

STARTING BLOCK

New Year, Same Season!

RIP CURRENT back from its holiday break

After a busy first half of the winter season, we hope everyone had a safe, fun, and restful holiday season because you're going to need it as the Road to Champs continues!

After eight meets, 4.2 million practices, and countless other achievements, we figure you now have a pretty good idea of what's been happening in the pool, so we're going to let the coaches be coaches and spare them from newsletter duties for a while.

With that in mind, the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) has also been hard at work getting ready for last week's swim-a-thon as well as the upcoming home quad meet, and of course, the Orange Crush Invitational. So, we're making some changes to the RIP CURRENT that still allow us to communicate all the news you can use, but in a way that's a little more streamlined.

GO RIPTIDE!



DRY Parent Advisory Committee

The Road to Champs

A look ahead at the second half of the season

From the flood of PBs, event "titles" earned, and inductees to The Cut Club, you don't have to look too hard to see the progress the team has made already this season, and they're just getting started!

Swim-a-thon...and on...and on...and on...and on...and on...and on...and on

On Friday, January 5th, Riptide coaches welcomed swimmers into the new year with an intense practice session cleverly disguised as a casual, fun pool party. And while plenty of fun was had throughout the four-hour event, these kids weren't messing around and most definitely made a wave of impact—together. As a team, they swam a total of 51,350 yards and raised \$5,086 (so far) that will be invested back into the swim team in a variety of ways. During the 8 o'clock hour, one lane even completed its full lap card by racking up a whopping 100 laps/5,000 yards!

5:00-6:00 p.m. Group – 9,950 yards
6:00-7:00 p.m. Group – 11,100 yards
7:00-8:00 p.m. Group – 12,500 yards*
8:00-9:00 p.m. Group – 17,800 yards*

**Fin aided*

And don't forget—donations are being collected through Friday, January 12th, so you still have time! [Make donations online here](#)

Intrasquad & Friends (aka Riptide Quad Meet)

On Saturday, January 13th, we'll be welcoming the EAST Tridents, MYST Marlins, and PICY Piranhas to Riptide HQ for a quad meet that's sure to shake off the holiday rust (in case the swim-a-thon didn't). Riptide swimmers will be filling the lanes (and heat sheets) for this one, including several swimmers who will be taking on some longer events for the first time so make sure they can hear you!

After so many invitationals in the first half of the season, this will be the first of several "regular" meets over the next few months, all of which are good "tune-up" opportunities on the road to Winter Champs where swimmers can post a time in a new event, push for a PB or podium spot, or even become enshrined in the highly sought after Cut Club. Stay tuned to TeamUnify and keep an eye on your inboxes for entry lists, psych sheets, heat sheets, and other logistics so you're all set!

Are You Ready to Crush It?

And since it is cold and flu season, swimmers can get their dose of Vitamin C(ompetition) on February 3rd and 4th in the annual Orange Crush Swim Invitational—again in the friendly waters of the Delaware Community Center YMCA. Unlike this week's quad meet, however, we'll be rolling out the welcome mat to as many as 19 other teams over two days and three sessions! **Registration is open through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 19th**, and Orange Crush will be a great chance for swimmers to gauge their progress against a very large and competitive field and post a time in an event they may be considering for Winter Champs.

DRY Coaching Staff

Beat Michigan!

Ohio State & Michigan rivalry runs deep—like 10 feet (I checked!)

What would a winter weekend be without a swim meet? We're glad you asked! Riptide swimmers may have a break from *competing* on Saturday, January 20, 2024, but that doesn't mean they have to take a break from *cheering*!

THE Ohio State University will be taking on the University of Michigan at noon ET at the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion right here in Columbus, and we think it will make for a fun team outing and get everyone fired up for our big upcoming meets!



Note from the Editor:

Alright, so Ohio State fell a little short against Michigan on the gridiron this season, but now they can get their revenge where it really matters--the pool! (Hey—this is a swim team newsletter...what did you expect?)

