



The Blazer

The Kansas City Blazer Swim Team

A Speedo Sponsored Team 

December 2007

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Short Course Yards USA Swimming National Championships Atlanta, Georgia

This was the first Short Course Yards National Championships since 1990. The meet used to be held in late March and then was placed by a meet we called Spring National Championships and that was long course meters. The new Short Course Yards National Championship was re-instated in 2007 and placed in the November/December first weekend after Thanksgiving. The Spring Championships have been eliminated.

The Blazers were represented by Shannon Vreeland, her first National Championships, and Bobby Bollier, who has competed in numerous Nationals. The Blazers are not changing our philosophy of year long training and race plan. This meet was our first major stop in this year's journey. The Blazer athletes rested one week but did not taper or shave.

Bobby Bollier went 5 out of 6 best times. Bobby set Missouri Valley and Blazer Team records in the 100, 200 Fly and 500 Free. He also placed 15th in the 500 Free, 21st in the 100 Fly and 200 Free, and 17th in the 200 Fly. Shannon went 5 out of 5 life time bests and placed 25th in the 1650 Free. Congratulations Elite Blazers.

Level II Swimmers Rise to a New Level Central High School December 1-2, 2007

Central High School hosted yet another great meet. This was the Blazer's first taste of championship swimming for the 07-08 season and judging by the results, our Blazers have a voracious hunger for success and fast swimming.

Swimmers achieving an "A" time in any event automatically qualified for the Level I's Championship. This was the last meet in which swimmers could qualify for the final championship meet of our 2007 year. Almost 60 new "A" times were established with four of them being "AA" times. The meet was an overwhelming success and just a precursor of good things for the future.

Swimmers establishing new Level I / "A" times are as follows in alphabetical order: Kyle Adams, 200 Breast; Cal Bayer, 200 IM, 50 Free; Karlee Benefiel, 50 Free; Briannah Bittel, 200 Free, 100 Back, 50 Free; Ben Bravence, "AA" 100 Free, 50 Free, "A" 200 Fly; Morgan Clausen, 50 Fly, 50 Free; Hannah Cohen, 200 IM, 100 IM; Brent Crosby, 200 Back; Ryan Dake, 100 Free; Billy Davis 50 Free; Carolina Dugank 200 IM, 200 Free, 100 Back; Vaughn Ericson 50 Breast, 50 Free, 100 IM; Nick Foster, 200 Breast; Brent Henderson, 50 Back; Taylor Hynes, 200 IM, Ben Koeller, 200 IM, 50 Free; Katie Kruse, 100 Fly, 200 Back, 200 Fly; Heath Maginn, 200 Free, Alli McCollum, 50 Back, 50 Fly, 100 IM; PJ Musser, 50 Fly, 100 Fly; JT Nelson, 200 Free; Montanna Rex 200 Free, 100 Free, Mackenna Rife, 50 Free; Haley Sieben, 200 Breast, 100 Free, 100 Breast; Katie Stoetzel, 200 IM, 200 Free, 100 Free; Lauren Stollman, 50 Fly, 100 Fly; Kristine Sullivan, 50 Free 100 IM; Ryan Sweat 50 Back, Will Vance, 200 IM, 100 Back, 50 Free.

At the conclusion of the meet the Blazers succeeded in having seven new people qualify for the Plano meet. Swimmers are required to have at least three "A"

times to qualify for the trip. Congratulations go to Alli O'Hearne, Morgan Clausen, JT Nelson, Vaughn Ericson, Hailey Sieben, Bri Bittel, Will Vance, and Karlee Benefiel who are all new qualifiers for the Plano bus trip. Now the big question is: How many new qualifiers can we get before the deadline at the Polar Bear Meet on January 4, 2008?

