

President's Corner:

The big news this summer is that a record EIGHTEEN swimmers participated in the 2006 Summer Long Course Season program! We also welcomed two enthusiastic newcomers to our team this summer: Alex Gray and Hannah Hughes.

We all owe a big debt of gratitude to Frank Grijalva, who stepped in at the last moment to serve as our coach through the summer. Not only did Frank give up countless hours of his free time, but he did so as a volunteer, thereby saving our club treasury quite a bit of money.

Best of all, as the above numbers should attest, Frank oversaw the largest ever Mariners summer swim program in recent memory. The kids had fun, *and* improved their times over the course of the summer.

We expect to build on this auspicious start as we begin the 2006-2007 Short Course season in earnest. Mariners has a strong core of both swimmers and committed parents in place; we just need to build back our numbers a bit through conscious recruiting efforts. If you know of any kids out there who enjoy swimming, please invite them to give Mariners a try! Similarly, please encourage those former Mariners who drifted away last season to consider rejoining our swimming family. Expect a follow-up newsletter in early September with details about registration for the Mariners 2006-2007 short course swim season.

I guarantee that the atmosphere will be different under our new coaching staff. Mariners last year strayed too far from its traditional Mission Statement, which emphasizes helping *each and every* child achieve to the best of their ability in an enjoyable and encouraging environment.

If you have any questions, you can always call me or email me anytime at 255-5453 or guelcher@yahoo.com. I would especially encourage the parents of younger swimmers to get more involved as Mariners Board members or league officials. The local Tri State swim league operates exclusively with volunteer help; however, throughout the league many current officials have children who are rapidly nearing the end of their age group swimming careers.

Greg P. Guelcher
President, Sioux City Mariners Swim Club, 2006-2007

Summer Long Course Swim Meet Report:

I. Mitchell Corn Palace Record Breaker Meet (6/30-7/2):

The folks in Mitchell, South Dakota opened a new outdoor pool this year, and in celebration hosted their first-ever long course meet. The meet was very well run, the facilities were superb, and it might be nice to take a larger group of Mariners next year. Alex Guelcher represented the Mariners in this meet, and finished in the top six in all nine of his events, including a third place finish in the 50 Back.

II. South Sioux City Dolphin River Rally (7/8-7/9)

Mariners was well-represented with nine swimmers in this meet: Paige Bivens-Rose, Nate Burger, Frankie Grijalva, Talon Grijalva, Alex Guelcher, Hannah Hughes, Quincy Markham, Daniel Poston, Abbey Speck. All nine scored points for the team, most finished in the top five in at least one event, and several made Midwestern Division I time cuts. Alex Guelcher won the 800 Free, the 200 Back, and the 400 IM, and finished Third overall in the High Points competition for the Boys 11-12 age group.

III. Midwestern Division II Long Course Championships (7/21-7/23):

Mariners was well-represented at the Division II Long Course Championships in Omaha by the following swimmers: Paige Bivens-Rose, Frankie Grijalva, Talon Grijalva, Alex Guelcher, Alyssa Guelcher, Hannah Hughes, Quincy Markham and Abbey Speck. All of these swimmers dropped time in at least one event.

IV. Midwestern Division I Long Course Championships (7/28-7/30):

Mariners sent an unprecedented FIVE swimmers to this year's highly competitive Division I Long Course Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska. Frankie Grijalva and Abbey Speck competed on the girl's side, and Nate Burger, Alex Guelcher, and Quincy Markham represented Mariners on the boy's side. Alex Guelcher led the Mariners' effort. Alex competed in the Boys 11-12 age group in the maximum seven events during the weekend, placing FIRST in the 400 IM, third in the 1500 Free (the mile), and fifth in the 800 Free. Nate similarly scored a coveted top-ten finish, placing ninth in the 50 Breast. Abbey and Quincy worked hard to score points for the team, as well. Swimmers had to finish in the Top 16 in an event to score points. Overall, Mariners accumulated enough points (108) to rank near the middle in the team standings.