



The Blazer Newsletter

KANSAS CITY BLAZERS SWIM TEAM

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Eternal Loyalty

Passion Education

Discipline Dedication

Commitment Leadership

Excellence

August 2009 Edition

Page 1

A New Public Relations Director for KCB is Coming!

The Kansas City Blazers would like to announce that Andy Harmon will be taking over the duties of Public Relations Director, which include the writing of this monthly newsletter. Andy's term on the board will begin on September 1st, and he will be a great addition to the KCB Board. Andy has two children that are currently swimming with the Blazers, one swimming with the X-treme Blue Group, and one with the Novice Group. Welcome to the KCB Board Andy, and best wishes for much success in your new position!

Farewell & Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve

Dear Friends,

This will be my last newsletter I will put together for the Kansas City Blazers. The reality of this fact hit me pretty hard this week as my son and I toured the swimming facility with his new college swimming coach at UMBC located in Baltimore, MD.

I want to say to each and every one of you a heartfelt thank you for allowing me and my family the opportunity to be apart of your lives during the last couple of years that Nathaniel has had the good fortune to swim with and for the Kansas City Blazers. Our lives have been so enriched by getting to know so many of you in a way that none of us will soon forget. I wish all of you the very best, God's blessings upon each of your lives, and the greatest of success to each of you in your future endeavors.

With Heartfelt Affection,

Dan, Christine, Nathaniel, Virginia, and Zachary Savage

Thank You Parent Volunteers of the Month!

Amy Hoppenrath and Elizabeth Davis, Missouri Valley Swimming Officials have been selected as our Volunteers of the Month for August 2009. Amy was the Meet Referee and Elizabeth was the Administration Referee for our Missouri Valley Division 1 Long Course Championship meet earlier this month. Just the fact that they filled those roles for all sessions of the three day meet was significant, but the manner in which they executed their duties was extraordinary. They were responsible for coordinating officials, running the swimming side of the meet, and ensuring that a fair and consistent environment was available to allow all swimmers to compete in the meet. Most impressive was their ability to maintain calm where chaos existed. They exhibited the ability to communicate with coaches, swimmers, and others in a way that allowed tension to subside and brought reasonableness to the situation. It was impressive to watch them work. Thank you to Amy and Elizabeth for their contributions and dedication to our meet, our swimmers, Missouri Valley Swimming, and our sport! Congratulations on being our August volunteers of the month!

Inside This Edition

- Page 1 – A New Public Relations Director Coming! Farewell & Thank You for the Opportunity to Serve, Thank You Parent Volunteers of the Month!
- Page 2 – A Note of Thanks to Everyone Who Made D1s a Success!
- Page 3 – ConocoPhillips Renews USA Swimming Sponsorship.
- Page 4 – Summer Sectional Championships – University of Missouri
- Page 5 – Elite Blazers Excel at World Championship Trials and World University Games.
- Pages 5 & 6 – KCB 2009 Awards Celebration
- Page 7 – Swimmer of the Month & Article on Shannon Vreeland in Swimming World Magazine.com.
- Pages 8 through 11 – Corporate & Family Sponsorship Recognition

A Speedo Sponsored Team



A Note of Thanks to Everyone Who Made D1s a Success!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped us make our 2009 Missouri Valley Division 1 Long Course Championship Swim Meet a success! This swim meet is the largest one hosted by the Kansas City Blazers each year. We had thirty five teams and more than 530 swimmers in attendance during this year's meet.

While it would be impossible for me to thank everyone individually, I'd like to take a moment to thank a number of folks that were instrumental in making this event a success (I know I will miss someone, so for that I apologize).

While the order of listing is not of significance, your contributions definitely are. So . . . Here it goes.