Missouri Valley Level I Championships Wichita, Kansas December 7-9, 2007

It may seem hard to believe that our Phase I has already come to a close, but we capped everything off with a very exciting Level I, and we're extremely proud of our success so far this year. We brought 96 Blazers with "A" times down to Wichita for a challenging prelim/final championship meet, and our youngsters especially rose to the challenge. We saw several of Missouri Valley's finest 14&Unders, and a handful of the fastest 15&Overs in the region, and we were proud to see KCB come out on top!

Headlining our major achievements were our high-point winners. Our 11-12 Girls dominated, with Amy Davis winning the high point and several finishing closely behind. Chris Hearl followed with a 2nd place finish in the 11-12 boys age group. Bryce Hinde won the 13-14 Girls and Kat Sickle followed in 2nd place. Seth Musser took 2nd in the 13-14 boys, with a very dominant showing winning every event he swam in his age group. Lastly, Vito Cammisano finished a solid meet with 2nd place in the Senior Boys High Point. Congratulations on the outstanding overall swimming!

Other exciting achievements include new meet qualifying times. We had multiple swimmers already gearing up for Spring Sectionals, with new Sectional qualifying times from: Brooke Brull, Bryson Cramer, Nathan Hoisington, Matthew Margritier, Natalie Morris, Seth Musser, Griffin Peavey, Kat Sickle, Haley Smith, and Heather Snyder (who had some very inspiring freestyle swims!).

Also looking even further down the road were several swimmers with new "AAA" Zone times. Although some will be aging up between now and August, we're happy to recognize everybody on their success: Jon Benson, Hallie Breidenthal, Brooke Brull, Vito Cammisano, Bryson Cramer, River Elms, Rilye Fries, Peyton Gajan, Chris Hearl, Nathan Hoisington, Danny Hynes, Tiffany Liu, Matthew Margritier, Natalie Morris, Jesse Musser, Griffin Peavey, Kat Sickle, Haley Smith, AND Heather Snyder. Many others got their first "AA" times, and we're thrilled with the progress that they're making toward the next level. It's only a matter of time before they're on this list, too!

Thanks to everybody for braving the icy weather and traveling down for such a successful meet. Because we look at this meet as a major 'progress report' for the entire short course season, we will be excited to re-group, re-focus, and continue building towards an even more successful March championship. Great job so far, and GO BLAZERS!

Chesapeake Pro-Am Oklahoma City, OK December 13-16, 2007

The Blazers have attended this Pro-Am meet every year since its inauguration. The Blazers were in second place going into the final session. We scratched finals to enable athletes to get home and prepare for finals week.

The Blazers were led by Shannon Vreeland who had three victories: 500 Free, 1000 Free, and 1650 Free. Shannon also was the only swimmer that captured first place that was under 23 years old. She was also Top 8 Finalist in the 200 Free and 400 IM. Bobby Bollier was our leader on the male side of the meet. Bobby was a Top 8 Finalist in all

five of his races. Bobby Bollier set the team record in the 100 Fly, 200 Fly and 200 Free.

The Elite group sent 21 swimmers and the East Side Senior Group sent 2 swimmers to the competition. 19 of the Blazers swimming were able to place in the Top 16 individually. Congratulations to all those that achieved this level of excellence.

We had the opportunity to race against and watch past Olympians and many that will represent the USA in the 2008 Olympics. Special thanks go to Barbara Bollier who was head chaperone and she

was supported by Mary Beth Morris, Laurie Kirby, and Joanne Knight. These ladies provided care for the athletes over this four day trip.

The chaperone team and the hotel extends a compliment to the group...Their behavior was outstanding and is appreciated by all.

"WELL SWIMMERS, GREAT JOB!
WELL DONE ALL THE WAY AROUND!"



Most Inspirational Swimmers of the Month – December



**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH
ELITE PROGRAM
December, 2007
Cory Bonicelli
Age 15
Blue Valley Northwest High School**

Criteria:

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

Cory really has been such a positive and fun addition to the Elite Group. The step up to Elite was major for Cory but he has handled it with enthusiasm. Cory has grown so much from September through December, after a very solid Level I meet. Cory refocused and really committed to making large steps to his potential. He will join his high school team after January 1 and we will be excited to follow his growth and improvement in Phase II.

