Viva Las Vegas

Winning is only half the fun ... Having fun is the other half. (Bum Phillips)

Have you ever noticed we swim at the same usual locations, against the same usual teams, and against the same usual kids? Did you know within the Southern California Swimming (SCS) Local Swimming Committee (LSC) there are 6 Geographical Committees, comprising over 160 different swim teams, and over 24,000 swimmers? We are in the Eastern Geographic Committee, which is comprised of around 25 swim teams and these are the teams we usually compete against. However, Southern California Swimming (SCS) declares 3 'free weekends' each season. These free weekends give us a chance to travel to swim meets in other SCS Geographic Committees and they are usually on the 3 day weekends. And these are meant to be fun.

VIVA LAS VEGAS! The Desert Storm Memorial Day Meet was our choice for the free weekend and all swimmers were invited to attend and 'get to know' each other. 19 swimmers and their families braved the traffic and made the trek to South Point Hotel, our 'headquarters' for the weekend. And what an amazing weekend it was. The weather was perfect. Each swimmer received custom travel bags filled with fun items, including a custom bag tag and lanyard, slime, shampoo, conditioner, sun screen, chap stick, hand sanitizer, snacks, toys, playing cards, a custom poker chip, dice, and lots more.

Saturday night our swimmers (and some parents) showed off their bowling skills. We took over 6 lanes and ate pizza, Steak & Shake, and (well whatever could be sneaked in). Coach Marni and Coach Darlys handed out candy awards for wacky swims.

Sunday night was parents night out so, under the supervision of USA Swimming certified chaperones Hillary and Sherry, our swimmers competed in a game of water polo in the hotel swimming pool. We're not sure who won but the kids had a fun time. After the swim we headed up to the arcade where our swimmers demonstrated their talents at hand / eye coordination as they challenged the machines.

And, oh yes, by the way ... there was a swim meet. A new venue, indoor pool, and not the usual swimmers. Our team suited up, showed up, and really had FUN!

Outstanding Swims

** The All Time Top 10 swims can be found on our web under the Athletes tab / Top Times. Team Records can be found under the Athletes tab / Team Records.

Teagan O'Dell (Gold) won the 11-12 GIRLS HIGH POINTS Trophy (66 points)! She also swam the 400 IM for a FIRST TIME BLUE TIME and a TEAM RECORD. Her FIRST TIME 400 Free was a JAG and SumJO swim. She was awarded 1st in the 400 IM, 100 Back, 100 Breast, 50 Breast; 2nd in the 100 Free; 3rd in the 200 Free, 400 Free, 50 Back; and 4th for the 50 Free. *Teagan* just continues to amaze and dominate. Her swims also dominate the 11-12 All Time Top 10. Kylie Masse, move over ... here comes Teagan!

Lyric Radke, age 5 (Bronze), was the ONLY 5-6 year old at the meet and she beat a lot of 7 and 8 year olds placing 5th in the 50 Breast; 7th in the 50 Fly; and 8th in the 50 Free. This was her <u>first long course</u> meet and, besides the events she received awards in, she also earned NEW WHITE TIMES for her 100

free and 50 back. Her 50 Free was a **FIRST TIME RED TIME**. Both her 50 Free and 50 Breast earned her a spot on the 5-8 All Time Top 10! Teagan move over ... here comes Lyric.

Garrett Dykier (Pre-Senior 2) dominated the distance events. He swam the 400 Free for a **FIRST TIME** JAG & SumJO TIMES, and the **TEAM RECORD**; the 800 Free for a **FIRST TIME JAG TIME** and **TEAM RECORD**; and the 200 Back for a **FIRST TIME BLUE TIME**. In addition he added the 200 Free to his collection of **TEAM RECORDS**; added the 100 Back, 50 Free, and 200 Free to his portfolio of JAG & SumJO times; added the 100 Fly to his JAG events; and got a NEW BLUE TIME in the 100 Breast. *Garrett* represented the team well taking 2nd for the 800 Free; 3rd for the 400 Free; 5th for the 100 Fly; 6th for the 100 Back, 50 Free, and 8th for the 200 IM. Garret's swims also made the 13-14 All Time Top 10.

Rachel Oler (Pre-Senior 2) swam the 100 Breast and 200 Breast to TEAM RECORDS. Her 100 Breast qualified for the SumJO and her 200 Breast qualified for JAG & SumJO. The 200 IM was a NEW RED TIME. She was awarded 2nd for her 50 Free; 3rd for her 200 Breast; 4th for her 100 Back; 5th for her 100 Breast and 200 Breast, 100 Free, 200 IM. *Rachel* earned spots on the 13-14 All Time Top Times for her 100 Breast and 200 Breast.

Damian Serna Arbow (Bronze) had the BEST TOTAL TIME DROP (-53.17). He dropped -31.76 for his 100 Free and -21.41 for his 50 Free (7th place)! Look's like we have another Freestyler on the way. Move over Luke and Garrett! Damian also got NEW WHITE TIMES for his 50 Back (7th place), 50 Breast, and 50 Fly.

