



The Blazer

The Kansas City Blazer Swim Team

A Speedo Sponsored Team 

March 2008

Inside this Issue

- 1 Volunteer Info & KCB News
- 2-6 New Swim Meet Records & Swim Meets
- 7-10 Swimmers of the Month
- 11 2007-2008 Swim Meet Schedule
- 12-15 Advertisers, Sponsors, and Boosters

Getting Involved with Your Child's Swimming

Volunteering has Many Rewards

The Blazer Board thanks everyone who has volunteered so far this year! Leeann Hearl is our volunteer coordinator and would be happy to suggest ways for you to get involved in your child's sport, SWIMMING! If you need suggestions or creative ideas to volunteer, please email her at LHearl@kc.rr.com. There are many ways to fulfill your volunteer hour requirements, pick the type that is fun for you! As always, please make sure that you log your hours, promptly on the KC Blazers website after you have worked.

The following upcoming meets need volunteers:

- April 13 Schleuter Stroke Meet – Roeland Park
- May 9-11 Early Bird Meet – Central High School
- Don't forget IRL Races and Division I's Aug. 1-3 in Lenexa.

2008 Triathlons – Coming up Soon!

Johnson County Parks & Recreation contributes a sizeable amount to our team in exchange for us providing the man power for two of their summer triathlons. Volunteer participation in these two events is encouraged by all groups of Blazer swimmers and parents. All elite swimmers and one family member are required to participate in both events

The dates for these events are:

- Heritage Park: May 18
- Shawnee Mission: July 13

The athletes and the staff at JCP& R greatly appreciate the support that each one of you provides. For more information, please contact Kathy Boyd via e-mail: 26togo@earthlink.net

Save Those Cheeseburgers in Paradise Coupons!!

Many of us in the KCB community were saddened to hear of the closing of the Cheeseburger in Paradise at 135th & Nall. As they did before they closed, they are still taking care of their customers. Swimmers that didn't get a chance to use their coupons for 4 mini-cheeseburgers received for Swim-a-Thon participation may redeem them for an appetizer of their choice at the Outback Steakhouse at 95th & Quivira (Northwest side of Oak Park Mall parking lot).

Congratulations Coach Pete Malone & Family!

It's now official! Coach Pete is a brand new Grandfather. Genevieve Newell was born Thursday, March 27th. Mom Cali and baby are doing great. Genevieve now joins big brother Corbin in being Pete's latest "hobby". The Blazer family as a whole extends a heart felt congratulations and best wishes to Pete and the whole Malone family on their latest addition.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bobby Bollier!!

We had another successful short course season with some more Blazer records! We continue to raise the bar and move forward with our achievements. A Team Record Breaker Certificate is yours to keep Bobby. Congratulations, and keep up the great work!

2007-2008 Short Course Yards:

Swimmer	event	age group	time
Bobby Bollier	100 Butterfly	15-18	47.75
Bobby Bollier	200 Butterfly	15-18	1:45.04
Bobby Bollier	200 Freestyle	15-18	1:37.81
Bobby Bollier	500 Freestyle	15-18	4:24.26

MAL Swimmers Take First Championship of Short Course Season

The 2008 MAL Championship meet marked the prelude to the Blazer championship short course season and the team's first step to again establishing dominance in Missouri Valley.

We had many really awesome swims during the preliminary sessions culminating with even better swims in the finals. Our Blazers established a total of 54 new DI standards and five new sectional times. The new sectional standards were set by Bobby Faulkenberry in the 1650 Free, Shannon Vreeland in the 200 Breast, Griffin Peavey 1650 Free, and Stephan Franke in the 100 Free & the 500 Free.

The Blazers also controlled the age group high point standings by winning all the age groups and divisions. Age 10 & under winners were Morgan Clausen and Will Vance. The 11 & 12 age group was won by Hannah Musser and Vaughn Ericson. Katie Snyder and "our main man" Neil White were the top point winners for the 13 & 14 age groups, followed by the Senior group leading point scorers Maddie Fogel, and Matthew Margitier.

