recently moved into that group and who have not had much swimming meet experience. Please check with Coach Bob, Coach Courtney, or me if you are not sure whether to participate or not.

We have a good group of swimmers attending the YMCA State Championships meet in Orlando. Let's show a lot of team spirit, have fun, and swim FAST!!

Developmental Meet Schedule

Saturday, March 1	12:30 - 2:30
Saturday, March 22	12:30 - 2:30
Saturday, April 19	12:30 - 2:30
Saturday, May 10	12:30 - 2:30
Saturday, June 14	12:30 - 2:30
Thursday, July 10	evening (time TBA)

(meet followed by party at the water park)

From Masters Coach Rick Walker:

It is great that many Sharks parents have joined our Masters group and many are swimming in the evening. To better serve you, we have changed the Friday evening practice time to 5:30-7. This will be Friday only, Monday and Wednesday will remain 6:30-8. Thanks for your support.

FROM: David Evenson , Shark's Official's Coordinator

Thinking about how you will volunteer at the next Shark Swim meet. One great volunteer position is being an Official.

The advantages of being an Official are:

1. You get a front row position in watching your child swim
2. Excellent food and
3. Being part of a great group (Presently at 22) of other Shark parent officials.

Official Clinics will be offered at Swim Meets and also during the week at a place, date and time convenient to you.

After learning about becoming an official at a Clinic and wanting to continue on to becoming a certified official, The next step will be apprenticing with other Shark Officials.
If you feel after the clinic, this volunteer position is not for you, your time will not have been wasted because you will have learned some more information about a great sport that your child participates in.

For more Information: Please Contact
David Evenson at DavidEven@verizon.net or
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