

# *MARINERS NEWS UPDATE*

(November 13, 2003)

The Mariners season is off to an impressive start! We have nearly 30 new swimmers this year, 3 new assistant coaches and a new website! I want to welcome all of the new families and thank the returning families for meeting the challenge of extra travel time to West. The dedication of you the parents will help continue a strong Mariners program into the future!

The swim meet season is already upon us and the early results are showing fast times! (Awards and "Star Swimmers" will be listed in the next newsletter.) Our coaches, Chris, Jeff, Lydia and Roger are doing a great job coaching technical swimming and giving more attention than ever to each swimmer. The Mariners are fortunate to have such a qualified coaching staff this year. Not only did we add coaching positions this year, but we also added an incredibly strong competitive and coaching background with these coaches.

We have just finished our first fund-raiser last week. The efforts brought in just over \$3300 in sales! Late additions allowed us to match our goal for this fund-raiser! Thank you to Deb Muilenburg and Shelly Gerkin for their hours of organizing and orchestrating this big event! Thank you for all of your efforts! The prizewinners will be announced shortly! These fund-raisers are extremely important to the finances of the club. The club relies on the fund-raisers to take care of 40% or more of the operating expenses. Although Mariner participation in fund-raisers isn't mandatory, I can't emphasize enough how important it is to take these activities seriously. The Mariners have an operating budget of approximately \$27,000 per season. We will have a couple more fund-raisers yet this season. The next one is our advertising program, which we will start in the next few days and in January we will have our "Swim-a-Thon".

As a reminder, the first payment for dues was due on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the final payment is due November 30<sup>th</sup>. Example: (One swimmer)\$50.00 at registration, \$92.50 on October 15<sup>th</sup> and \$92.50 on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Your prompt payment is much appreciated!

We will start an advertising program this month for our swim program that will be sold at the home meets. More details to come, but in general, advertising can be corporate sponsors, individual donations or other miscellaneous advertising. Ad costs are determined by the size of the ad. These ads are a full profit for the Mariners, so start thinking about who would be a good contact to advertise!

If you want to purchase swim apparel, such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, goggles and etc., please do so at the Mariners home meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This is also a great time to pick that last minute Christmas gift! The Mariners earn a portion of the profits from these sales.

Our first swim meet as a team will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at East High. Since this will be a “team meet”, the Mariners will pay the “splash fees” for each Mariner swimmer. In order to keep our costs down, please inform Chris if your child **will or will not** be attending the meet. We need to know 10 days in advance of the meet in order to save the splash fees. Other “team meets” will be December 6<sup>th</sup> (Sioux Center), December 13<sup>th</sup> (Mariners host at West), January 17<sup>th</sup> (Yankton), January 24<sup>th</sup> (Norfolk), January 31<sup>st</sup> (Mariners @ West) and February 14<sup>th</sup> (Sioux Center). The Mariners will host tri-State Championships on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Midwest Championships will be March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>.

As we get closer to our home meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have a sign up board at the pool for volunteers to help at the meet. We will need timers, stroke and turn judges, and concessionaires for food and clothing, scoring, awards and much more. Don't be concerned about inexperience because there will be someone to help show you what to do. None of the jobs are difficult, yet we need a lot of individuals to help make this a successful meet. If you would like to volunteer at other meets, that would be great! The other Tri-State teams would appreciate that.

There will be a Mariner parents meeting at the West pool on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. All parents are welcome. We will discuss upcoming events, answer questions and will be looking for meet volunteers.

The Mariners Swim Club welcomes all swimmers and parents to the 2003 / 2004 season! We are glad you have joined us! Our goal is to make swimming enjoyable for all families while meeting or exceeding personal expectations in the sport. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other board members listed on our website at [www.marinersswimclub.com](http://www.marinersswimclub.com). Thanks again for joining and we'll see you at the pool!

Sincerely,

Scott Gerkin  
Mariners President