

# waveLengths

## Sioux City Mariners Newsletter No.1 Nov. 2004

Greg P. Guelcher, Editor

### **President's Corner:**

November 7, 2004

I would like to welcome new and veteran Mariners back to swimming this year! We again have quite a few new swimmers!

With the help of numerous Mariner families and friends of swimming in the community, we were able to bring swimming back to North High! I want to thank everyone for helping overcome some pretty big hurdles in getting this done! Had the pool been closed for another year, we may have lost the facility forever!

We have had several meets already and just concluded our first home meet back at North High. The help by the Mariner parents was terrific for the donations for concessions, the Friday / Saturday meet set up, help during the meet and final clean up! Mariner parents have so many special skills to help in so many ways and it showed!

As you know by now, the Mariners is a non-profit organization run by volunteer parents and is funded solely through dues, donations and fundraising. Approximately 40% of our \$34,000 budget this year will need to be raised through fundraising drives, donations and concessions. Our first fall drive did well and exceeded our budget by about 30%! The advertising campaign is still ongoing for our meet programs. We are still looking for another \$800 in program ads to meet budget on this yet. We have another meet in a month where we will use whatever left over food we can, and will post another food chart to prepare again. You have all done so well. Thank you!

Our new coaching staff, consisting of head coach Dave Baird, and assistant coaches Jeanie Baird and last year's assistant coach, Roger Madden, has done a terrific job with our kids this year! Due to our strengths in numbers this year, we are getting additional help from Morningside College swimmers Josh Sweeney and Amie Richardson, as well as former Mariner coach Chele Meyer. Their strength as a coaching staff is in technique coaching. They will be building a team of swimmers who know how to swim smarter and faster!

Most of all I want to recognize the improvement I've seen in the swimmers already! Since I have the painful duty of being a stroke and turn judge and being the "bad guy" who DQ's (Dairy Queen slips), I have noticed a major drop in my sideline activity this year! Thanks coaches! We have already had several swimmers meet Midwest Championship Meet times, and even more swimmers meeting Tri-State Championship times! Congratulations swimmers!

I look forward to working with all of you this year. It has been a pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of parents and kids!

Scott Gerkin, Club President

### **Coach's Corner:**

Dear SCM Swimmers and Parents, we are off to a good season!

Regarding our meets, if you plan for your swimmer to participate you have to see me at the pool, or call or e-mail. Fees for out of town invites or open meets [see explanation below] must be paid the day after the registration deadline date. The night of the deadline date I enter swimmers into a meet and see how many we have in each group for relays. Then I set up relays for the meet. The next day I will have the information on total meet entry fees, including relays. If you are entered in a relay and cannot swim, or if you do not want to swim relays, you must tell me beforehand. At the meet if you are in a relay all 4 relay swimmers are paying their part for the relay; if you leave early and I have no one else to put in the relay, you will be billed for the 3 other swimmers' relay entry fees. Relays are a great team builder, and being that we practice at different times it gives swimmers in different age practice groups the chance to meet and swim together as a team. As your coach, I intend to put together as many relays as we have eligible swimmers in the age group because relays score the most points in a meet. For every relay, the lead off swimmer's time counts for that event. Most swimmers try harder on relays and their times are faster usually.

We won our 11-06-04 home meet. GOOD JOB TEAM!!!!

We have two of our swimmers out with injuries: Kate Roge-Jones and Ryan Tedrow. We hope you get well soon and we miss you!

Keep up the Good Work,  
Coach Baird

### **Tristate League Meets, Invitational Meets, and Registration:**

Please note that there are two different types of meets available to our swimmers: Tristate League meets and Invitational meets. Expenses ("splash fees") associated with Tristate League meets are covered by your dues and fundraising efforts. As participation in these meets is voluntary, the expenses associated with Invitational meets are not covered by the Mariners Swim Club and so they must be paid out-of-pocket. The "splash fees" for Invitational meets can vary from meet to meet. One advantage of attending Invitational meets is the opportunity to compete against new swimmers from outside the Tristate League. An especially popular Invitational meet with Mariners swimmers has been the twice-yearly Snowfox Invitational in Sioux Falls. Coach Dave has information on the available Invitational meets, or you can investigate the Midwestern Swimming website.

Swim meets of either type all have registration deadlines, which typically fall a week or so before the actual date of the meet. Please make sure to let our coaches know specifically if you plan to attend a scheduled meet or not. If we enter a swimmer in a meet, and he or she does not show up, the Mariners still must pay all the "splash fees," which by season's end can add up to hundreds of dollars "lost" to the club. This is money that could probably be spent elsewhere more productively. Last minute cancellations due to sickness or family emergency, of course, are understandable. Also, it is rather difficult to try and enter a swimmer for a meet after the deadline has passed.

### **\*\*STAR SWIMMERS\*\*: (recognizes new personal best times in meets)**

#### **Siouxland Sharks Tristate Meet (10/23/04):**

**One Star:** William Bryan, Shane Gerkin, Brennan Gill, Joslyn Montagne, Carly Nielsen, Mark Polle, Daniel Poston, Lorraine Roge-Jones, Hilary Rosencrants, Lauren Yaeger.

**Two Stars:** Zach Meier, Carley Menard, Katherine Merritt, Kasey Syverson, Alizah Wink, Annliese Wink.

**Three Stars:** Jaci Dehner, Steffanie Gerkin, Olivia Gross, Roland Henry, Lucy MacFarlane, Valerie Wisco, Alex Yaeger.

**Four Stars:** Kaija Bergdale, Alex Guelcher, Garen Merritt, Holly Pinney, Shelby Saulsbury.

**Five Stars:** Clara MacFarlane.

**Norfolk Invite (10/30/04):**

**One Star:** Collin Blatchford, Bradley Emmick, Alex Guelcher, Sam James, Clara MacFarlane, Alex Yaeger, Lauren Yaeger.

**Two Stars:** Kaitlyn Chase, Lucy MacFarlane, Katherine Merritt.

**Three Stars:** Garen Merritt.

**Four Stars:** Tori Bishop.

\*\*Congratulations to Roland Henry, who won the meet High Points trophy for his 9-10 age group, and Alex Guelcher, who won the High Points trophy for his 11-12 age group. Tori Bishop finished second in her 8 & Under age group.

**Mariners Tristate Meet (11/6/04):**

**One Star:** William Bryan, Robbie Carter, Shane Gerkin, Carter Gerritson, Skyler Gerritson, Talon Grijalva, Olivia Gross, Chloe Hogue, Zach Meier, Duncan Palmer, Lorraine Roge-Jones, Kasey Syverson, Lauren Yaeger.

**Two Stars:** Daniel Bishop, Collin Blatchford, Steffanie Gerkin, Francesca Grijalva, Alex Guelcher, Morgan Hogue, Miranda LeClair, Garen Merritt, Joslyn Montagne, Carly Nielsen, Hilary Rosencrants, Amy Samuelson, Jordan Towler, Alizah Wink.

**Three Stars:** Kaiji Bergdale, Nate Burger, Kaitlyn Chase, Jaci Dehner, Clara MacFarlane, Carley Menard, Mark Polle, Shannon Saulsbury, Valerie Wisco.

**Four Stars:** Tori Bishop, Roland Henry.

**Five Stars:** Alyssa Guelcher.