Fifty four new DI time standards were distributed throughout all age groups and genders. In alphabetical order, new standards were achieved as followed: Anna Arends 50 fly; Katie Arnote 100 breast; Kelsey Bakalar 100 free; Taylor Barany 100 free; Jon Benson 100 breast, 200 breast; Jacob Berger 100 breast, Joy Beseth 50 free; Briannah Bittel 100 free; Becca Bond 200 free; Sam Boyd 200 IM, 100 IM; Hallie Breidenthal 500 free, 100 breast; Morgan Clausen 50 breast; Silly Billy Davis 400 IM; Yousef Eldakak 50 fly; Vaughn Ericson 100 back, 500 free; Jacob Fisher 100 breast; Nick Foster 1650 free; Emily Fuson 50 free; Jackson Granstaff 50 free, 100 breast; Adam Houghton 100 IM; Danny Hynes 200 free, 50 free; Maddison Jarman 50 fly, 100 free, 100 IM; Abigail Johnstone 50 fly; Jared Johnstone 50 free; Sam Laffin 50 free; Joshua Littell 50 breast, 100 IM; Sihan Liu 500 free, 200 breast; Heath Maginn 100 fly; Shale Morris 100 back, 500 free; Luke Musser 100 back; Phillip O'Larte 50 fly, Griffin Peavey 50 free; Kaela Ropson 500 free; Amy Seveik 500 free, 100 breast; Collin Strickland 50 fly, 50 breast; Will Vance 200 free; Allie Wooden 100 breast.

Our swimmers performed well at this meet we will continue to gain momentum, experience, and greater success as this season finishes up.

MAL 8 & Under Championships Central High School February 8, 2008

On a Friday night in February, we saw the BIGGEST meet of the year for the smallest Blazers on the team. This was the night of the MAL 8& Under Championships. For most of our competitors in the meet, it was the first time they swam in a meet with teams other than the Blazers, and the first time that they would be involved in relays. Regardless of what was new, the youngsters managed to perform well and race hard. We had our share of DQs, but we had far more smiles and best times to report.

There was no limit on the number of relays we could enter in the meet, so we entered five girls relays and three boys relays. The relays were both the most exciting and most anxious time of the meet. We had great help from coaches and clerk of course (Annette Rhodes) to get the swimmers to the right end of the pool for their legs of the relay. Once our young Blazers were in the right place, they knew just what to do.

There were no Division II times on the line here as we only competed in 25-yard events. However, there was free pizza at the MAL party on the line for anyone who could achieve three or more best times for the evening. The following swimmers reached that mark: Jay Arends, Braxton Beal, Mackenzie Bravence, Liam Bresette, Hailey Brull, Joey Canfield, Marin Carey, Ariana Cecil, Heidi Ekborg-Ott, Jake Ekborg-Ott, Delaney Green, Skye Holsinger, Sydney Holsinger, Margaret Hubble, Alli Hunt, Urvi Kaul, Julia Lytle, Ana Manners, Morgan Masters, Kira Moylan, Anna Samuelson, Mia Schloegel, Piper Schuerman, Olivia Vance, Hunter Whitebread

With only 12 events offered for the meet, we had our fair share of event winners as well. Here are the Blazers that rose to the top: Girls 100 Medley Relay – Aubrey Torkelson, Ana Manners, Mackenzie Bravence, Delaney Green; Girls 100 Freestyle Relay – Aubrey Torkelson, Ana Manners, Delaney Green, Gage Elms; Girls 25 Freestyle – Ana Manners; Boys 25 Freestyle – Liam Bresette.

Congratulations to all of our swimmers who swam hard and had fun. Thanks to all those grown-ups that helped make this another successful MAL 8& Under Championships!