Congratulations Cory!

Head Elite Coach Peter D. Malone
Assistant Coach Kate Zabler

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH
Shawnee Mission North/Roeland Park
December, 2007
Samantha Laffin
Gold Group
13YEARS OLD**

The fact that Samantha Laffin was chosen as my December "Swimmer of the Month" is a little unusual especially since she swims at the Olathe site. There were a number of things she did during the month of December that I would like to see all swimmers aspire to do.

Despite being sick with pneumonia for much of the month of November, Sam still managed to come to over 80% of the practices. This indicates not only a

commitment to her swimming, but it also shows how she budgets her time to do what it takes to achieve excellence. Sam makes swimming a top priority. She made excellent grades and found time to practice and perform her band concerts, and she was still willing to do what it took to achieve excellence in swimming. She probably did have to sacrifice some things, but Sam has her life prioritized in a productive manner.

Sam has also had to deal with aging up to the 13-14 age group. Her first meet as a 13-year-old was the Level I meet which can be daunting to some, but not to Sam. She not only achieved best times despite being sick, but also reached an "A" in the 200 Back.

Lastly, I have had the opportunity this past summer and this Christmas to coach Sam, which I enjoyed very much. It always energizes me to see people who have a joy to train and a desire to achieve success. Sam is very easy to work with as she is responsive to requests from her coaches and is quick to make the changes that will help her become a better swimmer. Sam works hard at doing the little things right....those little things that can make a big difference in important races.

I really hope Sam will continue to strive with the diligent determination and focus she has shown everyone this year. She is an inspiration to us all and we can look to see many wonderful results from her in the future.

**Best of Luck,
Coach Henry**

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH
Olathe
December, 2007
Amy Davis
Gold Group
12 years old**

How do we determine what an inspirational performance is? Is it simply

swimming well, or is it constantly pursuing excellence? Amy Davis has been swimming well for a long time. After winning the high point award for her age group at the Level I meet this past month, anyone could see that. But, what made December a standout month for her wasn't her performance up to the Level I meet, it has been the determination she's shown since that that has been inspirational.

While Amy was one of the few swimmers at the meet who swam three events on Friday night, she managed to get best times in all three of them. Instead of coming home and bragging about it, she came home remembering that she got beat in the 500 free that night and wanted to do something about it. What she did was take her already outstanding practice habits and took them to a new level.

First, she turned in the highest T-30 length total for a girl at the Olathe site – ever (102). The next week, she did 10 X 100 freestyle on the 1:10 interval and made all of them. In a busy month of December she managed to make all but one of the practices offered. She seems to be at the pool all the time and always helps make the atmosphere at the pool more positive. I would say look out for Amy in January, but everyone is already watching what she's doing and she's still performing better every month – even more impressive. Keep it up, Amy!

Your coaches,
Derek, Pat, Tim, & Rodney

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH
Blazers East
December, 2007
Drew Adams
Gold Group
14 years old**

Drew is one of those swimmers who took the summer off and disappeared for awhile. Maybe he missed swimming, maybe he wanted to get into shape for

high school swimming next year, maybe he got bored and came back to have something to do. Whatever reason he had for leaving and returning are not important. What he did when he came back is what is important.

Since his return, Drew has gone through several stages. The first was the "I am going to die!" stage, where he really wondered if he wanted to hurt this much. It hurt to come back after being out so long. Drew had to find a great inner strength and a determination to survive this stage and he did.

The second stage was the "I am a teenager and I am NOT going to swim in the little kids lane" stage. Upon his return Drew was swimming in the slow lane. He was behind the little girls and boys who just moved into the Gold Group. He was 2-3 years older than anyone in the lane. Drew had to swallow his pride and focus on the prize and the future in order to succeed and he did.

