

Ozark Swimming Hall of Fame

Inaugural Class of 2007

MARK DEAN

Mark's age group career started in Springfield, Illinois, but he moved to St. Louis from ages 10 – 15, where he swam with Sugar Creek Swim Club. In 1984 he qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 1500 Free at the age of 15.

Mark did not swim for his High School Team, and then moved to Kansas City and swam with the Kansas City Blazers at the age of 16. His former coach, Pete Malone, said "He was one of the hardest trainers and relentless in his approach to reaching his potential."

Mark was recruited by a number of teams, but chose UCLA. He was captain of the team his senior year and was recognized for his incredible work ethic. Mark qualified for the 1988 Trials in the 200 IM, 400 IM and 200 Fly and represented Team USA at that Olympic Games.

He made the 1991 Pan American Team, where he won gold in the 200 Fly, which was a major accomplishment having just come off major surgery to repair a lung in the summer of 1990. He was a top finisher at the 1992 Olympic Trials, accomplishing what few athletes of his time did: final in three Olympic Trials. While this is more common today, back then it was not at that time. Mark is a great example of what one can do if they let themselves dream, set goals, and have a plan to reach them.

TOM JAGER

Tom Jager began his swimming career at Parkway Swim Club and swam for Coach Penny Taylor, who is also being honored as a coach in this inaugural class. He still holds 36 Parkway Records and 24 Ozark Records, dating back to the 70's and 80's, setting a standard that has not yet been matched. Tom attended and swam for UCLA.

Tom qualified for three Olympic Teams, 1984, 1988, and 1992, where he earned seven medals, including five Golds. Jager ended his career at the at the 1996 Olympic Trials, here at the age of 31, he attempted to qualify for his fourth Olympic

Team. He was a leader in the world of swimming for post-graduates. He was the 1988 and 1992 Olympic Team Captain and the 1991 World Aquatics Championship Team Captain.

When Tom retired, he was the World Record Holder in the 50 Meter Free, a record he set in a nationally televised match race versus his career nemesis and friend Matt Biondi. At the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Tom was second to Matt in the 50 Free. In 1992, Jager won the bronze, with Matt winning the silver. He and Biondi are the only two Americans to win gold medals in three Olympiads: both did it the 400 M Free Relay (in 1984, Tom swam on the prelim squad and then in 88 and 92 he was on the Championship Finals Team). In 1984 and 1988, he won Gold medals swimming in prelims of the 400 Medley Relay. He earned eleven National Titles and five NCAA Crowns.

In 2001, Tom was inducted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

VICTORIA KING

Victoria (Vicki) King swam in the AAU beginning in 1963 and ending in 1971. She started with Mid-County YMCA, an AAU team, starting in 1963. In 1965, she began swimming for Clayton Shaw Park and swam under coach Alex Ikeda. Vicki attended her first US National Championship in 1967 at the age of 14 and placed 10th in the 1650 Yard Free. At the 1967 Summer US Nationals, she was 6th in the 1500 Meter Free.

In the fall of 1967, Vicki left her family to move to Sacramento, California and swam at Arden Hills Country Club under Coach Sherm Chavoor (US Olympic Coach 1968 and 1972). She placed 2nd in the 1650 Yard Free at short course US Nationals and then in the summer was also 2nd in the 1500 M Free. She was a member of the 800 Meter Free Relay that Broke the World Record.

She became a member of the 1968 Olympic Swimming Team after placing 4th in the 800 Meter Free and 6th in the 400 Meter Free. Vicki swam on the preliminary 400 M Free Relay that competed in Mexico City at the 1968 Olympics.

In 1969, she became the US National Champion in the 500 Free and placed 2nd in the 1650 Free, 6th in the 200 Free and was on the winning 800 Free Relay which set an

American Record. In the Summer of 1969, she was 2nd in the 1500, 7th in the 400 and was on the World Record Setting 800 Free Relay.

Between 1970 and 1971, Vicki was a National Champion Medal winner in the 200, 400, and 500 Free, and in the 200 Fly and 400 IM. In addition, she was part of the Arden Hills World Record 800 Free Relay Team.

Victoria attended Stanford University beginning in 1971 and swam for the Men's Varsity Team for one year and then the Women's Varsity Team for one year. She attended Medical School at the University of Missouri-Columbia. That was followed by Residency in Otolaryngology/Head and neck Surgery at Stanford University and 11 years in practice in Palo Alto, California. During that time, she served in the 129th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron of the California Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel and Senior Flight Surgeon. She was involved in numerous rescues over the Pacific Ocean as well as during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and received the Humanitarian Service Medal, as well as the Earl T Ricks Outstanding AF Unit Award. She served in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War and was awarded a Combat Air Medal. Vicki was named the Air National Guard Medical Officer of the Year in 1991.

Victoria, who now goes by Tori, is presently residing in Penrose, Colorado on a small ranch with son Andrew King. She is employed as the Chief Medical Officer for St Thomas More Hospital and is still doing surgery part time in private practice.

ARDETH MUELLER

Ardeth began swimming at the age of 5 and competed through her high school years. At that time, high schools did not have programs for women and neither did the colleges. Despite this, Ardeth qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 100 Fly in 1956m at the age of 15. And while she did not make the team, she set a standard for greatness that would be realized in her years as a Master's Swimmer.