Missouri Grand Prix University of Missouri February 15 – 18

The USA National Team Department along with the University of Missouri, Columbia Swim Club, Missouri Valley and Ozark officials hosted a fantastic prep. competition leading to China in August 2008. The meet featured over 30 Olympians from the USA and around the world. We witnessed two World Records, some American Records and virtually 100% facility records.

The Blazers had 18 swimmers compete in the long course meters competition. They posted over 40 life time bests; which is very good at this point of the year in long course meters. Special recognition goes to Bobby Bollier who finished 6th in the 200 Meter Fly and 9th in the 100 Meter Fly and 17th in the 400 IM. Shannon Vreeland finished ___ 800 Free, 19th in the 400 IM, 21st in the 200 IM. Luke Musser was 21st in the 200 Breast and Paul Lockhow was 24th in the 200 Breast. The Men's 800 Free Relay placed 4th, the highest finish we had in the meet (B. Bollier, E. Bonicelli, V. Cammisano, P. Lochow) The 400 Medley Relay finished 6th (M. Benson, N. Hoisington, E. Bonicelli, B. Boolier)

Congratulations KC Blazers along with all the local people of the Midwest for the awesome competition.

Region 8 Sectional Swim Meet University of Missouri February 28-30

Special recognition and thank you to the Columbia Swim Club and the University of Missouri for hosting a great championship meet that was athlete friendly and an environment that supported excellence.

The Blazers were represented by 48 swimmers. We had swimmers from our East branch, Blue Valley North and Olathe Sites, who combined with our Elite Group to dominate the championship meet. The Blazer program was crowned over all Team Champions, Men's Team Champions, and Women's Team Champions. This was a dominate victory and the most significant victory we have had in four years. The Blazer women finished 6th in spring 2007 and 7th this past summer. This time they were led by their team leader, Sara Ladner and were crowned Team Champions – WOW!

The tradition is to let the Men's team and the Women's team each award an athlete from their respective teams individual honors. This selection is made by their teammates. The women's team selected Brooke Brull. She was on all three "A" relays and also our only new Junior National Qualifier. The Men's Team selected Bryson Cramer. He had come into the meet with a goal to be a Top 8 finisher. Bryson had 4 top 8 finishes and swam on two "A" relays, all first for him. What a great experience and accomplishment in his senior year.

The meet was truly brought great pride and joy to the coaching staff for so many reasons. The number 1 reason was how the athletes presented themselves in all aspects as excellent. We had officials, hotel guests, hotel personnel, chaperone staff, and meet facility staff comment on how classy, respectful, and "wow out" performance in the pool. Great job Blazer swimmers!

We had some special achievements in the competitive pool also on individual performances. Bobby Bollier continues to have an awesome year. Bobby won six events, set two Sectional Records (one was a KCB Team Record), and he also won the Men's High Point. Shannon Vreeland had a break thru meet. She won 5 out of 6 races. She qualified for the National Championships and is very close to Olympic Trials in three events. She set a Sectional Record in the 200 Meter Free. She was also crowned Female High Point Winner. Eric Bonicelli was 2nd in the Men's High Point, won two events and qualified for Junior Nationals in three events. Brooke Brull qualified for Junior Nationals in the 50 Free. The Sectional Team performed 231 Life Best Times, which is almost an average of 5 per swimmers. That is special.

In closing, special thanks to Rosemary Albery for coordinating the trip with the Chaperone Team. They were spectacular! Keeping the swimmers focused and on track have a lot of logistical issues. The Chaperone team was headed up by Steve and Kathy Weatherford and assisted by Donnah Woody, Tracy and Scott Hoisington and Belinda Smith. Special thanks to the other parents that also helped them.

Congratulations Team Champions in every aspect. "Who we are is most important" and "You Are Champions"

Missouri Valley Division II East Championships
Central High School
February 22-24

The Division II Championships, held every year in both short course and long course, is many things to many people. For some, who get to take advantage of bonus swims, it is their first glimpse of a championship style meet. For others, it is their first chance to make it into finals at a meet with all the Division I qualifiers missing. But for many, it is the chance to become one of those Division I qualifiers and earn a trip to Wichita.