The third stage was the "I really enjoy going faster" stage. Drew started to really have fun as he climbed the ladder up to the faster lanes. Drew has made his way up to the fastest Gold Group lane and has a shot at making the Senior Group by the end of the summer. He is making good choices and has really fired up the coaches that have watched his progress.

Thanks for the inspiration

Coach Mike Lewellyn
Coach Ann Gibler
Coach Cathy Dowd
Coach Chelsea Lloyd

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH**
Blue Valley Gold Group
December, 2007
TBA

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH**
Blue Valley West
December, 2007
Yousef Eldakak
Advanced Blue Group
9 years old

Yousef Eldakak is the Blue Valley West Swimmer of the Month for December. Even though Yousef is one of our youngest swimmers in the Advanced Blue group at nine years old, he is one of our biggest leaders. This past month has been exceptional for Yousef... achieving his first A times, qualifying for the Level I Championships and he has earned a spot on the Missouri Valley All-Star Team. We are excited to give him this well deserved recognition.

December can prove to be a very crazy month for our Blazer swimmers. Between all the holiday parties, school programs, blizzardy weather and everything else that takes place within this festive month, swimming usually takes the back burner for many athletes. However, this month, Yousef didn't let the holiday glamour get in the way of his practices.

With all the hard work he gives at practice, it is no wonder that he has found himself on the Missouri Valley All-Star Team this year. In January, Yousef will be the youngest swimmer on the MoVal Team trying to clutch the first place victory against Team New Mexico, Team Colorado, Team South Dakota, Team Iowa and Team Nebraska. We are very excited to send our first BVWest qualifier to the All-Star Meet.

Good luck and congratulations, Yousef!

GO BLAZERS!

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH**
OLATHE
December, 2007
Jared Johnstone
Advanced Blue Group
13 years old

Who is the new kid? Oh, that's Jared Johnstone. That's what we were saying at the Olathe site in September when Jared started with the Blazers. Who is he? That's Jared Johnstone. That's what we were saying in December to the coaches from the other sites when we were at Roeland Park over the holidays.

The reason we had to keep saying it is because they wanted to know who it was that was leading the lanes in our combined Advanced Blue groups.

Jared has been with the Blazers for a short time and adjusted well to life in Olathe. But, what was even more impressive was how he handled the combined practices over the holidays. Not only was he at practice on a regular basis, he elevated his effort to become a leader, not only of the Olathe swimmers, but of any lane that he got in on any day of the week.

All of this comes after already getting six-out-of-six best times at the Level II meet at the beginning of the month. He is worried about swimming his first 200 fly at the Polar Bear meet, but with the work he's put in during December, that event will probably be just one of eight new best times by the end of the weekend.

Great job, Jared!

Your coaches,
Rodney, Pat and Derek

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH**
Shawnee Mission North/Roeland Park
December 2007
Ryan Sweat
Blue Group
10 YEARS OLD

I am very pleased to announce Ryan Sweat as our Blue group "Swimmer of the Month." Ryan is just now starting his second year with the Blazers and has made major strides in that time. Ryan has progressed from a novice level swimmer to the top of the Advanced Blue group since he began. He has accomplished this task by hard work, very good attendance, and making changes that were recommended by the coaches. Ryan's approach and attitude towards swimming is simply to do what it takes to get better. After all his races he always comes up and asks what he can do to improve.

The hard work and dedication is starting to pay off as Ryan achieved his first "A"

time in the 100 yard back stroke at the recent Level II meet. He now has the opportunity to swim at his first Level I meet in December. We are all very proud of Ryan's progress and expect he will continue on this path towards success.

Best of luck, Ryan.

Coach Henry

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF
THE MONTH**
East-Advanced Blue Group
December 2007
Thomas Faulkenberry
12 YEARS OLD

Thomas took a break from Blazers this summer to re-focus his goals and remember why he loved swimming. We couldn't be more pleased with the new attitude he has come back with. He is self-motivated, has set clear goals, and isn't afraid of getting tired and working hard to reach those goals.

