

Old Orchard Swim Club

Otter News:

Highlighted News Articles {1988 – 2016}

- 8/18/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Throwback Thursday: Cherry Hill native Sean Killion reflects back on Olympics, swimming career
- 8/1/16: **The Courier Post** - Old Orchard wins Cherry Bowl that is filled with new records
- 8/1/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - 2016 Cherry Bowl Event Winners
- 8/1/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Weekly Roundup: Old Orchard wins Cherry Bowl...
- 7/31/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Old Orchard edges Erlton to win 2016 Cherry Bowl
- 7/28/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Throwback Thursday: Looking back at Cherry Bowl history
- 7/21/16: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Throwback Thursday: Old Orchard Swim Club celebrates 50th anniversary
- 5/25/16: **The Wire** - Old Orchard Swim Club Celebrating 50 Years
- 5/5/15: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Old Orchard, Barclay Farm swim clubs preparing for summer meets
- 6/8/14: **Philadelphia Inquirer** - Heralding summer in Cherry Hill, poolside
- 5/27/14: **The Cherry Hill Sun** - Swim meet to honor local businessman Bill Quigley
- 10/24/07: **The Courier Post** - Star swimmer Killion now rides ocean waves
- 7/28/97: **PHILLY.COM** - Smooth Sailing For Old Orchard In Cherry Bowl Win
- 7/25/97: **PHILLY.COM** - Champs Don't Want Another Close Finish Old Orchard Won Last Year's Cherry Bowl Meet By One. The Otters Want Breathing Room This Year.
- 7/29/96: **PHILLY.COM** - Otters Win 4th Straight Cherry Bowl
- 7/28/96: **PHILLY.COM** - Old Orchard Wins Cherry Bowl The Otters Earned Their 4th Straight Title In The Swim Meet. They Edged Favored Cherry Valley, 901-900.
- 8/8/93 **PHILLY.COM** – Swimmers Go For The Bowl
- 8/1/91: **PHILLY.COM** - Cherry Hill Swimmers Compete For Top Spot
- 8/7/88: **PHILLY.COM** – Getting Ready For His Olympic Bid
- 8/3/88: **PHILLY.COM** – Everybody's A Winner Swimmers Are Friendly Foes



8/18/16

Mike Monostra

<https://cherryhillsun.com/throwback-thursday-cherry-hill-native-sean-killion-reflects-back-on-olympics-swimming-career-e0b7be15159c#.j8erlvijt>

Throwback Thursday: Cherry Hill native Sean Killion reflects back on Olympics, swimming career

A member of the Camden County Sports Hall of Fame and Cherry Hill East Athletic Hall of Fame, Killion swam for the United States in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.



It has been nearly 25 years since Cherry Hill native Sean Killion swam in the 1992 Summer Olympics, yet he remembers it like it was yesterday.

Killion describes his participation in the 1992 summer games in Barcelona, Spain, as “surreal,” calling the Olympics a sporting event unlike any other.

“There was the whole experience,” Killion said. “It was people from all over the world, people from different cultures and countries.”

Killion’s trip to the Olympics was the highest point of a very distinguished career.

A 1986 graduate from Cherry Hill High School East, Killion set numerous records in both the Tri-County Swimming Pool Association and in high school. Considered one of the best swimmers to ever come out of South Jersey, Killion is a member of the Camden County Sports Hall of Fame and the Cherry Hill East Athletic Hall of Fame.

Killion’s roots in swimming were planted at Old Orchard Swim Club. Killion’s family moved to Old Orchard in 1967, the same year Sean was born, and became involved with the swim club right away.

“Cherry Hill was a great place to grow up,” Killion said.

Killion describes the environment at Old Orchard Swim Club as amazing. The swim club was a huge part of his family's life, with summers spent attending social events, competing in swim meets and enjoying time with friends.

Killion remembers the moments he decided to swim competitively when he was younger. He decided to jump in the pool after watching his older siblings Kathleen and Michael swim for the Old Orchard Otters swim team.

"I kind of watched my older siblings do this," Killion said. "I thought this was really cool. I want to be a part of this."

Killion swam for both Old Orchard and Jersey Wahoos Swim Club in Mt. Laurel as a kid. While Killion was at Old Orchard, the Otters won 10 Cherry Bowl championships and Killion set multiple records at the team and Tri-County level.

At Cherry Hill East, Killion won multiple individual state championships, and his mark on high school swimming can still be found in the state record books. In his senior year, Killion set the meet record at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions in the boys' 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:24.04. Not only does the record still stand 30 years later, but at the 2016 NJSIAA Meet of Champions, no swimmer was able to come within eight seconds of the mark.

Killion became well known outside of South Jersey shortly after graduating high school while competing for the United States at the 1986 Goodwill Games in Moscow, Soviet Union. Going against accomplished Soviet distance swimmer Vladimir Salnikov in the 400-meter freestyle, Killion pulled off a huge upset, winning the gold medal. Killion beat Salnikov by just less than a one-tenth of a second.

The accomplishment was even bigger of a deal considering earlier in the Goodwill Games, Killion and Salnikov both swam in the 800-meter freestyle and Salnikov won easily, shattering the world record in the process.

"To be able to, two or three nights later, beat him in his hometown, it would be like beating Usain Bolt in Jamaica," Killion said of the race.

The Goodwill Games gold medal was one of the highs for Killion's career, but there were lows as well. Killion remembers being disappointed after he failed to make the U.S. Olympic team for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

Killion continued to swim into the early 1990s, competing for both his college team at the University of California-Berkeley and internationally. He was a gold medalist in the 1991 Pan-American Games in the men's 400-meter freestyle. In 1992, Killion's Olympic dream finally came true as he made the 1992 U.S. Olympic team for both the 400-meter freestyle and 1,500-meter freestyle. He went on to finish 11th place in the 400 meters and 12th place in the 1,500 meters.

"I would read about the (international) meets and followed it and studied it," Killion said of when he was a kid. "I hoped that I could maybe do that at some point. I never had this expectation that I would beat Salnikov or I would go to the Olympics."

Throughout his career, Killion credits his family with being his biggest support. He believes he wouldn't have been able to have the success in the pool without their help.

"My family was really my inspiration," he said. "They kept me in check, made sure my ego didn't get too big. I stayed humble."

Killion also said he never forgets his roots in Cherry Hill. The support he received throughout his career from his hometown was incredible.

"There was a good core group of guys that I grew up with. Good D-1 athletes who created a good environment," Killion said.

“The Old Orchard community, the St. Mary Parish community, the Cherry Hill East community, Christ the King (Killion’s elementary school), everyone was really cool and supportive,” he added.

It’s been awhile since Killion has lived in Cherry Hill. Since the late 1990s, he has lived in the San Francisco Bay area and is now married with two daughters. Killion enjoys spending time with the family, attending his daughter’s sporting events and surfing. When it comes to watching sports, Killion admits he hasn’t forgotten his roots.

“I still cheer for the Eagles and the Phillies, all of the Philadelphia teams,” he said.

Nothing could make Killion forget where he came from. He looks back on his swimming career with more pride each day, realizing the time he had in competitive swimming was truly special.



Courier Post

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/sports/2016/07/30/old-orchard-wins-cherry-bowl-filled-new-records/87803428/>

Old Orchard wins Cherry Bowl that is filled with new records

Trevor Newcomb
August 1, 2016

The Old Orchard Swim Team hadn’t won the Cherry Bowl since 1997, a year in which many of its swimmers hadn’t even been born.

At the 57th Annual Cherry Bowl, hosted by Cherry Valley Swim Club, Chris Brookover’s team changed that statistic.

The Otters were right in the thick of the hunt for the title 10 events into the 66-event swim meet. They sat in third with 148 points, trailing Erlton (157) and Willowdale (149). Through the rest of the tournament, those three teams battled it out.

It came down to the final two events, the 15-18-year-old boys and girls 200 meter freestyle relays. Entering the final two events, Old Orchard was behind by nine points, and came up clutch to secure the victory.

The Otters’ girls side finished first and the boys earned the silver. But after the final time was recorded, they were all Cherry Bowl Champions, something Brookover was not anticipating.

“Totally unexpected,” the coach said, as he was dripping from his celebratory jump in the pool. “You score these things out, and I thought we had a good shot at second, but never in my wildest dreams did I think that we could’ve won this thing today.”

Old Orchard earned the win with 945 total points.

"The kids, they just swam out of their minds today," Brookover added. "This team has really come together. It was a storybook season and you really can't ask for anything more."

Adding to the excitement for the Otters was the fact that this year they're celebrating their 50th season.

Following the event, the Cherry Bowl officials needed to update the record books on a few different pages, as a handful of swimmers broke meet records. One event even saw two times eclipse the previous mark.

The first record-breaking performance came in the fifth event of the morning, the women's 15-18 200m individual medley.

Fox Hollow's MacKenzie O'Connor broke the meet record of 1:07.06 by just over a second. It was especially important to O'Connor, because she got to celebrate with the previous record-holder.

"It was actually my coach's record, Erin McBride," O'Connor said with a smile. "She was so excited for me and she wanted me to get it."

O'Connor sounded confident when asked if she thought she would break the record, giving a strong "yes," but afterwards she said there are still nerves.

"There's always nerves, no matter what," the Bishop Eustace student said.

Fox Hollow finished sixth. O'Connor's record-breaking time was just one of ten times in the tournament.

Charleston's Marcello Garber broke the record in the men's 15-18 100m breaststroke, something that has been on the 17-year-old's mind for a few years now.

"Finally, I was able to get it done after a few years of working towards it," the St. Joseph's Prep student explained. "I wanted it when I was 15. I would've liked to get it earlier, but I'll take it."

Garber inks his name in the record book for the second time, as he is the record-holder for the 13-14 year-old 50m breaststroke.

Although Charleston Swim Club placed at the bottom of the meet, morale was still high under the team tent.

"Everybody is happy, dancing around," he said. "I'll probably get back to that in a second so we can get ready to go."

J.D. Moyer was a part of Old Orchard's title-run and he contributed by finishing first in the boys 9-10-year-old 25m butterfly. His success is partially due to the time he dedicates in the pool.

"Every day but Sunday," he said of his practice habits. "Butterfly is my favorite. I like to practice it a lot and it's fun."

Old Orchard had handful of young swimmers place high on the scoreboard, something promising to Brookover.

"It just bodes well," he said. "It makes everything so much better going forward."

Erlton placed second with 916 points and Willowdale was awarded the bronze with 871 total points.

