

WaveLengths

Sioux City Mariners Newsletter No.3 May 2004

Greg P. Guelcher,

Editor

President's Corner:

I ve been waiting for this night to arrive since February 2003 when our community lost the use of the North High pool. The great news is . WE RE BACK! The school board just voted unanimously to reopen North High this fall! The repairs to the piping and replacement of the filter will start in the coming weeks!

Marty Palmer, who headed the North High Pool Supporters, did a masterful job in bringing Siouxland Aquatics to town, thus creating revenue for the cash strapped school district, increasing pool utilization, and raising over \$82,000 to date to pay for needed repairs. Obviously, this was a team effort and a lot of people came to the plate to make this happen. I want to especially thank Marty for his tireless efforts both behind the scenes and in public! I also want to thank the swimming families and local businesses for their financial contributions that have allowed this community to have all three high school pools open again!

Although we never want bad things to happen, I believe swimming in Sioux City -- and especially the Mariners -- became stronger because of our loss, as we strove to make our program even better. The old saying you don t know how good you have it until you lose it has never been truer. The Mariners will continue its strong tradition this fall, back in the friendly confines of the North High pool!

Along with this great news, I must regrettably announce that Chris Stemwedel will be moving to Brandon, SD this summer to pursue other professional interests. Chris wife, Michelle, is taking a teaching position in Brandon this fall. Chris has been an incredible asset to the Mariners Swim Club as well as to the North High swim teams. Chris, your dedication to swimming and your ability to mold our swimmers into champions of all abilities will be sorely missed! Good luck to you and Michelle!

I want to congratulate all the swimmers on their personal accomplishments this past season! Also, congratulations go out to all of the year-end award winners [see below]! The Mariners program was successful because of the hard work, dedication, and financial support of the Mariners families. Thank you!

The summer program is open to all swimmers and will start on June 11th. Jeff Lederer will be heading our summer program. Additional information on this program is included in this newsletter. This is a great chance to get a head start on the fall season or if you are getting ready for high school swimming!

The Mariners board will be actively searching for a new head coach in the coming weeks. We will work in conjunction with the school district to bring in the most qualified and energetic coach for Mariners and the high school program.

I look forward to serving you again this next swimming season!

Sincerely,
Scott Gerkin, Mariners President

Summer Swim Info:

M-F 8-9:30 AM at Leif Erickson

M-F 5:30-7 PM at West

Cost: \$200 per swimmer for one session per day or \$250 for two sessions per day. All swimmers must have a valid USA membership. If they swam with the Mariners this past season, they are still covered. USA membership covers our insurance and is an additional \$45 cost per swimmer.

Coach's Corner I:

Dear Mariners,

I'm sorry that I have to do this in a letter instead of in person, but I will no longer be your swim coach. My wife and I have opportunities in South Dakota that we feel we cannot overlook. I want everyone to know that I have had a great time these past seven years with the Mariners. Later on this summer we will be moving to Brandon, SD to take up new residence. It is my hope that I will be in Sioux City long enough for the summer season to start so I can say goodbye to everyone in person. If that does not happen, I hope to see you during the summer meets if not during the winter season. Again, it has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you. I have enjoyed watching you grow in your swimming abilities and as individuals. The Mariners have been a family for my wife and I for a long time; you will all be deeply missed.

Chris Stemwedel

Coach's Corner II:

I am so excited for the summer swim session! Maybe you want to get in shape for the upcoming high school season, or you want to build up some muscle and improve speed. Maybe you want to put some extra fun into your summer, or maybe you just hear that water calling your name. No matter what the reason, it's time to get back in the water!

We are fortunate to have the use of two pools for two possible workouts per day. So no matter what your schedule is, you can get to the pool for some quality swim time!

A couple of rules - It will be cool some mornings at Leif Erickson. Some may be slow to get in the water. We will start with stretches and a warm up at both pools that will take 15 minutes. Any swimmers not in the water at the conclusion of the 15 minute warm up period will not be allowed in the water. No warm ups will take place after the first 15 minutes — we will perform the workout as a group. The only other rule is to have respect for the coach and other swimmers. Interference or annoyance of other swimmers will not be tolerated. I promise to provide a satisfying workout for swimmers of all levels.

The details are not worked out yet for some FUN surprises coming this summer that make it a session you do not want to miss. If you have not signed up yet, contact Scott Gerkin or myself. You can always reach me at 259-0034, or my email is pchelp@cablone.net. I am looking forward to a fun and rewarding summer swim session!

Jeff Lederer

2004 Mariners Awards Banquet:

A good time was had by all at the 2004 Mariners Awards Banquet! Coach Chris offered his impressions of each and every swimmer present that evening, and the coaching staff made the following end-of-season awards:

Most Improved First-Year Mariner Boy:

Winner: Garen Merritt

Runner-Up: Alex Yaeger

Most Improved Mariner Girl:
Winner: Tori Bishop Runner-Up: Lauren Yaeger

Most Improved Mariner Boy:
Winner: Shane Gerkin Runner-Up: Robert Shafer

Most Improved Mariner Girl:
Winner: Alyssa Guelcher Runner-Up: Shannon Saulsbury

Harriet Younglove Award, Outstanding Mariner Girl 10 & Under:
Winner: Amy Samuelson Runner-Up: Steffanie Gerkin

George Barrett Award, Outstanding Mariner Boy 10 & Under:
Winner: Roland Henry Runner-Up: Alex Guelcher

Allie Montagne Award, Outstanding Mariner Girl 11 & Older:
Winner: Maureen Lohry Runner-Up: Johanna Roberts

Allie Montagne Award, Outstanding Mariner Boy 11 & Older:
Winner: Mark Polle Runner-Up: Zach Meier

Jeff Kelly Memorial Award, Most Dedicated Mariner:
Winner: Katherine Merritt Runner-Up: Laura Langlois

Edgar F. Pechacek Sportsmanship Award:
Winner: Nate Burger Runner-Up: Valerie Wisco

2004 Midwestern Division I Swim Championships (Omaha, Neb., March 12-14):

Mariners Swim Club was represented by NINE swimmers in the 2004 Midwestern Division I Swim Championships in Omaha (along with their individual, post-championships, age-group ranking): Nate Burger (14th), Alex Guelcher (11th), Roland Henry (9th), Mark Polle (7th), Daniel Poston, Robert Shafer (17th), Maureen Lohry (21st), Johanna Roberts, and Amy Samuelson (15th). Mariners finished 15th out of twenty-two teams in the overall team standings, with 259 total points! Nate Burger, Alex Guelcher, Roland Henry, Mark Polle, Robert Shafer, and Amy Samuelson all recorded at least one Top Five finish in an event, with Amy Samuelson scoring big with a First Place finish in the 50 Breaststroke!
Nate Burger was also High Points champion in his age group at the Midwestern Division II Championships the previous weekend!

Midwestern Top 8 Qualifiers:

Four Mariners swimmers qualified for the highly regarded Midwestern Top 8 times list for the 2003-2004 Short Course season: Alex Guelcher (Fly); Roland Henry (Breast); Mark Polle (Back); Amy Samuelson (Breast).