- Thank you to the Missouri Valley Officiating Crew (wow, how fortunate we are to have such a great group to work with) and to the Missouri Valley Timing System Operators. Thank you to Annette Rohde for coordinating all our volunteers . . . What an incredible job you do in a thankless position.
- Thank you to Beth Ann Johnstone and Heather Bravence and family for taking care of hospitality again this year . . . You guys are awesome!
- Thank you to Kevin Neeley for filling in for Donnah on Friday and for me on Saturday (my niece definitely appreciated that I was able to attend her wedding).
- Thank you to Donnah Woody for handling the Entries Chair again this year . . . We're going to miss you!
- Thank you to the staff of Lenexa Parks and Recreation and the Ad Astra Pool. Once again, things went smoothly and you provided a great facility.
- Thank you to our Blazer Coaches . . . If you just had to coach our swimmers it would be a tough job, but helping with planning, setup & teardown, and everything in between definitely provides you a long and tiring weekend.
- Thank you to Karen McCollum for taking care of the awards again . . . You spend more time preparing for this meet than I can imagine.
- Thank you to the setup and teardown crews . . . It's easy to overlook your contribution, but the way you guys attacked the task at hand was truly impressive.
- Thank you to the Scoring Computer Operators, the Safety Marshalls, the Clerks of the Course, the Head Timers, the Timers, the Awards & Time Trials workers, the Announcers, the Volunteer Table/Program Sales workers, the Hospitality workers, and the people that provided food/drinks/supplies for hospitality . . . I appreciate your willingness to help out. And thank you to every person/family that I did not mention specifically. It's because of you that this meet was successful.

For those of you that didn't find the opportunity to volunteer for this meet, please consider how you can help out in the future. There are many events and many areas where you can help utilize your expertise . . . it take a lot of help to host the number of meets we put on each year. Something to think about . . . As swimmers graduate from High School and move on to adult life, we often times lose the volunteers that supported them. This makes it even more important that you step up and support your kids swimming interest. Without volunteers, our kids won't have the opportunity to learn and love the sport.

Thank you one last time to everyone for contributing your time in helping the Blazers host the best championship meet in the Missouri Valley!!

Troy Laflin
Director of Meet Operations

ConocoPhillips Renews USA Swimming Sponsorship

HOUSTON and COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - July 6, 2009

Continuing its 36-year commitment to supporting the sport of swimming from the grassroots level through the U.S. National Swim Team, ConocoPhillips extended its involvement as USA Swimming's™ longest-contracted corporate partner. In a 10-year sponsorship agreement announced today, ConocoPhillips pledged its support in both corporate sponsorship and a charitable donation commitment to the National Governing Body.

The announcement comes just prior to the marquee domestic event of the year for swimming, which ConocoPhillips will continue to entitle. The ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships will be held July 7-11 in Indianapolis, Ind. The event is expected to attract the stars of the 2008 Olympic Swim Team including Michael Phelps, Dara Torres, Cullen Jones and more.

ConocoPhillips is not only our longest-tenured supporter, but with the renewal, they will also become one of our most engaged. We are thrilled that they have chosen to participate in a way that will have tangible benefits for all of our members -- from the youngest kids in swimming lessons, to the men and women who represent our country in international competition, said Chuck Wielgus, USA Swimming's™ executive director. The level of commitment and involvement that ConocoPhillips has shown, and the longevity of their involvement, are truly unique in the sports industry. We count ourselves extremely fortunate to have such a committed and engaged partner in ConocoPhillips.

We are proud to support USA Swimming and their continued commitment to swimming education and water safety. With safety as a core value at ConocoPhillips, we are dedicated to maintaining a safe environment in the workplace as well as within the communities where we operate, said Jim Mulva, ConocoPhillips chairman and CEO. Our long-standing relationship with this great organization represents a united effort to support swimming as a safe and healthy lifetime activity. We look forward to our continued involvement for years to come.

Highlighting the agreement, ConocoPhillips will make an annual donation to the USA Swimming Foundation for support and expansion of its Make a Splash water safety initiative. A portion of those funds will stay in Houston, home of ConocoPhillips™ headquarters, where more than 900 children have already learned to swim through local Make a Splash programs.

In addition, ConocoPhillips will remain the title sponsor of the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships, providing support for the national NBC broadcast of the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships and having a digital presence on related Web sites. In Olympic years, ConocoPhillips will sponsor athlete recognition celebrations across the nation. ConocoPhillips became a corporate sponsor of USA Swimming in 1973.