Trevor Newcomb; (856) 563-5257; tnewcombnj.gannett.com

2016 Cherry Bowl Results

Team Results

1. Old Orchard, 945; 2. Erlton, 916; 3. Willowdale, 871, 4. Covered Bridge, 825; 5. Woodbrest, 719; 6. Fox Hollow 597; 7. Wexford Leas 539; 8. Barclay Farm, 522; 9. Cherry Valley, 458.5; 10. Downs Farm, 446; 11. Kingston Estates, 439.5; 12. Haddontowne, 336; 13. Charleston, 318



Kayla Gagnon of Old Orchard Swim Club races in the 100m individual medley during the 57th Annual Cherry Bowl held at Cherry Hill Swim Club on Saturday, July 30. Justin Odendhal/Staff Photographer

Individual Results

Girl's 12-under 100m Ind. Medley: 1. Laurel Decker, Woodcrest, 1:17.02; 2. Meghan Finnegan, Old Orchard, 1:18; 3. Madison McNiff, Haddontowne, 1:23.77.

Boy's 12-under 100m Ind. Medley: 1. James Tao, Old Orchard, 1:14.04; 2. Dou Schwartz, Willowdale, 1:15.20; 3. Thomas Stankus, Kingston Estates, 1:19.09.

Girl's 13-14 100m Ind. Medley: 1. Sabrina Rounds, Willowdale, 1:17.51; T2. Isabella Blanchard, Cherry Valley 1:22.87; T2. Olivia Hafner, Kingston Estates, 1:22.87.

Boy's 13-14 100m Ind. Medley: 1. Jackson Brooker, Old Orchard, 1:05.92, 2. Alex Volin, Woodcrest, 1:06.92; Alvin Eizner, Willowdale, 1:08.08.

Women's 15-18 100m Ind. Medley: 1. MacKenzie O'Connor, Fox Hollow, 1:05.82*, 2. Kayla Gagnon, Old Orchard, 1:08.14; 3. Katie Doyle, Woodcrest, 1:08.97.

Men's 15-18 100m Ind. Medley: 1. Sean Finias, Downs Farm, 2:13.69; 2. Jack Watson, Wexford Leas, 2:13.74; 3. Katie Doyle, Woodcrest, 1:08.97.

Girl's 8-under 100m Medley Relay: 1. Erlton, 1:31.64; 2. Covered Bridge, 1:32.39; 3. Woodcrest, 1:41.98.

Boy's 8-under 100m Medley Relay: 1. Erlton, 1:26.74; 2. Willowdale, 1:30.14; 3. Fox Hollow, 1:32.72.

Girl's 9-10 100m Medley Relay: 1. Woodcrest, 1:12.96; 2. Covered Bridge, 1:15.61, 3. Old Orchard, 1:16.72.

Boy's 9-10 100m Medley Relay: 1. Covered Bridge (Cooper Legato, Benjamin Turley, Peter Graffeo, Matt Sonn), 1:10.72*, 2. Erlton, 1:14.52; 3. Fox Hollow, 1:19.65.

Girl's 11-12 200m Medley Relay: 1. Woodcrest, 2:22.38; 2. Haddontowne, 2:24.23; 3. Covered Bridge, 2:26.69.

Boy's 11-12 200m Medley Relay: 1. Willowgrove (Josh Seidman, Nick Pezzella, Ryan Cortes, Nick Short), 2:14.24*; 2. Erlton, 2:18.24; 3. Old Orchard, 2:25.80.

Girl's 13-14 200m Medley Relay: 1. Wexford Leas, 2:10.42; 2. Woodcrest, 2:16.80; 3. Old Orchard, 2:17.55.

Boy's 13-14 200m Medley Relay: 1. Old Orchard, 2:01.90; 2. Willowdale, 2:06.60; 3. Erlton, 2:07.32.

Women's 15-18 200m Medley Relay: 1. Old Orchard, 2:05.08; 2. Erlton, 2:06.01; 3. Fox Hollow, 2:08.87.

Men's 15-18 200m Medley Relay: 1. Charleston, 1:51.80; 2. Downs Farm, 1:52.24; 3. Willowdale, 1:52.86.

Girl's 8-under 25m Freestyle: 1. Sarah Boucher, Downs Farm, 18.45; 2. Lola Parker-Kearney, Erlton, 19.38; 3. Tatum Oliver, Covered Bridge, 20.56.

Boy's 8-under 25m Freestyle: 1. Ryan Moyer, Old Orchard, 17.48; Jayden Cordova, Erlton, 17.56; 3. Brayden Falcone, Barclay Farm, 18.49.

Girl's 9-10 50m Freestyle: 1. Emily Fekete, Fox Hollow, 31.48; 2. Kennedy Erdman, Covered Bridge, 34.53; 3. Kaitlyn Fahy, Old Orchard, 34.67.

Boy's 9-10 50m Freestyle; 1. Cooper Legato, Covered Bridge, 33.14; 2. Tre Cottrell, Erlton, 33.76; 3. Jack Behm, Old Orchard, 33.82.

Girl's 11-12 50m Freestyle: 1. Angela Merch, Woodcrest, 30.98; 2. Keira Poyatt, Cherry Valley, 31.02; 3. Emma Behm, Old Orchard, 31.44.

Boy's 11-12 50m Freestyle: 1. Aidan Dold, Wexford Leas, 29.94; 2. Ryan Cortes, Willowdale, 30.02; 3. Quinn Clancey, Erlton, 32.53.

Girl's 13-14 100m Freestyle: 1. Annie Behm, Old Orchard, 1:03.54; 2. Mary Gray, Fox Hollow, 1:04.75; 3. Kylie Preihs, Haddontowne, 1:05.75.

Boy's 13-14 100m Freestyle: 1. Michael Treglia, Woodcrest, 57.18; 2. Jack Marble, Erlton, 1:02.00; 3. Nick Arcaroli, Kingston Estates, 1:06.30.

Women's 15-18 100m Freestyle: Emily Lund, Wexford Leas, 59.88; 2. Madison Franke, Covered Bridge, 59.96; 3. Caroline Conte, Erlton, 1:01.01.

Men's 15-18 100m Freestyle: 1. Evan Raiken, Charleston, 54.63; 2. Aaron Schiff, Willowdale, 55.98; 3. Alexander Kousoulis, Covered Bridge, 56.42.

Girl's 8-under 25m Backstroke: 1. Lily Conlon, Old Orchard, 21.87; 2. Kate Maynes, Erlton, 23.96; 3. Lila Vindick, Woodcrest, 24.39.

Boy's 8-under 25m Backstroke: 1. Michael Fekete, Fox Hollow, 21.00; 2. Logan Rhea, Erlton, 21.97; 3. Jack Luehrs, Willowdale, 23.83.

Girl's 9-10 25m Backstroke: 1. Emma Dimter, Woodcrest, 17.72; 2. Giuliana Puglisi, Wexford Leas, 19.31; 3. Mia Longo, Covered Bridge, 19.88.

Boy's 9-10 25m Backstroke: 1. Benjamin Turley, Covered Bridge, 17.84; 2. Aidan Rhea, Erlton, 19.40; 3. Gabriel Barrett, Wexford Leas, 19.48.

Girl's 11-12 50m Backstroke: 1. Tabitha Thorpe, Erlton, 36.92; 2. Katarina Gagnon, Old Orchard, 37.36; 3. Sabrina Owens, Covered Bridge, 37.85.

Boy's 11-12 50m Backstroke: 1. Josh Seidman, Willowdale, 33.46; Anthony Ferraro, Old Orchard, 35.36; 3. Dermot Sheehan, Erlton, 35.82.

Girl's 13-14 50m Backstroke: 1. Virginia Cunningham, Wexford Leas, 34.31; 2. Gillian Peters, Kingston Estates, 34.51; 3. Tattyanna George, Fox Hollow, 35.01.

Boy's 13-14 50m Backstroke: 1. Matthew Lang, Covered Bridge, 31.18; 2. Stephen Kasko, Erlton, 31.92; 3. Bobby Irwin, Fox Hollow, 32.80.

Women's 15-18 50m Backstroke: 1. Blair Brown, Kingston Estates, 32.44; 2. Alexandria Bromley, Downs Farm, 32.67; 3. Ciera McGlade, Charleston, 32.85.

Men's 15-18 50m Backstroke: 1. Duncan Brookover, Old Orchard, 59.00; 2. Kevin Gillooly, Barclay Farm, 1:01.22; 3. Nick Masciandro, Charleston, 1:02.72.

Girl's 8-under 25m Breaststroke: 1. Erin Cortes, Willowdale, 24.42; 2. Grace Ward, Covered Bridge, 24.62; 3. Katherine Brown, Erlton, 25.61.

Boy's 8-under 25m Breaststroke: 1. Peter Moon, Willowdale, 22.87; 2. William Walsh, Woodcrest, 24.87; 3. Grant Muratore, Fox Hollow, 24.97.

Girl's 9-10 25m Breaststroke: 1. Olivia Lass, Woodcrest, 20.44; 2. Anna Stolarick, Erlton, 21.19; 3. Anna Marquardt, Barclay Farm, 21.46.

Boy's 9-10 25m Breaststroke: 1. Peter Graffeo, Covered Bridge, 18.86; 2. Blaise Coley, Erlton, 19.92; 3. Greg Pierce, Fox Hollow, 22.12.

Girl's 11-12 50m Breaststroke: 1. Alexandra Brown, Erlton, 38.01; 2. Megan Franks, Haddontowne, 40.05; 3. Katie Quarry, Covered Bridge, 41.83.

Boy's 11-12 50m Breaststroke: 1. Nick Pezzella, Willowdale, 36.36; 2. Brett Tedesco, Downs Farm, 39.39; 3. Christian Ball, Erlton, 39.75.

Girl's 13-14 50m Breaststroke: 1. Grace Yoon, Wexford Leas, 34.12*; 2. Brianna Disanti, Woodcrest, 35.23; 3. Isabel Andino, Charleston 37.32.

Boy's 13-14 50m Breaststroke: Patrick Greene, Kingston Estates, 35.23; 2. Spenser Dubois, Old Orchard, 35.30; 3. Jesse Keesal, Willowdale, 36.06.

Women's 15-18 50m Breaststroke: 1. Kendall Bromley, Downs Farm, 33.87*; 2. Megan Miller, Old Orchard, 34.02*; 3. Chloe Lin, Erlton, 36.59.

Men's 15-18 100m Breaststroke: 1. Marcello Garber, Charleston, 1:05.63*, 2. Noah Shepard, Willowdale, 1:07.11; 3. Nick Rosa, Kingston Estates, 1:07.60.

Girl's 8-under, 25m Butterfly: 1. Kylie Ruggieri, Covered Bridge, 19.23; Emma Devine, Erlton, 19.33; 3. Elizabeth Zimmer, Charleston, 22.28.