Each year, the Blazers keep a running track of those who make the Division I cut in each event. This year was no different. Coach Lindsay had the honor of writing all of the names up, so we could actually read them! At some points in the meet, she was surrounded by kids asking for their names to be written up on the posters. By the end of the meet, we had completely filled two posters and were half way through the third one. That's what it looks like when your team gets 149 Division I times! It appears that even as the cuts for Division I got faster this year, it didn't seem to faze our anxious young swimmers!

In addition to qualifying for Division I, we raced very well at this meet. It was not unusual to see several Blazers in the finals in each heat. What was even more common was to see a Blazer come in first. Of the 98 events offered, 44 different Blazers won 79 of them. Here are the event winners for the meet:

Drew Adams – 50 Fr, 100 Bk	Danny Hynes – 500 Fr
Colin Adams – 500 Fr	Madison Jarman – 50 Bk, 200 I.M.
Anna Arends – 50 Fr, 100 Fr, 100 FI	Cole Kenney – 50 Back
Lexi Bergeron – 1000 Fr, 100 Bk, 200 FI	Margaux Kent – 100 Fly, 200 I.M.
Briannah Bittel – 50 Fr, 500 Fr, 50 FI, 100 FI	Jessica Kirchner – 50 Breast
Allison Boys – 400 I.M.	Samantha Laffin – 200 Fr, 200 Bk, 100 Br, 200 Br, 100 FI
Ethan Bresette – 50 Fr, 100 FI	Alex Lombardo – 200 Bk, 200 I.M.
Taylor Burkhead – 50 Fr	Joe Lytle – 100 Fr, 400 I.M.
Emily Dake – 200 Fr, 100 Bk	Ryan McMonigle – 100 Bk
Ryan Dake – 200 Fr, 200 Br, 100 FI, 200 I.M.	Jillian Nelson – 200 Bk
Nicole Danisi – 100 Br	Phillip O'Larte – 200 I.M.
Ben Davis – 50 Fr	Carolyn Osbern – 100 Br
Billy Davis – 100 FI	Ryan Schafer – 400 I.M.
Carolina Dugan – 100 Fr, 200 I.M.	Ryan Smith – 1000 Fr, 200 FI
Jordan Finnigan, 100 I.M.	Audrey Snyder – 200 Fr
Jacob Fisher – 200 Bk	Sasha Stadnik – 50 Fr
Jenna Flottman – 50 Fr, 100 Fr, 500 Fr	Katey Stoetzel – 200 I.M., 400 I.M.
Cameron Gabel – 200 Fr, 100 I.M.	Kristine Sullivan – 50 Bk
Jackson Granstaff – 100 Fr, 100 Back, 50 FI	Andrew Swetnam – 100 Fr, 100 Fr
Jonathan Hearl – 50 Bk	Katya Vakshteyn – 100 Bk
Isabel Holloway – 50 FI	Felicia Walker – 100 Br
Adam Houghton – 100 Breast	

All of our Division II Swimmers started off Championship season well and gave us a lot of momentum heading into Sectionals and Division I Championships! Congrats!

Missouri Valley Division I East Championships
Garvey Aquatic Center
March 7-9

The Blazers won the 2008 Missouri Valley Division 1 Short Course Championships on March 7-9, 2008 by 3054.5 over the Wichita Swim Club (5104.50 to 2050). This adds to the string of 30 plus straight Division 1 titles the Blazers have amassed. The Blazer swimmers accounted for 33% of all points scored in the meet.