About USA Swimming

As the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming in the United States, USA Swimming is a 300,000-member service organization that promotes the culture of swimming by creating opportunities for swimmers and coaches of all backgrounds to participate and advance in the sport through clubs, events and education. Our membership is comprised of swimmers from the age group level to the Olympic Team, as well as coaches and volunteers. USA Swimming is responsible for selecting and training teams for international competition including the Olympic Games, and strives to serve the sport through its core objectives: Build the base, Promote the sport, Achieve competitive success. For more information, visit www.usaswimming.org.

About ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is an integrated energy company with interests around the world. In 2008, the company donated more than \$95 million, including charitable contributions and funds for community investment projects. For more information, go to www.conocophillips.com.

Summer Sectional Championships – University of Missouri.

The Blazers had 64 swimmers attend this summer's championships. Swimmers came from our elite, east side senior, and west side senior groups.

Here is a list of some of our accomplishments:

1. Won the combined team championship.
2. Won the men's team title.
3. Women placed fourth overall.
4. Won most combined gold medals by any team.
5. Won most combined gold, silver, or bronze medals by any team.
6. Bobby Bollier, Kevin Webster, Zach Bolin, Jayson King, and Nate Ladner combined to set sectional records in all three of the men's relays (400 free, 800 free, 400 medley).
7. The men qualified all three relays for Senior Nationals and the 800 free and 400 medley relays for Junior Nationals.
8. The women qualified all three relays for Junior Nationals.
9. Bobby Bollier won six events and men's high point.
10. Shannon Vreeland won one event and finished third in women's high point.
11. New summer "A" Junior National qualifiers included Ben Bravence in four events and Seth Musser in one event.
12. New December "B" Junior National qualifiers included Ben Bravence, Jon Benson, Michael Glenn, Seth Musser, Caroline Woody, Jean Madison, Natalie Morris, and Kat Sickle.
13. The men's team gave their team award to Ben Bravence for his outstanding performance in only his second Sectional meet.
14. The team swam at total of 290 best times. WOW!!!

The coaching staff was very impressed with how the group performed and represented the Blazer program. We had several challenges resulting from it being the largest ever Long Course Sectionals Championships. The facility continued to be a very challenging environment due to air quality issues. We lost two of our top swimmers to medical problems caused by the air. We were proud of how our swimmers met the challenge of competing in those conditions.

The chaperone staff headed was headed up by Tracy Hoisington and included the Hoisington, Weatherford, and Woody parents. They provided exceptional service and care to the athletes and staff. THANK YOU FROM ALL!!!

The Chaperone staff commented on how great the athletes' behavior, and their outstanding care of the bus and hotel.

There were several swimmers who had outstanding meets in their final preparation for Division I, Zones, Junior Nationals, or the US Open meets in August. Congratulations to all 64 swimmers who participated at Sectionals. Blazer Excellence encompassed all aspects of the meet. Sectionals were one more step towards our peak potential.

Elite Blazers Excel at World Championship Trials and World University Games

World University Games- Belgrade, Serbia

Bobby Bollier earned a spot in the USA National Team that represented the US at these games. Bobby was selected from his results at the 2008 August US Open Championships. The US sent 14 men and 14 women to compete. A full roster is 26 men and 26 women. A partial roster was sent because the meet was three weeks before the World Championships in Rome. The World University Games were held at exactly the same weekend as the World Championships in Indianapolis.

After completing a great freshman season at Stanford University, Bobby had very good results at this meet. Before the meet began, Bobby became very sick. He overcame the challenge of having to prepare, travel, and compete while being ill by winning a silver medal in the 800 free relay, 5th in the 200 fly, 7th in the 400 im, 10th in the 100 fly, and 19th in the 200 free. Congratulations on representing your country, yourself, and your swimming family.

World Championship Trials- Indianapolis, IN

We had three swimmers compete in the Worlds Championship Trials/National Championships: Shannon Vreeland, Kevin Webster, and Jayson King. In five out of six of Shannon's events, she achieved lifetime bests. This is an amazing accomplishment considering only 35% of the total swims in the meet were lifetime bests. Shannon was able to make the C-Final in the 200 free and 400 IM. She placed 24th in the 400im and 20th in the 200 free, setting a Missouri Valley record with a time of 2:01.38.

