 SARASOTA SWIM ACADEMY is under the direction of Head Coach Ira Klein, who has coached *6 OLYMPIANS* and over *40 USA, YMCA & COLLEGIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.* Coach Ira is a *certified Level 5 Coach, the highest level attainable with the American Swim Coaches Association*. He was the first coach in the country to attain that level as a Senior, Age Group, and YMCA coach. He brings more than four decades of teaching experience and coaching excellence to our program.

Coach Ira is from New York, graduating in 1975 from Queens College with a BA in Physical Education. He then did his graduate study in Exercise Science at the Univ. of Massachusetts. At Queens College Coach Ira lettered in both swimming and water polo.

Coaching has taken him around the country, including *four years in Colorado at the Olympic Training Center* creating a new Club Services department for *USA Swimming*. When he was ready to return to the coaching deck he decided to turn down all offers and return to Sarasota where he had *prior headed the YMCA program for five years*.

AMONG HIS COACHING CREDENTIALS ARE;
- **100% of all program graduating athletes have entered and attended college**
- **65% of all program graduates attending college have received scholarships**
- **Five time USA National Team Coach**
- **Two time past President of the American Swim Coaches Association [ASCA]**
- **Past Vice President of USA Swimming**
- **ASCA Coach 'Gold Medal' Level; received for more than 20 years, as a National 'Coaching Excellence' award recipient.**
- **Coached over 100 USA Swimming National, NCAA Collegiate, YMCA National, National Age Group and Junior Olympic; individual and team champions!**

But when asked what he enjoys most in swimming, the singular answer is "the ability to watch a young person achieve something, at any level, that they had never done before and learn that all is possible if they are willing to work for it."

Coach Ira can be reached at **941-928-SWIM (7946)**

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coachira@srqswim.com (easier to type)