Boy's 8-under 25m Butterfly: 1. Micah Lee, Willowdale, 20.37; 2. Ryan Quinn, Erlton, 21.16; 3. Matthew Sommeling, Haddontowne, 21.34.

Girl's 9-10 25m Butterfly: 1. Alicia Albuquerque, Woodcrest, 15.49; 2. Samantha Yeakes, Covered Bridge, 15.57; 3. Ava Moyer, Old Orchard, 15.95.

Boy's 9-10 25m Butterfly: 1. J.D. Moyer, Old Orchard, 15.25*; 2. Matthew Sonn, Covered Bridge, 16.15; 3. Sean Haney, Fox Hollow, 17.21.

Girl's 11-12 50m Butterfly: 1. Laura Powers, Erlton, 31.93; 2. Amanda Marsh, Haddontowne, 32.54; 3. Hope Haney, Fox Hollow, 33.34.

Boy's 11-12 50m Butterfly: 1. Caden Balkey, Erlton, 31.66; 2. Julian Faust, Covered Bridge, 33.59; 3. Eddie Eizner, Willowdale, 34.47.

Girl's 13-14 50m Butterfly: 1. Karolyn Merch, Woodcrest, 29.93; 2. Carly Griffin, Wexford Leas, 30.72; 3. Annie Dollarton, Old Orchard, 31.99.

Boy's 13-14 50m Butterfly: 1. Robbie Thompson, Old Orchard, 29.53; 2. Andrew Maier, Willowdale, 29.55; 3. John Howe, Kingston Estates, 30.40.

Women's 15-18 50m Butterfly: 1. Anna Mecca, Erlton, 29.82; 2. Nicole Harms, Old Orchard, 30.20; 3. Lauren Kerner, Woodcrest, 30.43.

Men's 15-18 50m Butterfly: 1. Zach Volin, Downs Farm, 27.22; 2. Eric Henry, Willowdale, 27.54; 3. Daniel Brown, Erlton, 27.74.

Girl's 8-under 100m Freestyle Relay: 1. Covered Bridge, 1:20.97; 2. Erlton, 1:21.46; 3. Downs Farm, 1:32.98.

Boy's 8-under 100m Freestyle Relay: 1. Erlton, 1:14.14; 2. Willowdale, 1:18.46; 3. Barclay Farm, 1:22.40.

Girl's 9-10 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Old Orchard, 2:23.77; 2. Covered Bridge, 2:24.34; 3. Woodcrest, 2:26.13.

Boy's 9-10 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Covered Bridge, 2:11.96*; 2. Old Orchard, 2:25.38; 3. Erlton, 2:26.16.

Girl's 11-12 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Haddontowne, 2:06.61; 2. Erlton, 2:06.62; 3. Woodcrest, 2:07.33.

Boy's 11-12 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Willowdale, 2:01.30*; 2. Erlton, 2:03.69; 3. Old Orchard, 2:09.46.

Girl's 13-14 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Wexford Leas, 2:00.33; 2. Woodcrest, 2:04.40; 3. Old Orchard, 2:05.70.

Boy's 13-14 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Willowdale, 1:50.62; 2. Woodcrest, 1:51.43; 3. Erlton, 1:51.54.

Women's 15-18 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Old Orchard, 1:53.36; 2. Fox Hollow, 1:55.21; 3. Downs Farm, 1:56.44.

Men's 15-18 200m Freestyle Relay: 1. Charleston, 1:41.49; 2. Old Orchard, 1:42.17; 3. Downs Farm, 1:42.44.



8/1/16

<https://cherryhillsun.com/2016-cherry-bowl-event-winners-23e77740c65e?source=latest>

2016 Cherry Bowl Event Winners

The following swimmers and relay teams finished in first place in their respective events at the 2016 Cherry Bowl swim meet.



Erlton Swim Club's Alexandra Brown won the girls' 11–12 50-meter breaststroke at Cherry Bowl on Saturday.

With 66 events taking place at the 2016 Cherry Bowl, there's room for numerous athletes to make a name for themselves and shine on one of South Jersey's biggest stages for youth swimmers.

Below is a full list of the event winners at Saturday's Cherry Bowl:

Girls 12U 100 IM — Laurel Decker, Woodcrest
Boys 12U 100 IM — James Tao, Old Orchard
Girls 13–14 100 IM — Sabrina Rounds, Willowdale
Boys 13–14 100 IM — Jackson Brookover, Old Orchard
Girls 15–18 100 IM — Mackenzie O'Connor, Fox Hollow ***
Boys 15–18 100 IM — Sean Finias, Downs Farm
Girls 8U 100 Medley Relay — Erlton
Boys 8U 100 Medley Relay — Erlton
Girls 9–10 100 Medley Relay — Woodcrest
Boys 9–10 100 Medley Relay — Covered Bridge ***
Girls 11–12 200 Medley Relay — Woodcrest
Boys 11–12 200 Medley Relay — Willowdale ***
Girls 13–14 200 Medley Relay — Wexford Leas
Boys 13–14 200 Medley Relay — Old Orchard
Girls 15–18 200 Medley Relay — Old Orchard
Boys 15–18 200 Medley Relay — Charleston
Girls 8U 25 Freestyle — Sarah Boucher, Downs Farm
Boys 8U 25 Freestyle — Ryan Moyer — Old Orchard
Girls 9–10 50 Freestyle — Emily Fekete, Fox Hollow
Boys 9–10 50 Freestyle — Cooper Legato, Covered Bridge
Girls 11–12 50 Freestyle — Angela Merch, Woodcrest
Boys 11–12 50 Freestyle — Aidan Dold, Wexford Leas
Girls 13–14 100 Freestyle — Annie Behm, Old Orchard
Boys 13–14 100 Freestyle — Michael Treglia, Woodcrest
Girls 15–18 100 Freestyle — Emily Lund, Wexford Leas
Boys 15–18 100 Freestyle — Evan Raiken, Charleston
Girls 8U 25 Backstroke — Lily Conlon, Old Orchard
Boys 8U 25 Backstroke — Michael Fekete, Fox Hollow
Girls 9–10 25 Backstroke — Emily Dimter, Woodcrest
Boys 9–10 25 Backstroke — Benjamin Turley, Covered Bridge
Girls 11–12 50 Backstroke — Tabitha Thorpe, Erlton
Boys 11–12 50 Backstroke — Josh Seidman, Willowdale
Girls 13–14 50 Backstroke — Virginia Cunningham, Wexford Leas
Boys 13–14 50 Backstroke — Matthew Lang, Covered Bridge
Girls 15–18 50 Backstroke — Blair Brown, Kingston Estates
Boys 15–18 100 Backstroke — Duncan Brookover, Old Orchard
Girls 8U 25 Breaststroke — Erin Cortes, Willowdale
Boys 8U 25 Breaststroke — Peter Moon, Willowdale
Girls 9–10 25 Breaststroke — Olivia Lass, Woodcrest
Boys 9–10 25 Breaststroke — Peter Graffeo, Covered Bridge
Girls 11–12 50 Breaststroke — Alexandra Brown, Erlton
Boys 11–12 50 Breaststroke — Nicholas Pezzella, Willowdale
Girls 13–14 50 Breaststroke — Grace Yoon, Wexford Leas ***
Boys 13–14 50 Breaststroke — Patrick Green, Wexford Leas
Girls 15–18 50 Breaststroke — Kendall Bromley, Downs Farm ***
Megan Miller, Old Orchard (second place, broke previous record) ***
Boys 15–18 100 Breaststroke — Marcello Garber, Charleston ***
Girls 8U 25 Butterfly — Kylie Ruggieri, Covered Bridge
Boys 8U 25 Butterfly — Micah Lee, Willowdale
Girls 9–10 25 Butterfly — Alicia Albuquerque, Woodcrest
Boys 9–10 25 Butterfly — J.D. Moyer, Old Orchard ***
Girls 11–12 50 Butterfly — Laura Powers, Erlton
Boys 11–12 50 Butterfly — Caden Balkey, Erlton
Girls 13–14 50 Butterfly — Karolyn Merch, Woodcrest
Boys 13–14 50 Butterfly — Robbie Thompson, Old Orchard
Girls 15–18 50 Butterfly — Anna Mecca, Erlton

Boys 15–18 50 Butterfly — Zach Volm, Downs Farm
Girls 8U 100 Freestyle Relay — Covered Bridge
Boys 8U 100 Freestyle Relay — Erlton
Girls 9–10 200 Freestyle Relay — Old Orchard
Boys 9–10 200 Freestyle Relay — Covered Bridge
Girls 11–12 200 Freestyle Relay — Haddontowne
Boys 11–12 200 Freestyle Relay — Willowdale ***
Girls 13–14 200 Freestyle Relay — Wexford Leas
Boys 13–14 200 Freestyle Relay — Willowdale
Girls 15–18 200 Freestyle Relay — Old Orchard
Boys 15–18 200 Freestyle Relay — Charleston

*** set new meet record



8/1/16

<https://cherryhillsun.com/weekly-roundup-old-orchard-wins-cherry-bowl-zoning-ordinance-passes-on-first-reading-e13e1a662e5a>

Weekly Roundup: Old Orchard wins Cherry Bowl...



The Old Orchard coaching staff celebrates after winning the 2016 Cherry Bowl at Cherry Valley Swim Club on Saturday.

Old Orchard edges Erlton for first Cherry Bowl title since 1997

It was a historical afternoon for Old Orchard Swim Club on Saturday at the 57th annual Cherry Bowl as the Otters snapped a 19-year drought and won their 21st Cherry Bowl title. Old Orchard edged out two-time defending champion Erlton in the final two events of the day to finish in first place. Erlton finished the meet in second place and Willowdale brought home the third place trophy.



7/31/16

<https://cherryhillsun.com/old-orchard-edges-out-erlton-to-win-2016-cherry-bowl-title-3333bfa1a676>

Old Orchard edges Erlton to win 2016 Cherry Bowl

The Otters' first place finish was their first Cherry Bowl championship in 19 years. Erlton finished in second place and Willowdale finished in third place.



Old Orchard Swim Club Head Coach Chris Brookover holds up the Cherry Bowl trophy after Old Orchard's first place finish in the 2016 Cherry Bowl.

Old Orchard Swim Club's 50th anniversary year just became a historical one for its swim team. After sweeping through the C Division in the Tri-County Swimming Pool Association regular season, the Old Orchard Otters snagged the spotlight at the 2016 Cherry Bowl, winning the team title for a record 21st time. Old Orchard defeated the two-time defending champion Erlton Gators by just 29 points in the final standings to win the team's first Cherry Bowl title since 1997.

"We really came together." head coach Chris Brookover said following the meet. "We went 5-0, we're moving up (to B Division in TCSPA), we had a storybook season."