Kevin was our outstanding performer and continues his journey to the highest level of our sport. In only his third meet at the national level, Kevin achieved two out of four best times. Because he is focused on the US Open in August, Kevin was not tapered or shaved. Jayson was in his first national level meet and was not tapered either because he is focused on the US Open in August. He raced exceptionally well.

Congratulations Blazers who have reached the top level of our sport!

Kansas City Blazers 2009 Awards Celebration

When: Sunday, September 27, 2009
Where: Roeland Park Sports Dome
Why: To celebrate ALL swimmers' accomplishments, recognize "Most Inspirational Swimmers of the Year" and announce the "Volunteer of the Year"
Agenda: 1:00-2:30 Awards Distribution

Culver's Custard will be provided for all by the KCB Swim-a-thon! Please RSVP to saswooden@kc.rr.com if you plan to attend.

The coaches will be presenting **Certificates of Participation** to each swimmer. They will also be presenting the Kansas City Blazer **Swimmer of the Year** Awards. The Blazer Board will present the **Volunteer of the Year** award for 2009. You may also choose to purchase a 5x7 plaque with your swimmers name and highest level of achievement engraved on it. The cost of each plaque this year is \$11.

** If you wish to order plaques, please fill out the enclosed form and a check for plaque **payment made out to:** "The Kansas City Blazers".

Please mail the form and check to: **Stacey Wooden, 18907 W 64th St, Shawnee, KS 66218**

I must have this form back **no later than Wednesday, September 9th to guarantee your plaque in time for the ceremony. Questions??? Please call Stacey Wooden at 913-766-6898 or saswooden@kc.rr.com

Please don't call the coaches! We hope all families will come and have a terrific time celebrating the swimmers!

Please return this page if you are ordering plaques!!!!

Number of plaques @ \$11 _____ = _____

Family Name: _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Please order plaques for the following swimmer(s):

*****Please write down the swimmer's name as you want it to appear on the plaque, their age and their highest level of achievement. For example...B,BB,A,AA,AAA,AAAA,Sec., etc. If you're not sure of their highest level of achievement, you can double check on usaswimming.org. On the left hand side click on times/time standards, then on individual times, then fill out information for "Times Search by Person" for this past 08-09 swim season.***

	Name	Age	Level
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____

****Please indicate where your child practiced in 2008-2009:**

East _____ Elite _____ BVN _____ BVW _____ SMN _____ Olathe _____

Please send this form and a check made out to: "Kansas City Blazers"

Mail to: Stacey Wooden, 18907 W 64th St, Shawnee, KS 66218

******Deadline: Wednesday, September 9th, 2009******

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

ELITE PROGRAM

July 2009

Nathan Hoisington

CRITERIA:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Attendance | D. Growth as a Person |
| B. Attitude | E. Inspiration to Staff |
| C. Growth as a Swimmer | & to Team Members |

Nathan Hoisington has had a special year. He had break out performances in the Phase I meets in December. Nathan followed with an outstanding high school season that concluded with a great Sectional/Division I meets. His preparation, focus, and coachability are at an all time high in Phase III. July has been an outstanding training and preparation month. He entered Sectionals in what we called an unshaved status because his focus is on the Junior Nationals in Seattle. At sectionals, his primary goal was to help himself make the next step while insuring another Blazer team victory. Nathan is simply great in all that he has done. Congratulations Nathan!

Peter D. Malone, Maggie Kroemer, Scott Bliss
Elite Coaching Staff

Article on Shannon Vreeland in Swimming World Magazine.com

College Recruit Rankings Profile, Update: Five-Star Shannon Vreeland, Class of 2010 -- August 18, 2009

PHOENIX, Arizona, August 18. NEARLY a year ago, we profiled five-star prospect Shannon Vreeland of the Class of 2010 as part of our *Swimming World* College Recruit Rankings Profile series. She's back with a few updates from the recruiting trail today.

The all-around performer swims for the **Kansas City Blazers** and goes to Blue Valley West High.