Blazer highlights from the meet included winning every age group except the 13-14 Girls where Topeka took the top spot by a score of 304 to 235 (The 13-14 girls will need to avenge this loss next year.). In the point spread races, the 15-18 boys scored 1064.5 points to the Springfield Aquatics 217 points making that a bone crushing 847.5 point spread blasting, while the 11-12 boys fought out a very tough age group title winning by 9 points, 191 to Tsunami's 182. The Blazer Boys dominated the total points spread race over the Girls. The Blazer Boys scored 2895.50 points to Wichita Swim Club's 868 to win by 2027.5 points while the Blazer Girls tallied 2209 points to top the Lawrence Aquahawks 1303 points, a 906 point win.

The top individual performances for the weekend featured Amy Davis who was the top point scorer in the 11-12 girls with 135 points, Ben Scheffer topped the 13-14 Boys with 160 points, Shannon Vreeland was the 15-18 Girls leader with 111 points and Bobby Bollier led a 1-2-3 sweep of the 15-18 boys scoring with 120 points followed by Eric Bonicelli's 100 and Luke Musser's 87 points. Top scorers in the other age groups were Haley Hynes (9) 4th in the 10 & Under Girls with 93 points, River Elms (10) 5th in the 10 & Under Boys with 89 points, Heath Maginn (12) in the 11-12 Boys with 92 points, and Kat Sickle (13) 2nd in the 13-14 Girls with 127 points.

Blazers winning individual events were:

10 & Under Girls

Haley Hynes (9) 50 Breast: 37.99

"A" 200 Medley Relay: 2:24.96

Maddison Jarman, Hayley Hynes, Morgan Clausen, Julia Woelbel

11-12 Girls

Amy Davis 100 Fly 1:02.02

100 IM 1:04.86

200 IM 2:17.17

"A" 200 Free Relay 1:46.31

Amy Davis, Alli McCullum, Rosie Hutchison, Hallie Breidenthal

"A" 200 Medley Relay 2:01.07

Hannah Musser, Amy Davis, Rosie Hutchison, Alli McCullum

13-14 Girls

Katt Sickle 100 Back 1:00.63

200 IM 2:12.20

400 IM 4:38.18

15-18 Girls

Shannon Vreeland 500 Free 4:53.14

1000 Free 10:10.04

200 Back 2:02.75

200 Fly 2:03.80

10 & Under Boys

Will Vance 50 Back 34.36

"A" 200 Free Relay 2:04.69

River Elms, Jamie Cohen, Will Vance, Colin Strickland

"A" 200 Medley Relay 2:21.80

Will Vance, Jamie Cohen, River Elms, Colin Strickland

11-12 Boys

No event winners

13-14 Boys

Ben Scheffer	50 Free	22.99
	100 Free	50.13
	200 Free	1:50.22
	500 Free	4:54.33
	100 Back	56.67
	100 Fly	54.19
	200 IM	2:02.75
	400 IM	4:25.69
"A" 400 Free Relay		3:29.99
Ben Scheffer, Neil White, Sihan Liu, Jesse Musser		
"A" 400 Medley Relay		3:57.78
Chris Hearl, Jesse Musser, Ben Bravence, Ben Scheffer		

15-18 Boys

Matthew Margritier	50 Free	21.82
	100 Free	47.69
Bobby Bollier	500 Free	4:24.26 (Blazer Record!)
	1000 Free	9:13.54
	100 Fly	48.06 (Blazer Record!)
	200 Fly	1:45.04 (Blazer Record!)
	200 IM	1:52.59
	400 IM	3:57.15
Vito Cammisano	1650 Free	16:17.36
Bryson Cramer	200 Back	1:53.88
Luke Musser	100 Breast	59.59
	200 Breast	2:07.03
"A" 400 Free Relay		3:11.96
Bobby Bollier, Bryson Cramer, Nathan Welchlin, Matthew Margritier		
"A" 800 Free Relay		7:04.19
Bobby Bollier, Bryson Cramer, Nathan Welchlin, Joe Knight		
"A" 400 Medley Relay		3:34.50
Bryson Cramer, Luke Musser, Bobby Bollier, Nathan Welchlin		

Other highlights:

Haley Hynes (9) went 6 of 7 best times.
Jamie Cohen (10) went 6 of 7 best times.
Morgan Clausen (10) went 5 of 7 best times.
Yousef Eldakak (9) went 6 of 7 best times.
Tiffany Liu (11) went 6 of 8 best times.
Colin Adams (12) went 4 of 5 best times.
Heath Maginn (10) went 6 of 7 best times.
Katt Sickle (13) went 7 or 8 best times.
Sihan Liu (14) went 7 of 8 best times.
Ben Scheffer went 7 of 8 best times.
Natalie Morris (15) went 5 of 6 best times.
Shannon Vreeland went 5 of 6 best times.
Chelsey Weatherford went 5 of 6 best times.

And finally Jackson Granstaff (12) and Neil White (14) were the only Blazers to achieve 100 % best times. Jackson went 5 for 5 and Neil went 8 for 8.



Most Inspirational Swimmers of the Month



MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

ELITE PROGRAM

February, 2008

Nathaniel Savage

Age 17

Platte County High School

CRITERIA:

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

Nathaniel joined the Blazers Program in spring 2007. Nathaniel started at our North program with Coach Henry Morrow. He has been nothing but a spectacular person to coach. Nathaniel moved to the Elite Group and what a fantastic addition to the Elite Group in respect to coaches, athletes and all he comes in contact with. His work ethic and focus to growth, attendance and moving to the next level has been a "5" on a "5" scale.

February has been a break thru month achieving three sectional time standards and getting the invitation to attack the next level of his potential.

Congratulations Nathaniel and parents, what a fantastic young man!

Head Elite Coach Peter D. Malone Assistant Coach Kate Zabler

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

Blue Valley Blue Group

March 2008

Kathryn Schultz

One of our clear standout Blue swimmers for "Most Improved" throughout the past few years is Kathryn Schultz. This young lady has been a pleasure to coach, but recently she has elevated her 'game' to the next level. It has been a thrill to watch her attitude, work ethic, coachability, and performance all improve over the course of this year, and we're very pleased to offer Kathryn this award. In addition, we have invited her to take yet another step and move up to the Gold group, and we couldn't be happier that she has accepted the challenge!

As a Blue swimmer 2 years ago, Kathryn certainly kept us on our toes. She would work hard and try her best, but she also had her moments when she would get a little distracted, lose a little focus... typical things that a Blue swimmer does from day to day ☺ Her performances in meets were solid and her attendance has always been very strong, but suddenly Kathryn started motivating herself to get more out of her efforts. She picked up her effort in practice, tuned in to the coaches a little closer, and before long set herself up to move to Advanced Blue.

Very similarly, she has done the same thing this year on a higher level. She is training harder, listening more closely, coming to practice as much as possible, and as a result achieving more DII times (at the bottom of her age group) than she has had! She stands out, and both Susan and I have noticed the effort! Her attitude has been wonderful, and we're very proud of the distance she has come. I think it would be very safe to say, if she keeps this up, that we won't be surprised when she hits ANOTHER level of success and suddenly starts running down some DI times, "A" times, and better.

Congratulations, Kathryn! You are very deserving of this award, and we hope you keep it up!

Coach Grant & The BVN Blue Coaches

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH
Blue Valley Gold Group
March 2008
Tiffany Liu
11 years old

Wow! What a pleasant addition and blessing this young lady has been to our team this year! We have been very impressed by Tiffany, not just by the speed and talent that she came in with, but also her personal growth over the winter. This young lady has a ton of potential, and it will be very exciting to watch her in the years to come.

Tiffany joined the Blazers this fall as a new swimmer from Florida. She came in as a stud 10 year-old who had previously achieved a Top-16 time in the 200 Freestyle, and before we could see any more T-16 results, she aged up and turned 11 ☺ She joined the team as a very quiet new swimmer who wasn't quite used to our size and numbers, but very quickly she took to the water like a natural, started making new friends, and fit in like a regular at our site. It didn't take long for us to move her up from Advanced Blue to Gold, where she excelled in practice and elevated the performance of our group.