The achievement was monumental for Old Orchard, a club who had tons of success in the Cherry Bowl during the 1980s and mid-1990s, but had plenty of middle of the pack finishes during the early part of the 2000s. The team did rebound in recent years, finishing in third place in 2014 and 2015.

Brookover admitted the victory was a bit of a surprise, but added the Otters have exceeded expectations in every meet in 2016.

"Every time I want to tell you that they're going to do this or going to do that, they come up and surprise me," Brookover said.

Old Orchard led the team standings for most of the meet, but was unable to build a huge lead over the competition. They entered the final series of events, the freestyle relays, just a point ahead of Erlton. The Gators took the lead in the team standings after their 8-and-under boys 100-meter freestyle relay team won their event.

About 20 minutes later, however, Erlton's lead disappeared when their 15-18 girls' freestyle relay team was hit with a disqualification in the second-to-last event. The disqualification meant the Gators finished the event with 0 points. The Otters' 15-18 girls' freestyle relay team won the event, giving Old Orchard a 32-point boost and putting the Otters back in first place for good.

Brookover said Old Orchard's title was the result of strong swimming from both the younger and older kids. Eight different swimmers won individual events for the Otters. This included J.D. Moyer, who won the boys' 9-10 25-meter butterfly with a time of 0:15.25, breaking the event record set by Covered Bridge's Kevin King in 2005. Another Otter, Megan Miller, also broke a Cherry Bowl record in the girls' 15-18 100-meter breaststroke, only to finish in second place to Downs Farm's Kendall Bromley.

Old Orchard wasn't the only team to leave Cherry Bowl with hardware. Despite missing out on a third straight first place finish at Cherry Bowl, Erlton still brought home the second place trophy and recorded a top-3 finish for the ninth consecutive year. Winning the third place trophy was the Willowdale Dolphins, who had their best finish in a Cherry Bowl since finishing in second place in 1988.

At the conclusion of the meet, members of the Old Orchard swim team and the coaching staff followed Cherry Bowl tradition and jumped into the pool to celebrate their achievement. For Brookover, the jump into the pool was unlike any other.

"That's best dip in the pool I've ever taken," he said.





The Cherry Hill Sun
All Cherry Hill. Only Cherry Hill.

7/28/16

<https://cherryhillsun.com/throwback-thursday-looking-back-at-cherry-bowl-history-e23a52d872fd>

Throwback Thursday: Looking back at Cherry Bowl history

Find out what club has finished in first place the most times, what is the oldest standing record and when was the last time a host team has won the prestigious meet.



For more than 50 years, Cherry Bowl has brought young swimmers from across Cherry Hill together to compete for their home swim club, with the winning club bringing home the now iconic Cherry Bowl trophy.

On Saturday, Cherry Valley Swim Club will host the 57th annual Cherry Bowl. New records will likely fall and new memories will be made, as 13 Cherry Hill swim clubs battle it out to be crowned the top swim team in the township for 2016.

Before heading to Cherry Valley to take in this year's meet, here are six historical questions answered from the first 56 editions of Cherry Bowl.

Who has won the most Cherry Bowl titles overall?



Hemma Boggi of Old Orchard Swim Club competes at the 2015 Cherry Bowl. Old Orchard has finished in first place at Cherry Bowl a record 20 times.

Old Orchard Swim Club leads the way with 20 Cherry Bowl championships, the most for any single team in the meet's history. Old Orchard was dominant in the late 1970s and 1980s, winning a record 12 consecutive Cherry Bowls from 1978 to 1989. The last Cherry Bowl title for the Otters came in 1997.

The only other club close to Old Orchard's 20 titles is Kingston Estates. The Seals have won 17 Cherry Bowls all-time, with the last coming in 2011.

What was the last swim club to win three straight Cherry Bowls?

Since the turn of the century, the only team to win three straight Cherry Bowls has been Covered Bridge Swim Club. The Crocodiles were Cherry Bowl champions from 2002 to 2004. On Saturday, Erlton will try to be the first club since 2004 to win three consecutive Cherry Bowls. The Gators enter Saturday as the two-time defending Cherry Bowl champions.

What are the most points a team has recorded in a single Cherry Bowl?

During the 2008 Cherry Bowl at Old Orchard, Kingston Estates easily outdistanced second place Covered Bridge Swim Club to win the title. Kingston Estates' 1,086.5 points was a half-point better than Covered Bridge's total of 1,086 points from 2007 and remains the record for the most points a team has scored in a single Cherry Bowl.

How many Cherry Bowls has Cherry Valley hosted?



Dillon Hoffman of Cherry Valley swims in the 2015 Cherry Bowl. Cherry Valley is the host of Saturday's Cherry Bowl for the sixth time in its history.

Cherry Valley is one of only four swim clubs that has competed in every Cherry Bowl dating back to 1960. This year is the sixth time Cherry Valley is hosting the meet. The club hosted for the first time in 1963 and would host again in 1968, 1980, 1991 and 2003. It has been a while since Cherry Valley won its only Cherry Bowl. The club won the 1973 Cherry Bowl at Erlton, edging Downs Farm Swim Club by 11 points.

When was the last time the host won Cherry Bowl?

This year's Cherry Bowl marks the 20th anniversary of the last time the host club won the event. In 1996, host Old Orchard Swim Club won a thriller, besting Cherry Valley in the final event to win the meet by one point. Four other clubs also won Cherry Bowl the same year they hosted, including Woodcrest in 1960, Kingston Estates in 1967, Old Orchard in 1984 and Barclay Farm in 1990.

What is the oldest Cherry Bowl record?

One record in the Cherry Bowl record books still remains from the 1970s. In the boys' 11–12 50-meter butterfly in 1978, Dave Carey of Barclay Farm won with a time of 0:29.15. Carey's time was also the Tri-County Swimming Pool Association record for more than 30 years until Alex Martin of Sunnybrook Swim Club in Moorestown broke it in 2010.





7/21/16

Throwback Thursday: Old Orchard Swim Club celebrates 50th anniversary

The swim club's anniversary will be celebrated at a special party on Saturday night. This week, a couple members shared the history of the club and their favorite memories.



Swimmers from Old Orchard Swim Club form the number "50" in the pool to celebrate the swim club's 50th anniversary.

The Old Orchard neighborhood in Cherry Hill was constructed in the mid-1960s. As the development was built, the developer donated a plot of open land on Evans Lane. Two years later, the plot of land became home to Old Orchard Swim Club.

On Saturday, the swim club will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a party at the club. Thousands of people have passed through Old Orchard's gates since its 1966 opening. Many things have changed, but some things have stayed the same.

In the beginning

There are a few Old Orchard Swim Club members today who remember how the club got started in 1966.

Bob Rueppel, a long-time member who joined the club in the fall of 1966 shortly after the club's opening on July 4, recalls the fundraising effort necessary to get the club started. In the mid-

1960s, John Dell'Aquila chaired a committee who conducted a campaign selling charter membership bonds to Old Orchard's residents in order to pay for the pool.



The Old Orchard Swim Club under construction in the mid-1960s.

“They tried to get people to invest in a swim club that didn’t exist,” Rueppel said. “They did an unbelievable job getting people to buy a bond for the club.”

The facility was completed in time to open on July 4, 1966. The facility included two pools, a clubhouse, picnic area and open space for other activities.

Building a championship swim team

The year following Old Orchard's opening, a group of members got together to form a swim team at the club. Bob Rueppel was instrumental in forming the team along with Don and Myra Frank and Joan Elliott.

“We met in the early spring up at the club and decided to form a swim team,” Rueppel said. “None of us known much about swimming, but it was such a big thing in Cherry Hill even at that time.”

Old Orchard's swim team, nicknamed the Otters, competed in its first season in 1967. However, the club was unable to compete in the Tri-County Swimming Pool Association, as it had to wait one year. For the team's inaugural season, it instead formed the Tri-Pool League with another recently formed team in Cherry Hill, Erlton Swim Club and Pheasant Run Swim Club in Cinnaminson. Those two clubs were also on TCSPA's waiting list.

“We actually had our championship of our three clubs in July of '67 and it was actually the same day as Cherry Bowl,” Rueppel said. “We actually won it, it was our first trophy in our trophy case.”

Old Orchard would compete in Cherry Bowl for the first time in 1968. Seven years later, the Otters would win the first of 20 Cherry Bowl championships, more than any other swim club in the competition's history.

"We won our first one in 1975 at Fox Hollow Swim Club," Rueppel said. "The year before, we finished no higher than fourth."

"The weather was awful," Rueppel added. "The rain was absolutely incredible, but the meet went on because there was no thunder or lightning. At the end, someone said 'I think we're going to be close.' When they announced we had won it, we were in total shock. It came out of nowhere."

The Otters would win 14 of 15 Cherry Bowls from 1975 to 1989, with 1977 being the lone year in that stretch they didn't finish in first place. Old Orchard also won five straight Cherry Bowls from 1993 to 1997.



Bob Rueppel (left) and Old Orchard Swim Club coach Chris Brookover (right) pose with the third place trophy at the 2014 Cherry Bowl

Mini-meet gives opportunity for youngest swimmers

The club also holds an annual mini-meet for kids 9 years old and younger. Though the meet is named after Rueppel, he said he was not the man behind the meet. He credited former coach Steve Van Derhoff with getting the meet started.

The meet includes 61 events and includes "kick board" races for the youngest participants. Young swimmers from swim clubs all across South Jersey converge on Old Orchard each July for the meet.

Rueppel said Van Derhoff kept a close eye on the youngest swimmers during Old Orchard's early years. Once kids passed their swimming certification, Van Derhoff would immediately invite them to join the team.

"Every day the kids would apply for their (certification) bands," Rueppel said. "If a kid made his band, he would tell them, 'I'll see you tomorrow at 8 o'clock, you're on the swim team.'"

A neighborhood hangout for generations

One theme resonating with many long-time members of the club is how their kids returned to the club after becoming adults. Rick Naumann, a member of the club for more than 20 years, said both of his daughters are members of the swim club today and his grandchildren swim for the Otters. Naumann has not been a member for about eight or nine years, yet he still visits the swim club to see his grandchildren swim.

"They're dragging me back in," Naumann joked.

Naumann and Rueppel consider Old Orchard Swim Club to be a great place for kids to spend their summer. Rueppel recalled years ago prior to the opening of Wexford Leas Swim Club in 1969, kids from that neighborhood would come to Old Orchard and get to socialize with kids who they didn't go to school with.



Naumann felt Old Orchard was a safe and friendly place for his daughters to spend their summer vacation.

"It was such a safe place," he said. "Once they got to be a certain age, they could ride their bikes up to the club for the day."

Naumann believes many family members return because of the solid social programs at Old Orchard. Many of the family activities the club had in the 1980s are still there today.