Over the past several months, he has improved in all areas of his swimming, and that really let him shine in December. He has taken responsibility for his training, and for creating an environment around himself that helps him reach his goals. The Advanced Blue boys have been having some difficulty with figuring out how to have fun without preventing themselves, and each other, from training well.

In December, we saw a huge difference in that group and it was inspired by Thomas. In September, Thomas started trying to choose lane-mates and dry land groups that complimented his goals and work ethic. Over the last few months he has also be expressing to his friends that he wants them to respect his goals and respect the fact that he wants to work hard at practice. It was a hard path to take. Sometimes he felt like he was choosing between his friends and his goals; but, ultimately his determination has paid off.

This past month, we saw his closest teammates really take him seriously. One was inspired to stand up for himself and his goals, one began to focus more and work harder like his friends, and a general sense of respecting each other's workout has spread through the group. We love that Thomas has shown such a great attitude and work ethic this year, and we are thrilled that his attitude is inspiring others.

Thanks for the inspiration

Coach Mike Lewellyn
Coach Ann Gibler
Coach Cathy Dowd
Coach Chelsea Lloyd

**Most Inspirational Swimmer of the
Month**
Blue Valley Blue Group
December, 2007
TBA



Missouri Valley All Academic Team - 2006-2007

To be eligible for the MVS All Academic Team, you must meet the following criteria:

- must have completed 9th Grade or higher;
- must be a USA Swimming athlete member;
- must have participated in an individual event in one of the MVS Championship meets or higher, such as Region VIII, Central Zones, Junior Championships, Senior Nationals, US Open, Olympic Trials, or Olympics;
- must have participated in 3 additional USA Swimming sanctioned meets;
- must have a minimum 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 point scale;
- must submit an Official Transcript or Report Card for the entire academic year.

This application form and your transcripts (or report card) must be received by the MVS Records Chair no later than August 30th. Late applications will not be accepted.

Representing the Blazers:

Bobby Bollier , Brooke Brull, Vito Cammisano, Madeline Fogel, Nathan Hoisington, Blaine Hoppenrath,

David Koeller, Emily Schultz, Haley Smith, and Shannon Vreeland



AUGUST'S VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Angie Cohen on being chosen August's Volunteer of the Month.

What can we say about Angie? If you know Angie at all, her name should be enough to bring a smile to your face !! She is someone who continually makes herself available for whoever needs her. Angie has only been with us for a year, but she breathes Blazers. You can always hear her in the stands, yelling for ALL of the swimmers. She continues to encourage them all.

Every meet, Angie spends weeks in preparation to provide fresh, healthy, homemade (as much as possible), appropriate and special meals & snacks for the coaches, officials & all of the volunteers. Angie is always so thoughtful. She thoroughly ponders over, how can I make this the best it can be ? After both sessions of the meet, Angie would go home to clean dishes & prepare food for the next day. She has truly done an outstanding job!

At our Summer Division I Championship meet, Angie brought some fresh, new ideas to our Blazer organization. Smoothie King was a huge hit & it was also Angie's idea to provide water stations throughout the deck for anyone who wanted it. What great ideas! Despite the hot temperatures, Angie's entire family was dedicated to making sure **everyone** at the meet was as comfortable as possible.

Angie has taken a very personal interest to ensure everyone that stops by Hospitality walks away thinking how wonderfully they've been treated by the Blazers. On, behalf of the Blazer Board and entire organization, THANK YOU Angie for all you do!!



Alumni Spotlight

Another KC Blazer made Olympic Trials Cuts.... Rachael Waller, a Junior at the University of Southern California made the cut in the 100 Meter Backstroke at the Huskies Invite. This was her 19th race of the weekend and she also won high point at the meet! Rachael joins Ashton Aubry, Bobby Bollier, Abby Hoisington, and Max Jaben as our fifth qualifier for the 2008 Trials!