Over the course of the winter, she focused very hard on improving her technique. From her turns, to her flutter kick, to her backstroke body position, she had a variety of things to work on, and she has tackled each challenge very effectively. She even came in to practice one night with a list of questions she had thought of while trying to work on her strokes! We couldn't have been happier. Meanwhile, she continued to make more and more friends, and before long everybody knew Tiffany and looked forward to seeing her each night.

We were sad that she was unable to make our team trip to Plano in January, but it made March all the more exciting, because she lit up the 11-12 girls' age group. Still at just 11 years old, she and teammate Hannah Musser were 2 of the only 11 year olds to make Finals in any events. She made Finals in 4 different events and the Top 16 in all of her swims, finishing with an incredible 200 Freestyle at the end of the weekend. She nearly won the event, taking 3rd in the end with an impressive 2:02.88... just barely missing a AAAA time! It was a tremendous way to finish a very successful winter.

The biggest challenge for young athletes who excel at 10 and 11 years old is to keep it up. When you're young and you're that good, it can be scary to step outside your comfort zone and try new things. As a result, if they don't change very much, sometimes their times don't change, either! This will be Tiffany's next challenge, because it's 1 thing to be good at 11 but it's another to continue improving and climbing towards the top. Our REAL goal is for her to be great when she's old and fully matured, so we will continue to challenge her in her quest! Congratulations so far, Tiff. It has been an awesome winter, and we're very proud of you!

Coaches Grant, Davin, & Lindsay

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH
Blue Valley West
February, 2008
Isabelle Finzen

February is always a big month for our pool site. The end of February brings the culmination of Phase II and the Division II Championships! We had twenty two swimmers achieve Division II times! These swimmers did a wonderful job but we had one swimmer in particular who stood out this month. I am proud to announce Isabelle Finzen as our Swimmer of the Month!

Preparation is the first step to succeeding at any meet, much less the Championship meet. During the month of February, Isabelle attended 3 practices per week and geared up for Division II's. With her attention to detail everything has improved, from her strokes, to her turns, to her dives and endurance! This girl was on fire!

As you would have guessed, she was awesome at Champs. She dropped time in every single event except her last one. She also made into finals in her 50 Fly, placed 6th and earned her first Division II medal! Plus, she is super close to many Division I times. In addition to all of these accomplishments, Isabelle has moved from the Blue Group to Advanced Blue Group. We could not be more proud of the way Isabelle has consistently lead the Blue Group with her work ethic and positive energy, and we are excited that she has accepted this new challenge.

Congratulations, Isabelle for a fabulous February!

GO BLAZERS!

Coach Lindsay and the BVWest Coach's

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

OLATHE

February, 2008

Delaney Green

Blue Group

8 years old

If you looked at the Olathe Blue group from a distance you might just overlook Delaney Green because of her diminutive stature. However, if you went over and scanned the group, you'd see that she stands out for the same reason. In a group of swimmers who range in age and size, Delaney stands out because of her always cheery attitude that seems too big to fit into such a small package. However, in February 2008, that small package has accomplished a lot.

February is the month of our annual 8& under MAL Championships. This year marks the second time that Delaney competed in this meet; this time she was one of the "big" 8-year olds. She not only got best times in all four individual events, she also swam on both of the first-place "A" relays at that meet. Pretty good work for a Friday night.

That weekend wasn't over for Delaney, though. She came back on Sunday and swam three more events in the 10& under division. That's a lot of racing for an 8& under. While she didn't compete in the Division II meet at the end of February, she will turn nine with five Division II times – the result of solid performances in practices over time and a great month of February. Keep it up, Delaney!