“The social activities from what I can see, that has remained the same,” Naumann said. “It’s just a nice place to spend your summer. The cookouts, the picnic grove, the games for the kids, that has remained the constant.”

Rueppel said he has also seen kids who formerly spent their summers at the club move back to Cherry Hill as adults and become members.

“A lot of the kids who grew up in Old Orchard have gotten married, go to work and move back into the area,” Rueppel said. “They became members because their families were members.”

Staying strong for another 50 years

While Old Orchard Swim Club has remained a family-friendly place to spend a hot summer day for 50 years, it is facing the same challenging climate as other swim clubs across South Jersey are.

Rueppel said there was once a time in Old Orchard’s early years where families would have to wait to join the club.

“The bylaws still say we can have no more than 300 families in any one time,” he said. “The club was so popular back then. There was at least a three year waiting list.”



Hemma Boggi competes for Old Orchard Swim Club in the 2015 Cherry Bowl.

Today, Rueppel estimates membership is only around 150 families. The decline in membership has not only been felt at Old Orchard, but also at swim clubs all around South Jersey.

Rueppel believes the way Old Orchard can sustain itself for years into the future by continuing to promote the swim club to new residents and encouraging the kids of old members to join when they get older. Retaining a tight-knit neighborhood in Old Orchard is key.

“What hasn’t changed is the community relationship,” Rueppel said. “Everybody knows everyone. It’s a close-knit group.”

Mike Monostra
Senior Associate Editor
Sun Newspapers

THE WIRE

5/25/16

Old Orchard Swim Club Celebrating 50 Years

The Cherry Hill swim club has special events planned as part of its milestone year.



Photos provided by Old Orchard Swim Club

When talking about Old Orchard Swim Club’s milestone 50th anniversary, longtime member Suzanne Rueppel-Gagnon has literally seen it develop before her eyes. She has been a member since birth – we are talking before she was born. In the late 1960s, a group of Old Orchard residents, including her parents, started the Old Orchard Swim Club and swim team.

“It has always been a very important place to me, kind of like our summer home,” Rueppel-Gagnon, who has been a swim team member, a coach, a Tri-County representative and now a volunteer and parent of three Otters, said. “I have spent every summer at the club in some capacity.”

With Memorial Day weekend just days away – marking the official opening of the swim club season – club members are gearing up for multiple events as part of the 50th anniversary celebration. There will be a Memorial Day weekend open house kickoff with hot dogs and water ice. Additionally, Old Orchard, located at 9 Evans Lane off of Old Orchard Road, is planning special events like the July 10th annual mini meet, and a big celebration on July 23rd complete with lots of food, games, music and fun.

“The kids are very excited about the special T-shirts and swim team caps that have been designed to commemorate this year’s golden anniversary,” Rueppel-Gagnon said.

Many of the members hail from the Old Orchard neighborhood on the east side of Cherry Hill, but residents from all neighborhoods and towns are welcome, including those from Voorhees where Rueppel-Gagnon and her family reside. During the summer months, they enjoy celebrating special occasions with the extended swim club family.

“We are all very excited to celebrate the milestone as a summer club family,” she said. “I truly believe Old Orchard is a family. We still have some charter members who are involved with the club and many new families. Together it is fun to watch the tradition continue.”

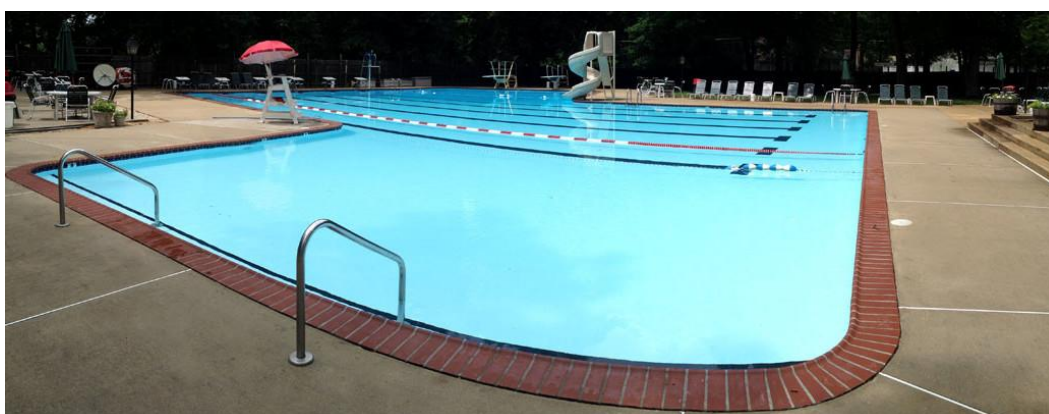
Club members gather for holiday breakfasts in the picnic grove, socials {separate ones for families, children, teens and adults}, along with raft and pizza nights. Of course, just like many of the neighboring clubs, Old Orchard has its own swim team, which was formed in the late ‘60s, and along the way has added volleyball and softball for its adult members. More recently, during the summer of 2014, the site expanded its aquatic activities, which included establishing the region’s first formalized summer Water Polo program. It continues to be very popular with the young members of the club.

For those seeking membership to be part of Old Orchard’s milestone year, the door is open for new families to join in on the summer fun. Most of the information can be found by visiting its website, oldorchardswimclub.com. There is currently a special offer available for new members – 50 percent off as part of the 50th anniversary.

Throughout the summer, old and new members will share some great stories and memories, as well as create some new traditions along the way.

But for Rueppel-Gagnon and many of her fellow Old Orchard Swim Club family members, there would likely be a major void without the great teammates, coaches and friends who have come together every summer.

“I feel honored to still be part of this great swim club,” Rueppel Gagnon.” ... To be able to watch my children be a part of something that was started 50 years ago is truly very unique experience, one that I hope means as much to them as it does to me. I have so many great memories growing up at the Old Orchard swim club and I know they do too.”





Photos provided by Old Orchard Swim Club

THE CHERRY HILL SUN

By News Staff

May 5, 2015 2:42 pm

Old Orchard, Barclay Farm swim clubs preparing for summer meets

Two Cherry Hill swimming traditions will continue this July.

On Sunday, July 12, the Old Orchard Swim Club host the 47th annual Bob Rueppel Mini-Meet. This premier summer swim meet was established back in 1969 as a means to encourage young children ages 9 and under to experience and enjoy competitive swimming in a fun, relaxed and safe outdoor swimming environment.

Over the years, thousands of children throughout New Jersey have participated in this 61-event swim meet, which includes fun “kick-board” races for the youngest participants. Many of the past Mini-Meet swimmers have truly excelled and have gone on to compete for high school and college swim teams. One of the truly notable “Mini-Meet” alumni is Sean Killion, who swam on the 1992 US Olympic Swim Team in Barcelona, Spain.

This year’s “Mini-Meet” offers a perfect opportunity for “future Olympians” to embrace the wonderful sport of swimming. Participants should register no later than July 6. Warm-up sessions begin at 7 a.m. For additional information about this meet, visit www.oldorchardswimclub.com.

Also on July 12, the Barclay Farm Swim Club in Cherry Hill will host the 23rd annual Joe Crick Midi Meet. This meet caters to children ages 10 through 15 and offers a wide selection of fun races for the swimmers from Camden, Burlington and Gloucester counties.

Register for this meet by July 2. Warm-up sessions begin at 8 a.m. For additional information about this meet, visit www.barclayfarm.org.



<https://cherryhillsun.com/old-orchard-barclay-farm-swim-clubs-preparing-for-summer-meets-e03ee58d4071>

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2014

SECTION B – SOUTH JERSEY LOCAL NEWS



Board of director member Dan Thompson, board president Maureen Behm and meet organizer Bob Rueppel at the Old Orchard Swim Club, Cherry Hill.

{DAVID M WARREN / Staff Photographer / June 3, 2014}

Heralding summer in Cherry Hill, poolside

By Kevin Riordan, Inquirer Columnist

As a charter member of Cherry Hill's Old Orchard Swim Club, Bob Rueppel helped organize its first team and inaugurate a regional "Mini-Meet" for little swimmers. That annual event - scheduled this year on Sunday, July 6 at Old Orchard - has offered some 13,000 girls and boys 9 and under their first taste of competitive swimming since 1969. In 2009, it was renamed the "Bob Rueppel Mini-Meet."

Not bad for a city boy who couldn't swim a stroke until he was 50. "I grew up in the Bronx . . . but my children swam, and were very good at it," says Rueppel, 79, as we chat poolside with club president Maureen Behm and board member Dan Thompson. Set in a lovely grove of mature trees, Old Orchard has a \$100,000 annual budget. A summer membership costs a family of four \$662; about 150 families are on the rolls, compared with 300 in the early days.

Rueppel, Behm and Thompson agree: New leisure options, and a shrinking pool of young families with children, make competition for members much tougher. And two-career families can't simply drop younger kids off at a swim club, as they can at, say, a summer day camp.

"Old Orchard was a brand-new community when we moved here from Connecticut in 1966," says Rueppel, who was a district supervisor for what was then Manufacturers Hanover Trust. "Everyone was between 25 and 35, with young children," he recalls. "The club was a great place to come to. I'd get back from a business trip and there'd be a note on the table, 'We're at the club.' "

Most of Cherry Hill's 13 private swim clubs were built during the great suburban development tsunami of the 1950s and '60s. Similar clubs opened elsewhere in Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester Counties as well. But family-friendly oases named for township neighborhoods like Fox Hollow, Downs Farm and Kingston - each with their own teams, trophies, and traditions - have long been synonymous with summer in South Jersey's signature suburb. And competitions among the Cherry Hill clubs, particularly for the coveted Cherry Bowl, help connect residents and neighborhoods across the sprawling township's east-west divide. "The clubs are part of what the community is about," says Tim O'Connor, president of the Cherry Hill Association of Pools, which is working with the township to help the pools reduce costs. "We recognize the importance of these clubs to the town," says Bridget Palmer, communications director for Mayor Chuck Cahn. "The township is providing certain services, such as trash collection, and has reduced tax assessments on the clubs in recognition of what they provide to the community," Palmer says, adding that Cherry Hill encourages the clubs to cut costs through cooperative purchasing agreements.

The township clubs also are integral to the 36-member Tri-County Swimming Pool Association, says longtime association official Chris Brookover. Tri-County serves about 4,000 young swimmers, and its championship meet is the peak of the season. Brookover is a coach at Old Orchard and the facilities manager at the Jersey Wahoos, an indoor pool and training facility in Mount Laurel that has long played a crucial role in South Jersey's vibrant competitive swimming scene. "Some of the best swimmers are from South Jersey," says Brookover, 51, who credits the Mini-Meet with helping introduce kids to the joys of competition - but in a "friendly environment."