Vincent Frausto (Gold) had the BEST SINGLE TIME DROP (-33.97) for his 200 Free. His 100 Free was a NEW RED TIME and his 200 Free and 50 Fly were NEW BLUE TIMES. He earned 2nd for his 100 Breast; 6th for his 100 Back, and 7th for his 50 Back. The 50 Fly and 200 Free made the 11-12 All Time Top 10.

Our Rísíng Stars

Also swimming long course for the <u>first time</u> were *Edie Miller* and *Preston Hu*.

Edie Miller (Bronze) earned FIRST TIME RED TIMES in the 50 Back and 50 Free and NEW WHITE TIMES for her 100 Free, 50 Breast, and 50 Fly. She was awarded 1st for her 50 Breast and 6th for her 50 Fly. Her 50 Free also put her on the 5-8 All Time Top 10.

Preston Hu (Bronze) earned NEW WHITE TIMES for his 50 free, 100 free, 50 breast, 100 breast, 50 back, and 50 fly. Now here's what we call 'stepping up'... his 50 Back was a 2nd place swim and his 100 Breast was a 4th place swim. Move over Alan and Michael.

Our Team

Kai Anolin (Gold) earned a FIRST TIME RED TIME for his 50 Fly and a NEW WHITE TIME for his 50 Breast. He was awarded 2nd for the 50 Back; 3rd for his 50 Back, 100 Back; 4th for his 50 Fly, and 8th for his 100 Back. *Kai*'s 100 Back made the 11-12 All Time Top 10.

Arwen Castillo (Pre-Senior 2) earned a NEW WHITE TIME and a place on the 13-14 All Time Top 10 for her 200 Fly. She was awarded 1st for her 50 Free and 200 Fly; 2nd for her 100 Breast; 3rd for her 100 Fly; 4th for her 200 IM, 8th for her 200 Free.

Alan DiBello (Silver) earned a FIRST TIME RED TIME for his 200 Free, and a NEW RED TIME for his 100 Fly. He was awarded 1st for the 50 Back, 100 Back; 3rd for the 50 Fly, 100 Fly; 4th for the 50 Free; 5th for the 50 Free; and 6th for the 200 Free. The 200 Free and 100 Fly landed him in the 9-10 All Time Top 10.

Michael DiBello (Pre-Senior 2) was awarded 2nd for his 100 Free; 3rd for his 200 Breast, 200 Free; 5th for the 50 Free; 8th for his 100 Back and 200 Back. The 100 Back, 200 Back, 100 Breast, and 200 Breast were all 13-14 All Time Top Time swims.

Joshua Jenkins (Pre-Senior 2) earned FIRST TIME RED TIMES for his 100 Back and 100 Free. He was awarded 4th place for the 100 Back, 100 Free; 5th for his 200 Free; 8th for his 50 Free.

Ethan Lopez (Gold) earned FIRST TIME RED TIMES for his 100 Fly and 200 IM. He was awarded 1st for his 100 Fly, 200 Free, 50 Breast; 5th for his 100 Back; 8th for his 50 Free. His 50 Back, 100 Fly, and 200 IM made the 11-12 All Time Top 10.

Luke Pedroche (Gold) set the TEAM RECORD for his 100 Free. He was awarded 2^{nd} for his 50 Breast; and 3^{rd} for his 100 Free. Luke's 100 Free and 100 Fly earned spots in the 11-12 All Time Top 10.

Mayumi Pedroche (Silver) earned a NEW WHITE TIME for her 50 Breast. She was awarded 3^{rd} for her 50 Fly and 6^{th} for her 50 Breast.

Nikki Tse (Gold) was awarded 1st for her 50 Back; 3rd for her 100 Fly; 4th for her 50 fly; 5th for her 200 IM, 50 Breast; 7th for her 100 Free; and 8th for her 50 Free.

Makalia Valenzona (Pre-Senior 2) was awarded 2nd for her 200 Breast, 200 Free; 3rd 100 Back, 100 Free; 4th for her 100 Breast; 5th for her 100 Fly; and 7th for her 50 Free. Makalia's 100 Breast and 200 Breast earned spots on the 13-14 All Time Top 10.

Maddie Wheeler (Gold) swam the 400 IM to a FIRST TIME BLUE TIME. Her time in this event would have set a team record but Teagan beat her to the finish. She was awarded 4th place for the 400 IM, and 5th for her 100 Back, 200 IM. Maddie's 400 IM also earned a spot on the 11-12 All Time Top 10.

WRAP UP

"When you have confidence you can have a lot of fun. And when you have fun you can do amazing things." (Joe Namath)

Our kids (and the parents) had a lot of fun and from the stats above you can see every swimmer did amazing. They put the teams in the Desert Geo Committee on notice. We are the Sharks, we are kicking butt, and we are taking names! We've only just begun.

Special thanks and acknowledgement go to Kai's parents for getting us a prime spot and setting up the E-Z ups and to Damien's parents who made a special trip back to the pool to take the E-Z ups home. Thanks also to all the parents who donated lots and lots of goodies for those 'travel' goodie bags. The kids loved them.

Coach: "This practice is gonna be fun!" The Team: "Oh good Lord! We're gonna die!"

(I told this story to Alan and Michael. They didn't think it was funny.)

GO SHARKS!

GMA Sherry