As a Master's Swimmer, Ardeth has achieved 133 individual and 31 relay Top 10 Awards. She has 31 All American Honors and 46 World Records. She can also claim 64 National Championship Titles and over 80 World and 100 USMS Records.

In Master's Swimming, records are set in age categories. Throughout the years, Ardeth has become the oldest woman to break some milestone times. She was the

first to go under 6 minutes in the 400 IM in the 45 – 49 Age Group. She was the first woman to break the one-minute mark in the 100 Yard Free in the 50 – 54 Age Group, and these records have stood the test of time.

Ardeth has received the David Yorzyk Memorial Award and was inducted as a Master's Swimmer, into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

DON ROBERTS

Don was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He became involved with Ozark Swimming through the Carondelet YMCA when son Brian and daughter Donna began swimming. Don first started volunteering in 1966 as a timer. He later went on to become Team's Swim Team President and served in other Board positions within the team. In 1967, Jim Phelps, an Ozark Official from his team, encouraged Don to become a starter and he continued working and officiating for the LSC until 1999.

Don served as the Ozark LSC Board President, Vice President, Registration Chair a Treasurer, throughout his time as a volunteer for Ozark Swimming. In 1988, Don helped Ozark transition from AAU Swimming to USA Swimming. He attended all National Conventions and started High School and College Swim Meets. He was a charter member of the group that worked for Dual Participation for High School Athletes, that was inally realized in 2005.

Don "loved the kids." He felt that swimming made them healthy and he wanted to be a part of that. He passed away in 2004 and is survived by his wife Shirley, son Brian and his family. For over three decades Don demonstrated loyalty, consistency, and dedication to the sport of Swimming.

BILL STAPLETON

Bill grew up outside Edwardsville, Ill and has been a competitive swimmer since grade school. He became serious about the sport in high school and committed to driving an hour each way to train with Sugar Creek Swim Club, one of the most highly regarded teams in the Midwest at the time. Stanford, Texas, and Harvard all recruited him, but he chose to be a Longhorn because of his respect for Eddie.

Like many other Ozark swimmers, he dreamed of standing on the podium at the Olympics. He finished second at Trials in the 200 IM and joined the 1988 Olympic

Team. Bill finished 16th at the Seoul Olympics when the flu ran through the training camp, and Bill was not at full strength for the event. Stapleton took gold at the 1987 Pan American Games in the 200 IM.

After graduation from Texas, Bill went on to Law School and was a lawyer with Brown McCarroll & Oaks Hartline in 1995 before moving into sports management. He created the Stapleton Capital Sports & Entertainment agency, which promoted athletes such as Lance Armstrong, and then moved into the music business. His partnership with Lance has created a lasting friendship and has been the basis of a very lucrative business practice. Bill has two daughters Alex and Ella.

Most recently, Bill served as Vice President on the 2004 Olympic Committee, where his talents in the legal field and sports management were able to be used to further the sport.

PENNY TAYLOR

Carol "Penny" Pence Taylor is being inducted into this inaugural class as a coach, but she also qualifies as an athlete, master swimmer and contributor.

She was a member of the 1948 Olympic team in London, England, and the Pan American Games in Buenos, Aires, Argentina in 1951, where she won a Gold and Bronze. She was the national Champions and American record holder in the Breast stroke events for five years.

Penny has competed with Masters Swimming for over 35 years, is a national champion and record holder in the breaststroke events for her age group and holds Arizona state records in the breaststrokes. She has set numerous records in her age group, and earned 1 gold, 3 Silvers and at the World Championships in August of 2006.

Penny has been a volunteer contributor to the sport for most of her life. She was involved with Ozark LSC while in St. Louis, but went on to serve the sport in a much broader arena. She was manager for US National teams from 1975 to 1999 in International Competition, serving in Germany, France, Netherlands, Florida, Japan, New York, and Mallorca. She was the Head Manager for the 1986 World Championship in Spain, the 1991 World Championship Team in Australia. She managed the men's and women's teams in both the 1984 and 1992 Olympics and

was the Chef De Mission, (head of Delegation) for all Aquatic sports for the 1994 World Championships in Rome, Italy, 1998 World Championships in Australia, and 2001 World Championships in Fukuoka.

She has been a member and secretary for 20 years with the Olympic International Operations Committee of the US, and is serving her sixth term as central Zone Director. She was a member of the USA Swimming Board of Directors for five years, has attended National Conventions, and was recently awarded the highest honor bestowed on an individual for service to USA Swimming.

In addition to all these areas, Penny is being honored as a coach. Penny has invested what she knows into countless swimmers from age group swimmers like Tom Jager, to masters' swimmers like Ardeth Mueller. She served as a coach in St Louis for 35 years, and helped to organized and develop three teams. Ferguson Ritenour YMCA teams won three National Women's team championships under her direction, and Parkway Swim club took numerous state, district, and regional titles. She served in Ozark LSC, and was a charter member of the American Swimming Coaches Association, and the first woman to be elected to the Board.

The USA Swimming logo is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the word "USA" is written in large, pink, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the word "SWIMMING" is written in blue, sans-serif capital letters. The shield's background features a stylized American flag with alternating pink and light blue vertical stripes. A white five-pointed star is centered in the lower half of the shield. A small registered trademark symbol (®) is located in the bottom right corner of the shield.

**OZARK
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