Indeed: There's a kickboard race for the little ones, and every child gets to bring home a ribbon.

"The event brings so much joy to so many young swimmers each year," says Thompson, 50, an insurance claims manager whose 12-year-old son swims for the Old Orchard Otters. "It's great for [local clubs] and the South Jersey swimming community."

"I grew up in Pennsauken, and we went to the Meadowbrook Swim Club, and I wanted my children to have that experience," says Behm, 40, who swam in the Mini-Meet as a youngster. Like her husband, Ted, Behm is a lawyer; the couple's three children, ages 7 to 11, are Old Orchard regulars.

To Rueppel, three of whose 14 grandchildren swim at Old Orchard, nothing can top the "togetherness, the enjoyment, the friendship" of a swim club. "We have a tremendous bond that's built up over the years," he says. "The tradition continues."

And Rueppel is grateful to the persistence of his swimming teacher, the late Sue Mead, for easing him into the water at last. "Before then," he laughs, "no one ever saw me in the pool. Except when it was time to paint it."



Old Orchard Swim Club's Maureen Behm and Dan Thompson. About 150 families belong to the club.

{DAVID M WARREN / Staff Photographer / June 3, 2014}



Bob Rueppel - who didn't learn how to swim until he was 50 - holds the Cherry Bowl.

{DAVID M WARREN / Staff Photographer / June 3, 2014}

http://articles.philly.com/2014-06-09/news/50423448_1_clubs-cherry-hill-association-tri-county-swimming-pool-association

THE CHERRY HILL SUN

Swim meet to honor local businessman Bill Quigley

May 27, 2014 2:34 PM

BY NEWS STAFF

On Sunday, July 6, the **Old Orchard Swim Club** located on Evens Lane in Cherry Hill will be hosting the **46th annual Bob Rueppel Mini-Meet**. This premier summer swim meet was established back in 1969 as a means to encourage young children ages 9 and under to experience and enjoy competitive swimming in a fun, relaxed and safe outdoor swimming environment.

Over the years, thousands of children throughout New Jersey have participated in this 61-event swim meet, which includes fun “kick-board” races for the youngest participants.

This year, the **Old Orchard Swim Club** is very proud to be saluting local businessman **Bill Quigley** for his outstanding support of amateur swimming in South Jersey and for over 25 years of dedicated sponsorship of this annual event. There will be a presentation ceremony at 8:05 a.m., just prior to the first swimming event.

For additional information about the ceremony & swim meet, visit www.oldorchardswimclub.com.



<https://cherryhillsun.com/swim-meet-to-honor-local-businessman-bill-quigley-b91b486e5443>



Courier Post

<http://blogs.courierpostonline.com/intotheoutside/2007/10/24/star-swimmer-killion-now-rides-ocean-waves/>

Star swimmer Killion now rides ocean waves

By Kevin Callahan

10/24/07

Two decades after his record-setting swimming years at Cherry Hill East High School, Sean Killion still enjoys splashing around in the water.

But the good sporting fun isn't in the pool these days. It's in the ocean.

And it's not swimming either.

"We live right on the Pacific Ocean. I'm too lazy to swim, so I'm an avid surfer," Killion said with a smile Saturday before being enshrined as a member of the Camden County Hall of Fame.

Killion was one of the top swimmers in the country when he was at his competitive best. So does he surf the famed and feared waves of Mavericks off Half Moon Bay south of San Francisco with the other legendary "Men Who Ride Mountains?"

"No, that's a little too aggressive," Killion said with a laugh. "They are wired, you see it in their eyes."

Killion had a look of genuine gratitude in his eyes before the Hall of Fame ceremony at the Woodbine Inn.

"This is a wonderful place. I feel very fortunate to have grown up here," said Killion, who has been living in San Francisco for the last 10 years. "Coming back here brings back great memories."

Killion is considered by many as the greatest swimmer ever from South Jersey. When asked how a kid from Jersey rises to the level of an Olympic swimmer, Killion said, "Just a lot of heart."

Killion went out to swim at the University of California and he said he used to hear other swimmers from around the country speak glowingly about South Jersey swimmers.

"The mentality is East Coast guys from Jersey are just tougher," Killion said.

Killion, who competed in the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, began swimming in the summers at the Old Orchard Swim Club in Cherry Hill. He started year-round swimming with the fabled Wahoos Club in Mount Laurel.

"It is a great tight-knit community," Killion said about growing up in Cherry Hill.

He helped coach John Carroll's Wahoos team finish in the top 10 in both the United States Senior and Junior National Championships.

"We were fortunate and had this wonderful Tri-County League as like a feeder program," Killion said about the Wahoos team. "I was lucky enough to work out with the best swimmers in South Jersey.

"We trained together and it made us all better and it really kind of put the team on the map nationally. We had four or five guys who got D-I scholarships."

Killion, who is a sales manager with Federal Express, swam for Ira Kosloff at East. He won the 500 freestyle four straight years at the NJSIAA state championships and won the 200 freestyle as sophomore, junior and senior.

As a junior, in 1985, Killion won both the 200 and 500 freestyle at the Eastern States Interscholastic Championships.

Killion finished his brilliant high school career by setting the state 500 freestyle record with a 4:24.04 that still stands today.

While at California, Killion set the American record in the 800-meter freestyle at the USS Senior Nationals in 1987. He also qualified for the Goodwill Games as an 18-year-old and beat world champion Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union in the 400 meters with a time of 3:51.91 to win by 0.09 seconds.

Killion went on to make the U.S. Olympic Team in 1992 and competed in the 400 and 1,500 freestyle races in Barcelona.

Swimming, however, hasn't totally been replaced by surfing. Someday, Killion would like to get into coaching.

"I wanted to be a person that could step away from athletics and prove to myself I could do well in other things," said Killion, who has a 2-month-old daughter, Boyd, with his wife Regan.

Regan is a doctor at Stanford who ran track at Southern Methodist and competed in the Olympic Trials in 1988.

"We would both like to coach," Killion said.

"We'd like to coach as a second career and give a lot back. That is a dream of mine to be able to do that at some point."

Until then, Killion will get his kicks in the water on a surfboard.

"It reminds me of the Jersey Shore in the fall and winter when it is not real crowded," Killion said about the San Francisco surf scene.



Sean Killion, 36, graduated from Cherry Hill East and went to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona as a swimmer. Now he lives in San Francisco.



Smooth Sailing For Old Orchard In Cherry Bowl Win

By Michael Rosenberg, INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT
7/28/97

CHERRY HILL — Old Orchard won the Cherry Bowl swim meet Saturday, but that wasn't the good news for the Otters. The good news was that the win didn't give anybody heart problems.

Last year, Old Orchard and Cherry Valley went down to the last event before Old Orchard won, 901-900. (And the Otters actually thought they had lost the meet until the scores were announced.)

This year, there was no such tension. Old Orchard led the 38th annual event all day and won with 972 points, 85 more than second-place Kingston Estates.

“We had expected to win, but we didn't know by how much,” Old Orchard's Jeffrey Miksis said.

Miksis won the 200 individual medley and competed for two relay teams that finished second. But unlike last year, Miksis and his teammates were relaxed entering the final relays, when even a disqualification would not have changed the outcome of the meet.

“It was more or less swim to have fun,” Miksis said. “It wasn't as intense an atmosphere as last year.”

Old Orchard coach Suzanne Gagnon had an idea fairly early in the meet that things would go the Otters' way.

“I think starting off with the [individual medleys], we finished first in the 11-12 IM, and that set the tone for the meet,” Gagnon said. “We were seeded second.”

But as Old Orchard has shown in winning 20 of the last 23 Cherry Bowls, seeds are almost irrelevant in this event. The favorite is always swimming for Old Orchard.

Even Gagnon acknowledged that the Otters have a habit of making this meet their personal showcase.

“In the Cherry Bowl, the kids always drop times,” she said. “We always know they are going to swim their best times here.”

Although the announcement of the Old Orchard win held no suspense, there was a surprise in the final scoring. Host Erlton finished third, 60 points behind Kingston Estates and 31 in front of Cherry Valley. The Gators were not expected to finish in the top three, and their fans let loose the loudest cheer of the day when the scores were announced.

Jon Maslow of Barclay Farms added one more record to his remarkable career by setting a Cherry Bowl record in the 100 backstroke. Maslow, who owns five Tri-County records, will finish his career next week at the league championships.



Champs Don't Want Another Close Finish Old Orchard Won Last Year's Cherry Bowl Meet By One. The Otters Want Breathing Room This Year.

By Michael Rosenberg, INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT
7/25/97

CHERRY HILL — Last year's Cherry Bowl was the most unusual in Andrew Girnan's 10 years with the Old Orchard swim team.

In just a few minutes, Girnan went from hopeful to disappointed to elated.

“When we went out for the last race, they told us we needed to come in first for our team to win the meet,” Girnan said.

But Girnan's 18-and-under boys' 200 freestyle relay team fell short, finishing in second place.

“We thought we had lost the meet,” Girnan said. “When they announced the scores, we were really surprised.”

The result: Old Orchard 901, Cherry Valley 900. Old Orchard's calculations before the final race were incorrect, and the Otters won the meet.

It was the 17th time in 19 years that the Otters won the Cherry Bowl, which features the 13 Cherry Hill teams in the Tri-County Swimming Association. But none of the previous wins were as close, or as satisfying.

“It was just a rush of adrenaline,” said Girnan, who just graduated from Cherry Hill East.

Old Orchard will try to make it 18 out of 20 when the 38th annual Cherry Bowl gets under way at 9:30 tomorrow morning at Erlton Swim Club in Cherry Hill. Winning that often can cause complacency to set in, but nobody at Old Orchard is fooled. The Otters know that instead of going for their fifth straight Cherry Bowl win, they could easily be looking to avenge a loss.

“We realize that we very well could have come in second last year,” Girnan said.

Girnan is one of five Old Orchard swimmers who will be making their final Cherry Bowl appearance tomorrow. Bonnie Levitt, Eric Slotkin, and Bob Moeller will all compete, and Renee Smith, who is ill, will cheer on the Otters.

“We have a very talented group of graduates this year,” coach Suzanne Gagnon said. “They want to end their career on a winning note.”

But the loss of those five won't break the Old Orchard tradition of dominance at the Cherry Bowl. Gagnon, of all people, knows that. She has represented the Otters at the Cherry Bowl for the last 23 years as a swimmer, assistant coach and head coach.

In that time, Old Orchard has won 19 times.

For many teams in the conference, the biggest meet of the year is the Tri-County championships, which take place next week. But at Old Orchard, the entire season is a build-up to the Cherry Bowl.