Abby Hoisington & Ashton Aubry qualified for NCAA Championships. Abby will be representing Penn State at NCAA's after posting a blistering 2:14.00 in her 200 Yard Breaststroke. This is Abby's first NCAA "A" cut. Ashton will be representing Arizona State after swimming a very fast 53.42 in her 100 Butterfly.

Congratulations ladies!

2007-2008 KC Blazer Age Group Schedule

Dates	Meet or Event	Location	Tracks
September 16	Annual Banquet/Picnic	Roeland Park Dome	Everyone
October 14	Blue/Gold Blazer Bucks	Roeland Park	Blue/Gold
October 20	Future Stars	Roeland Park	DII & DI
October 21	Swim-a-thon (East Side)	Longview	Everybody!!
October 28	Swim-a-thon (Kansas)	Roeland Park	Everybody!!!
November 3-4	Ann Ketterer Intrasquad	Central HS	Everybody
November 16-18	Turkey Classic	Central HS	Div II & DI
November 24	KCB Elite vs. MVS Unified Team	Roeland Park	Elite
November 25	Blue/Gold Wheels or Worms	Roeland Park	Blue/Gold
December 1-2	Level II's East	Central HS	Qualifiers
December 7-9	Level I Championships	Wichita Swim Club	Qualifiers
December 8	Blue/Gold Frosty Frolic	Lawrence	Blue/Gold
January 4-6	Polar Bear	Central High	DII & DI
January 12	Blue/Gold Polar Pop	Roeland Park	Blue/Gold
January 19-20	Midwestern All Star Invitational	Lawrence	MVS Selection
January 25-27	COOL Invite	Lawrence	Non-Plano
February 1-3	Greater SW Invitational	Plano, TX	Team trip for Qualifiers
February 8	MAL 8&Under Championship	Central High	All 8&Unders
February 9-10	MAL's	Central High	Everybody
February 22-24	Missouri Valley Division II East	Central High	Qualifiers
February 28-30	Region VIII/Sectionals	University of MO	Elite Qualifiers
March 7-9	Missouri Valley Division I	Wichita Swim Club	Qualifiers
April 13	Blue/Gold Schlueter caress Meet	Roeland Park	Blue/Gold
April 25-27	Topeka Long Course Invite	Topeka Aquatic Ctr.	DII & DI
May 9-11	Earlybird Jr/Sr Long Course	Central High	DII & DI
May 17	Blue/Gold Cupcake	SMNorth	Blue/Gold
June 6-8	Blaisdell Beach Bash	Gage Park, Topeka	Everybody
June 13-15	Clay Platte YMCA LC Meet	Clay Platte YMCA	Non-Columbia
June 20-22	Columbia Invite	University of MO	One "A" Time
June 27-29	Air Cap Meet (Prelim/Final)	Wichita	3 "A" times
June 29-July 6	Olympic Trials	Omaha, NE	Qualifiers
July 11-13	Wave of the Wheat	Lawrence	"B" Meet
July 15-19	Region VIII/Sectionals	Oklahoma City Elite	Qualifiers
July 25-27	Missouri Valley Division II	Tiffany Springs, MO	Qualifiers
August 1-3	Missouri Valley Division I	Lenexa	Qualifiers
August 7-10	MEGA Zone Championships	Indianapolis	Qualifiers

Notes

In general, each swimmer will be in one of the three "Tracks" throughout the year. While this does not include every scenario, it gives a good general picture of what meets your swimmer will be eligible. It will also be common for swimmers to move "up" a track as they improve, and move "down" a track as the age up. Questions regarding eligibility for meets should be directed to the head site coach. If a meet says "Qualifiers", there are specific times for that meet in play.

****PLEASE NOTE THE DATE/LOCATION CHANGES IN BOLD.**

Updated 09/17/07



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competition for amateur athletes in our area. Please support their
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