Vreeland, who updates her profile in the *Swimming World* College Recruit Rankings powered by *Take Your Marks* on a regular basis, represents the Kansas City Blazers and preps at Blue Valley West High.

She owns several strong long course meter times: 100m free 55.94; 200m free 2:01.29; 200m back 2:14.82; 200m IM 2:17.95; 400m IM 4:50.34.

What colleges are you interested in so far?

In no particular order, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Minnesota, Stanford, and University of Virginia.

What has the recruiting process been like so far, now that you are allowed to be called by coaches?

It's been a lot easier than I thought it would be. I'm not a huge fan of talking on the phone so I thought it would be really awkward and difficult but it's really not. Most of the coaches have been nice and incredibly easy to talk to. I've enjoyed learning about a lot of different schools and hearing what the coaches have to say. Now, I'm just looking forward to my trips and meeting the teams and coaches!

Is there anything else interesting that you'd like our readers to know about you?

I have a twin sister! We're completely opposite and look nothing alike but compared to most twins we get along really well. She's pretty much my best friend.

Best of Luck with Your Future Plans Shannon!



Swim Quik

is the official team
outfitter of the KC Blazers

REMEMBER

KC Blazers

Apparel,

suits &

equipment

are available at

swimquik.com

*Use promo code **BLAZER***

to receive your discount

Swim Quik

stocks:

- KCB apparel
- Aquablades
- Practice suits
- Solid Suits
- Goggles
- Hand Paddles
- Fins
- Snorkels
- Goggle Straps
- Sammy Towels
- Swim Caps
- Select Fastskins
- Backpacks

SWIM QUIK

Parkway Plaza

(NW Corner of 135th & Roe)

4876 West 135th Street • Leawood, KS

913.649.8456 • www.swimquik.com

**The Blazer Swimmers
Wish to Thank
The KC Blazer Boosters!
2008-2009 Blazer Booster Families:**

Brad Adams Family	Faulkenberry Family	Holly and Alex Pahulu
Bakalar Family	Flottman Family	Paulk Family
Bartnett Family	Foster Family	Perfect Family
Bayer Family	Steve, Rebecca and Stephan Franke	Rohde Family
BLAZER COACHES	Fries Family	Schwartz Family
Bond Family	Garies Family	Schwermann Family
Bonicelli Family	Hearl Family	Sherard Family
Branton Family	Teri Helm	Schultz Family
Bravence Family	Russ & Cerise Ivey	George Smith Family
DeVolder Brown Construction	Jackson Family	Rich & Jane Snyder Family
Burkhead Family	Kirby Family	Kate and Jack Snyder's Grandfather
Burkhead Family	Laflin Family	Strickland Family
Sandy Cohen Family	Mike and Willie Lewellyn	Swetnam Family
Clausen/Clark Family	Lytle Family	Trombley Family
Crampton Family	Margritier Family	Vreeland Family
Donnelly Family	McMonigle Family	Steve and Cathy Weatherford
Gus and Cres Elsener	Neeley Family	Welchlin Family
Lisa Elsener	Nicklaus/Simpson Family	Wooden Family
Farrahi Family	O'Hearne Family	Woody Family

SPECIAL THANKS TO KCB's CORPORATE SPONSORS!

The Kansas City Blazers swimmers would like to thank the many wonderful businesses for their continued support in assisting the team in their quest for excellence. Please let them know that you appreciate their support!

EXCLUSIVE LANE SPONSORS

Capitol Federal
Commerce Bank
Westlake Ace Hardware

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

Lathrop & Gage L.C.
Midwest Gloves & Gear
Peavey Corporation
Capitol Federal Savings

ADVERTISERS

Dr. Andrew Jacobs
Copy Club
Swim Quik
Wellbody-DR. Goldstein
RPS Properties
Jam Ridge Services

**The KC Blazers East Branch
Corporate Sponsors
& Advertisers**

Swim Quik

Dick's Sporting Goods

Show Me Presentation Resources

Lovelace and Associates

Summit Lanes

Thank you Sponsors!

These generous companies help to make it possible for the Kansas City Blazers to continue to offer a quality swim program in our area. Please support their businesses whenever possible.