Despite her extensive experience in the meet, Gagnon said it isn't a bigger deal to her than to the rest of the team.

“It's important to all of us,” she said. “It's just a sense of pride. It is something people expect from us.”

That expectation is held by the other 12 teams that participate in the Cherry Bowl, but it is mostly held by Old Orchard. Last year, anticipation was fueled by the fact that Old Orchard was hosting the meet.

Winning at home, it seemed, would be even more fun than the usual custom of winning somewhere else. But as the meet wore on, it became clear that the 1996 Cherry Bowl would not be a blowout. And when the last race was over and the Otters thought they had lost, hearts sank among the Old Orchard contingent.

“I was sitting with one kid who had been [disqualified] and he thought he had lost the meet,” said Jessica Naumann, a 16-year old swimmer for Cherry Hill East and Old Orchard. “When they announced the score, his face lit up so much.”

The irony is that while some Old Orchard swimmers thought they personally lost the meet, it turned out that everyone on the team could make a claim that they had personally won it. Every swimmer for Old Orchard contributed at least one point.

But there was another side to last year's meet, and it was tearful. “After it happened, we were devastated, yes,” Cherry Valley coach Karen Hafner said. “But it was a great accomplishment to come that close.”

Tomorrow, the 13 Cherry Hill-based teams in the Tri-County will meet again in the Cherry Bowl. Once again, the favorites are Old Orchard and Cherry Valley.

Hafner said that she would be more than happy to have the meet hinge on the final race. At Old Orchard, they are trying to avoid that precarious scenario.

“This year, we're planning to win it by more,” Naumann said. “We feel more comfortable about this meet.”



Otters Win 4th Straight Cherry Bowl

By Marc Narducci, INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT
7/29/96

CHERRY HILL — There were many factors in Old Orchard's improbable win in Saturday's 37th annual Cherry Bowl, but none greater than the performance of a cohesive unit of female swimmers in the 15-18 age group.

Old Orchard, despite being seeded third, won its fourth straight Cherry Bowl title in the meet, which matches the 13 Cherry Hill swim clubs that are members of the 36-team Tri-County League.

The Otters edged top-seeded Cherry Valley 901-900 to earn their 17th Cherry Bowl title in the last 19 years.

None of the previous titles was as closely contested, and probably none as satisfying.

The focal point was the swimming of Renee Smith, Jessica Naumann, Julia Girman and Lauren Wander, who were responsible for 124 of a possible 128 points.

Cherry Bowl rules allow a swimmer to compete in just one individual event and two relays.

The quartet won both relays they entered, the 15-18 200-meter medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay. Each relay win is worth 32 points.

Smith also won the 50 breaststroke. Girman captured the 50 backstroke, and Naumann won the 50 butterfly. Each individual win is worth 16 points. Wander finished third in the 100 free, which was good for 12 points.

Of the four, Smith, 17, who will be a senior at Cherry Hill East, is the veteran. Girman, Wander and Naumann are all 15 and will be sophomores at East.

Each has been swimming for Old Orchard for more than half her life. Smith began at age 8; Wander and Naumann started at 7. Girman was competing at the age of 6. And although they may be young for the 15-to-18 age group, they're not lacking in experience.

Naumann, Girman and Wander have been swimming together on relays for years. Smith has blended in well with the three sophomores.

"It helps that three of us have been together swimming on relays so long," Girman said. "We know what each is capable of doing. Plus, having somebody as talented as Renee has really helped us all."

The group not only won both relays but also set a Cherry Bowl record in winning the medley relay. With Girman on backstroke, Naumann on butterfly, Wander on freestyle and Smith on breaststroke, Old Orchard won the relay in 2:08.99. That eclipsed the 1994 record of 2:09.28, also set by Old Orchard.

"What I liked most is that we dropped four seconds off our best time," Girman said. "This was a meet that we were really geared for."

And why not? The Cherry Bowl was held at the girls' home pool.

"I think the fact that the meet was at our pool motivated us even more," Naumann said. "We didn't expect to set a record, but we did expect to do well."

The performance from the foursome was greatly appreciated by Old Orchard coach Suzanne Gagnon, who has been part of 17 Cherry Bowl championships, 10 as a swimmer and seven as a coach.

"For them to win two relays, set a record and do so well in the individual events, that really gave us a boost," Gagnon said. "We thought they would do well, but they have probably exceeded our expectations."

Next up for the group is the Tri-County Swim championships, which will also be held at Old Orchard, on Saturday and Sunday.

Old Orchard will be seeded third in the medley relay, behind top-seeded Woodbine and second-seeded Pheasant Run.

"We're looking forward to Tri-County," Girman said. "It's a big challenge."



PHILLY.COM

http://articles.philly.com/1996-07-28/news/25622911_1_200-meter-medley-cherry-bowl-200-meter-freestyle

Old Orchard Wins Cherry Bowl The Otters Earned Their 4th Straight Title In The Swim Meet. They Edged Favored Cherry Valley, 901-900.

By Marc Narducci, INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

POSTED: JULY 28, 1996

Old Orchard's dominance in the Cherry Bowl swim championships continued yesterday, but only by the slightest of margins. The host Otters won their fourth straight Cherry Bowl title and their 17th in the last 19 years, edging favored Cherry Valley, 901-900.

The Cherry Bowl, a tournament for Cherry Hill's 13 swim clubs, has been held for 37 years. Old Orchard has won 19 titles, but none as dramatically.

The meet came down to the last race, the 200-meter freestyle relay for boys 15 to 18. Old Orchard finished second, and Cherry Valley was third.

"When we finished second in the relay, we thought we lost the meet," said Jeff Miksis, anchor of the Old Orchard relay, which also included Bob Moeller, Mike Meade and Andy Girman. "To win a close one like this at our home pool is really exciting."

Four records were set during yesterday's competition. Old Orchard's 15- to 18-year-old girls 200-meter medley relay team of Julia Girman, Renee Smith, Jessica Naumann and Lauren Wander won the event in 2:08.99. That broke the mark of 2:09.28 set by Old Orchard in 1994.

The Old Orchard foursome also won the 200-meter freestyle relay. In addition, Girman, Smith and Naumann earned individual first-place medals in the backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly respectively. Wander took a third in the 100 free.

“Just about everybody we had swimming moved up in time,” said coach Suzanne Gagnon, who has been involved in 17 Cherry Bowl titles at Old Orchard, 10 as a swimmer and seven as a coach.

Old Orchard entered the meet in the rare role as underdog. The Otters were seeded third, behind Cherry Valley and Kingston Estates, which finished third.

“We were seeded third and actually that took some of the pressure off us,” Gagnon said. “I’ve never won such a close meet, but our team has a lot of pride, and we didn’t want to lose the Cherry Bowl, especially since we were the host.”

Barclay Farm set two of the other meet records. The Barracudas 200-meter medley relay for boys 15 to 18 - Jon Maslow, Greg Barone, Billy Deal and Mark Barone - finished in 1:52.53, breaking the record of 1:55.58 set in 1989 by Willowdale.

Barclay Farm's 200-meter free relay also set a record. Matt Ruggles, Mark Barone, Jon Maslow and Bill Deal swam in 1:42.43, breaking the old mark of 1:42.68 set by Willowdale in 1989.

Kingston Estates 8-and-under free relay of Matt Mattingly, Mark Neiman, Greg Hohwald and Chris Shibe won in 1:14.60. That broke the mark of 1:15.52 set by Downs Farm in 1990.



PHILLY.COM

http://articles.philly.com/1993-08-08/news/25969434_1_swimmers-silver-bowl-cherry-bowl

Swimmers Go For The Bowl

by Ellen DiPiazza

POSTED: AUGUST 08, 1993

Competing for the coveted silver bowl full of cherries, 500 swimmers ages 5 to 18 participated last weekend in Cherry Hill's club championships, known as the Cherry Bowl. The Old Orchard Swim Club, which won the bowl 13 straight years in the late 1970s and '80s, tasted sweet victory again. Thirteen teams took part July 31 in the 33d annual event.



Cherry Hill Swimmers Compete For Top Spot

By Bob Tulini, Special to The Inquirer

POSTED: AUGUST 01, 1991

After six hours of competition at last weekend's Cherry Bowl swimming championships came the awarding of the coveted silver bowl. Old Orchard lost the cup for the first time in 13 years last year and wanted it back. Barclay Farm won it last year.

The announcer listed the results: In third place, Barclay Farm. In second place, Downs Farm. And in first place, Old Orchard.

Old Orchard team members hoisted the bowl, ate the cherries in it and dumped their coaches into the pool.

For about 500 young swimmers from Cherry Hill and about 1,000 family members, friends and supporters, Saturday's Cherry Bowl at the Cherry Valley Swim Club was the culmination of a season of community competition.

This was the 31st year that swimmers from Cherry Hill's swim clubs met for the chance to be called the best swimmers among the clubs and for the chance to help their club be named the best in Cherry Hill for the year.

Saturday's competition brought together swimmers ages 6 to 18 from 13 swim

clubs in Cherry Hill. The prize for the winning club was the coveted Cherry Bowl. The prizes for winning swimmers in each of the 65 races were ribbons proclaiming their victories.

In the temporary bleachers set up around the pool, some parents, friends and club members timed swimmers on their stopwatches and discussed their favorite swimmers' times or their club's chances of taking the bowl. Many wore T-shirts and hats bearing their club's name.

Old Orchard Swim Club member Tom Cona, whose daughters Jamie and Jackie each won events on Saturday, said the Cherry Bowl was an important part of the swimming season.

"It's an intratown rivalry," he said. "There's a lot of spirit for the rivalry."

He said the meet was part of a busy schedule for many of the swimmers.

"This is a 12-month sport," he said. "It's incredible that any kid would swim 12 months a year. They do it - five nights a week."

Jamie Cona, 14, won the 50-meter butterfly and, with her Old Orchard teammates, the 200-meter medley relay for her age group.

"I know everybody here. The competition is fun, and it's fun to win," she said.

She said she had competed in the Cherry Bowl since age 7 and placed first or second in her events each year.

Jackie Cona, 8, won the 25-meter freestyle for her age group. She said she had competed in the Cherry Bowl since she was 5, but this year was the first time she won.

"I feel really enthused because we just got better during the year," she said. "That means we're working hard in practice."

Wexford Leas Swim Club member Pat Snyder strained to see past the crowd as her son Matt, 12, placed sixth in the 50-meter backstroke for his age group. Over the cheers of fellow club members, Snyder said she was proud of her son's performance.

"It's really good to foster their competitive feelings," she said.

Matt Snyder said he was happy with his performance.

"I just started last year and I just did better," he said. "I like swimming. I like the competition."