Riptide Results

Swimmers earning cut times, awards, and PBs on a regular basis

First, a quick shout out to Mark Hatten (aka Team DataDude) for keeping the team on top of not just meet results, but also by crunching the numbers to provide a deeper analysis of team performances and process as the season rolls along. With that said, next time you're at practice, be sure to check out the Coaches' Corner, where we've been updating the Cut Club board, which has been growing with every meet! Also, we've been adding lots of items to swimmers' folders, including bag tags, ribbons and medals, and other items from several invitational meets through Penguin Plunge. We still have half of a season left, and we're going to need to make room for the next wave of awards!

Winter Banquet – Save the Date

The Riptide Winter Banquet will be on March 17th from 1-4pm!

DRY Coaching Staff

Michael Cavanaugh
Ezra Ferguson
Nicole Ford
Jessica Hackathorn
Nori Materkoski
Brooke Parker
Sheryl Ray
Olivia Reed
Gina Santiago
Tiffany Vroegop

Upcoming Swim Meets

Riptide Quad Meet

- Location: Delaware YMCA
- Date: January 13, 2024
- Time: 1:30 p.m.

DRY & CHY @ HURY

- Location: Hilliard YMCA
- Date: January 27, 2024
- Time: TBD

Orange Crush Swim Invitational

- Location: Delaware YMCA
- Dates:
 - 11 & Over
 - Feb 3rd @ 9:00 a.m.
 - 10 & Under
 - Feb 3rd @ 3:00 p.m.
 - Endurance (All Ages)
 - Feb 4th @ 10 a.m.

DRY @ LTPY

- Location: Powell YMCA
- Date: February 10, 2024
- Time: TBD

DRY @ CHY

- Location: Hilltop YMCA
- Date: February 17, 2024
- Time: TBD

Last Ditch Meet

- Location: Delaware YMCA
- Date: February 24, 2024
- Time: TBD.

YCO Winter Championships

- Location: TBD
- Date: March 2-3, 2024

Volunteer Voice

All Hands on Deck

Earn your volunteer hours at our last home meet!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at last week's *Make a Wave of Impact Swim-a-Thon*! That was a LOT of laps you counted (1,027 laps to be exact) and your efforts helped things run smoothly and even keep the energy and (friendly) competition high!

And thanks in advance to everyone who has signed up to volunteer for this weekend's home quad meet. It takes a village to host even a "small" meet (it's not *that* small), and we can't do it without you! We currently have all volunteer jobs filled, but we won't be shy about asking for extra help with post-meet tear down if needed.

Speaking of it taking a village, we're going to *even more help* for the Orange Crush Invitational. The list of remaining swim meets is available on Page 2, and this will be the last opportunity to earn your volunteer hours at a home meet this season. Please take a look at the Job Signup list that is now available in TeamUnify to see what's available and pay particular attention to the dates and times as there will be three sessions over two days, with initial setup taking place on Friday, February 2.

Focus on Fundraising & Riptide Spirit

Orange Crush Basket Auction

Committee collab raising money for a good cause—Riptide swimmers!

The Orange Crush Invitational will be coming up the first weekend in February. During the invitational, we will be auctioning off baskets to help raise money for our swim team. We are asking that each group sponsor a basket. (e.g., 8 & Under girls, 8 & Under boys, 9-10 girls, 9-10 boys, etc.) To donate to your specific basket, please visit the [Sign Up Genius](#) link to see what's still available.

We are asking that all donations be dropped off to the YMCA by January 20, 2024, so we have time to put the baskets together. Donations can be given to Kellie Demmler or Karen Coburn.

DRY Volunteer Committee

**Jessica Banik
& Melissa Lago-Jones**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Volunteer Committee is to communicate the vital role volunteering has in the overall success of the DRY Swim Team. The Committee will also serve as a helpful resource for team parents by offering tools and information that will support volunteer needs.

DRY Fundraising Committee

**Erin Gregory
& Karen Coburn**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fundraising Committee is to ensure the DRY Swim Team remains accessible for all families through scholarships that can help offset costs when needed. The Committee also aims to improve the overall safety, development, and performance of swimmers by purchasing swim team-specific equipment and other needs that are above and beyond the financial assistance provided by the Delaware Community Center YMCA for the benefit of its members.

Team Fundraising Needs

- Purchase new team training equipment (e.g., kickboards, pull buoys, and fins)
- Provide scholarship money for more families to swim on the DRY Swim Team

Cover teambuilding experiences (e.g., pizza parties, etc.)