"It means a lot for us to win the bowl back. It's what our whole season is aimed at," Old Orchard Coach Brad Clemens said.

Winning back the cup would enhance the celebration of the club's 25th anniversary the next day, Coach Sue Rueppel said.

"This is a great present," she said.

THE VICTORS IN THE CHERRY BOWL

BOYS

8 and younger: 25-meter freestyle - J.D. Afford, Cherry Valley, 18.44; 25-meter backstroke - Kyle Erdner, Haddontowne, 24.42; 25-meter breaststroke - Josh Crick, Barclay Farm, 23.27; 25-meter butterfly - Jeremy Pick, Woodcrest, 20.20; free relay - Barclay Farm, 1:21.21.

9 and 10: Medley relay - Old Orchard, 1:16.63; 50-meter freestyle - Jeff Miksis, Old Orchard, 32.48; 25-meter backstroke - Eric Miller, Barclay Farm, 18.57; 25-meter breaststroke - Greg Barrone, Barclay Farm, 18.70 (meet record); 25-meter butterfly - Chris Flowers, Haddontowne, 18.11; free relay - Old Orchard, 2:22.91.

11 and 12: Medley relay - Barclay Farm, 2:22.88; 50-meter freestyle - Tim Bieg, Willowdale, 27.81 (meet record); 50-meter backstroke - Jon Maslow, Barclay Farm, 31.05 (meet record); 50-meter breaststroke - Eric Slotkin, Old Orchard, 37.18; 50-meter butterfly - Colin Morgan, Erlton, 33.89; free relay - Barclay Farm, 2:05.26.

12 and younger: 100-meter individual medley - Bobby Moeller, Wexford Leas, 1:23.28.

13 and 14: 100-meter individual medley - Tim Tallman, Haddontowne, 1:06.43; medley relay - Downs Farm, 2:05.77 (meet record); 100-meter freestyle - Kristian Demonsi, Erlton, 56.66; 50-meter backstroke - Cliff Bircks, Haddontowne, 30.46; 50-meter breaststroke - Erik Barniskis, Downs Farm, 37.61; 50-meter butterfly - Chris Otmani, Downs Farm, 29.21; free relay - Downs Farm, 1:51.40 (meet record).

15 to 18: 200-meter individual medley - Andrew Grossman, Woodcrest, 2:21.10; medley relay - Willowdale, 2:03.26; 100-meter freestyle - Mike Lymper, Cherry Valley, 1:01.48; 100-meter backstroke - Dave Back, Kingston Estates, 1:06.38; 100-meter breaststroke - Eric Holmes, Barclay Farm, 1:13.92; 50-meter butterfly - Joe Ciprietti, Haddontowne, 29.37; free relay - Woodcrest, 1:47.97.

BOYS AND GIRLS

8 and younger mixed medley relay - Cherry Valley, 1:25.33 (meet record).

GIRLS

8 and younger: 25-meter freestyle - Jackie Cona, Old Orchard, 16.91; 25- meter backstroke - Katie Herrero, Cherry Valley, 21.24 (meet record); 25- meter breaststroke - Laura Barone, Barclay Farm, 23.13; 25-meter butterfly - Katie Kopil, Cherry Valley, 17.25 (meet record); free relay - Cherry Valley, 1:16.39 (meet record).

9 and 10: Medley relay - Old Orchard, 1:15.96 (meet record); 50-meter freestyle - Meredith Brookes, Erlton, 36.37; 25-meter backstroke - Julia Girman, Old Orchard, 18.16 (meet record); 25-meter breaststroke - Kristel Haesler, Haddontowne, 18.74; 25-meter butterfly - Abby Harvey, Downs Farm, 16.31; free relay - Old Orchard, 2:25.54.

11 and 12: Medley relay - Downs Farm, 2:27.11; 50-meter freestyle - Bonnie Levitt, Old Orchard, 30.89; 50-meter backstroke - Rachel Garrett, Downs Farm, 37.11; 50-meter breaststroke - Renne Smith, Old Orchard, 40.58; 50-meter butterfly - Jen Jennings, Barclay Farm, 33.42; free relay - Downs Farm, 2:14.15.

12 and younger: 100-meter individual medley - Becky Behen, Erlton, 1:17.66.

13 and 14: 100-meter individual medley - Robin Weitz, Cherry Valley, 1:17.74; medley relay - Old Orchard, 2:18.95; 100-meter freestyle - Lisa Miksis, Old Orchard, 1:06.29; 50-meter backstroke - Robyn Haesler, Haddontowne, 34.36; 50-meter breaststroke - Mandy Burke, Covered Bridge, 36.82; 50-meter butterfly - Jamie Cona, Old Orchard, 32.10; free relay - Downs Farm, 2:04.31.

15 to 18: 100-meter individual medley - Anita Ricci, Old Orchard, 1:13.77; medley relay - Old Orchard, 2:14.49; 100-meter freestyle - Sarah Perloff, Woodcrest, 1:02.66; 50-meter backstroke - Jen Miksis, Old Orchard, 33.33; 50- meter breaststroke - Jody Sanders, Cherry Valley, 37.72; 50-meter butterfly - Andrea Giorgione, Downs Farm, 33.42.



PHILLY.COM

http://articles.philly.com/1988-08-07/news/26255100_1_pan-pacific-games-freestyle-olympic-medal

Getting Ready For His Olympic Bid

By Marc Narducci, Special to The Inquirer

POSTED: AUGUST 07, 1988

When Sean Killion began swimming, he never dreamed the sport would enable him to get a free college education, travel around the world, and compete for a chance at potential Olympic fame.

No, when he began competitive swimming at the age of 6 for Cherry Hill's Old Orchard Swim Club, Killion, a 1986 graduate of Cherry Hill High School East, had simple aspirations.

"It was something to do in the summer," he said in a recent phone interview from California, where he stars for the University of California at Berkeley. "As time went on, I got more and more serious about it. Each year, I worked harder and my times kept dropping. I have competed in the junior nationals and senior nationals and have kept going, one step further."

His next step could be a trip to Seoul as a member of the U.S. Olympic swimming team, and a possible shot at an Olympic medal.

He may have started swimming as a way to keep occupied during summers, but Killion's dedication increased at the age of 8, when he joined the widely known Wahoos Swim Club in Mount Laurel and began working year-round. Through the years he became well known among South Jersey swimmers.

Over the past few summers, Killion, 20, has developed a worldwide swimming reputation that began spreading in 1986 when he won two gold medals and one bronze during the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

These games were televised on Ted Turner's "superstation," WTBS, giving Killion his first dose of national exposure. Last year, he set an American record in the 800-meter freestyle (7 minutes, 52.45 seconds) during the U.S. Nationals at Clovis, Calif. Killion followed that by winning the 800 in last summer's Pan Pacific Games in Australia.

During the past school year, he gained all-American honors in three events while competing for Berkeley. He finished third in the 1,650 freestyle, sixth in the 500 freestyle and 13th in the 400 individual medley.

Killion, who will be entering his junior year in college, will compete in three events during the Olympic Trials, which take place tomorrow through Sunday in Austin, Texas. He will attempt to qualify in the 200-, 400- and 1,500-meter freestyle, where the top two finishers will each earn a trip to Seoul.

But the event in which he has had the most career success - the 800-meter race - is not an event held in the Olympics. Killion said he's not sure which event outside the 800 is his best. "I'll give each one my best effort," he said.

As a veteran of international competition, Killion said he doesn't believe he will succumb to the pressures of making the Olympic team - a goal he thinks is within his reach.

"I think based on my performances of the last few years that I have a good shot to make the team," he said. "Sometimes I think about all that goes into making the team, but I don't want to be overwhelmed by it and get scared. The U.S. has so much depth, but you can't be intimidated by that."

Knowing that only a tenth of a second could make the difference between winning and not making the team has driven Killion to continue a grueling workout schedule. He drives himself through two daily practices of at least two hours each, and then he'll work out in the weight room. That daily regimen can become a monotonous routine.

"It can get that way, especially during heavy training. I ask myself, what am I doing here? I could be on the beach. But I realize my goals and know what I have to do to achieve them."

Before entering Berkeley, Killion wasn't in a competitive position to predict potential Olympic stardom, but he hasn't been surprised at his success.

Whether he comes away this summer with Olympic fame, Killion said he realizes that competitive swimming has offered him a lot of opportunities.

"The travel that I've done because of swimming has been great," Killion said. "Yes, I've put in a lot of time into the sport, but I have gotten so much back. I got a full scholarship to a great school and I get to travel around the world. You can't ask for more than that."



Everybody's A Winner Swimmers Are Friendly Foes

By Mark Peters, Special to The Inquirer

POSTED: AUGUST 03, 1988

After the final results were announced and the cheering was over, it wasn't difficult to tell who had won the 29th annual Cherry Bowl swim meet held Saturday at Wexford Leas Swim Club.

The tally sheets may have showed that Old Orchard, Willowdale and Downs Farms finished as the top three among the 13 participating swim clubs. But to hear the competitors tell it, everybody was a winner.

"We don't really have any enemies," said 11-year-old Beth Basara, a member of the host team who had come to cheer her teammates on. "We really just swim for the fun and the experience."

Although the meet drew some of Cherry Hill's best young swimmers - ranging in age from 6 through 18 - the atmosphere was decidedly more friendly than competitive. Many of the nearly 700 swimmers seemed more concerned with improving their times than defeating rival swimmers.

The temporary bleachers around the pool were filled to capacity with friends, coaches and proud parents shouting last-minute encouragement to the participants. Some parents brought along their stopwatches and video cameras.

The swimmers themselves stamped their own festive environment on the proceedings. Team members and coaches arrived at the pool in crocodile outfits, comedy noses and glasses, bow ties and cummerbunds.

Beth's father, Joe Basara, who helped with the weeklong organization of the pool area, echoed his daughter's thoughts.

"It's a lot of fun," said Basara. "It's a chance to see a lot of good swimmers. Many of the kids from these clubs go on to become NCAA swimmers."

Swim-meet organizers kept to a tight schedule. As participants were systematically escorted to the starting area, swimmers in upcoming events awaited their turns on benches under a tent.

Among those awaiting the call to swim were Cherry Valley Swim Club members Kertis Weatherby, 7, Mike Orr, 9, Seth Cohen, 8, and Gabe Fanelle, 8. Despite appearing in their first Cherry Bowl, the Cherry Valley members exuded confidence.

"No, I'm not nervous," Kertis declared. Seth, sitting next to Kertis, agreed. "Besides," he added, "I'm swimming in a two-day meet next weekend. I might be nervous for that."

When the meet was over and the trophies presented to Old Orchard, Willowdale and Downs Farms, swimmers and coaches stayed around to congratulate their friends from the opposing teams. It was that kind of a day.