Your coaches,
Meredith and Derek

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

OLATHE

February, 2008

Bri Bittel

Gold Group

11 years old

The month of February is all about putting together what you've learned over the season and applying it at swim meets. For Bri Bittel, it all came together in February. In a busy month, with a lot of sickness in the air, Bri managed to stay healthy, get to practice, and attend three meets. But she did more than that, she improved every week.

The month began in Plano at the Greater Southwest Invitational. Bri was one of the youngest at the meet and while she did not make any finals, she did swim some best times and took notes on how to swim faster in a prelim/final meet. The next weekend, she swam mostly "off" events and competed in the 500 free for the first time. She picked up more experience, some Division II times, and began to look like she could swim butterfly well enough to start her I.M. races off well.

The final meet of February for Bri, the Division II Championships, was where she quit taking notes on how to perform at swim prelim/final meets, and started writing her own book. She competed in eight events at the meet. In those eight events, she finished in the top eight in all but one of them. She won four of them, on her way to six new Division I cuts. And in the butterfly that was starting to look adequate at the beginning of the month, she was awesome -winning both butterfly events and dropping nearly six seconds in the 100 fly.

After a meet like that, most people would be very satisfied. It's not that Bri wasn't, but she seemed even more excited about the future possibilities presented by such good performances. She closed out the month in practices asking if she should be on faster intervals trying to get even better for the Division I meet in Wichita. That's the way to be! Keep it up, Bri.

Your coaches,
Derek, Pat, Tim, & Rodney

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH
Shawnee Mission North/Roeland Park
February 2008
Blue Groups
Carolyn "Charlotte" Osbern
10 years old

This year I have seen Carolyn Osbern morph from a beginning level swimmer to a highly competitive swimmer with a very competitive drive. Carolyn has learned what it takes to get to the next level. It has been my pleasure this year to watch Carolyn progress from the Blue to the New Blue all the way to the Advanced Blue group. Each time she moved up to another group I was a little skeptical as to whether she was ready or not, and each time she proved to me that she was not only ready, but willing and able to handle the rigors of the new group's challenges.

Carolyn's dramatic improvement has best been exemplified in the breast stroke where she achieved DI time cuts at the DII meet placing 2nd in the 50 breast stroke, and 1st in the 100 breast stroke. Consistently rising to the challenges before her Carolyn is steadily becoming a swimmer of many successes. Though she has just recently move up to the Advance Blue group she has already established herself as one of the harder workers in the group and with continued work she may find herself on the top of that group as well. Carolyn is a swimmer on the rise.

Best of luck Carolyn!!

Coach Henry

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH
Shawnee Mission North/Roeland Park
February 2008
GOLD Groups
JT NELSON
13 years old

JT Nelson was chosen as the Gold team "Swimmer of the Month" for a multitude of reasons. The number one reason is her change of attitude. JT has gone from a talented, but reluctant swimmer who was not clearly focused to a swimmer with great technique desire and a vision of what she wants to achieve in the sport. It is a change I have hoped for, for about three years. JT has always had the talent, but now with a clear focus on her dreams she is doing what it takes to make those things happen. Higher attendance has certainly been a factor, but things like stronger work ethic in practice, greater participation in the "team aspect of swimming", and more attention to detail has all lead to improved performance.

For me however is her relationship with her coaches that has made the greatest difference. JT is much more cooperative and receptive to the instruction she receives from her coaches, and this coupled with a greater enthusiasiam to take on the challenges of practices has help to transform JT into what might end up being a scary fast swimmer. I believe JT is capable of doing wonderful things in the sport of swimming and only the future will tell, but I will tell you it will happen if JT puts her mind to it. We have just tap in to her potential.

Best of Luck JT!!

Coach Henry



2007-2008 KC Blazer Age Group Schedule

Dates	Meet or Event	Location	Tracks
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.**

speedo

JOIN SPEEDO FOR THE WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA ON APRIL 5TH.

ONE CHILD DIES FROM MALARIA EVERY 30 SECONDS SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

The **WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA** aims to get **ONE MILLION** people swimming on April 5.
It's easy to join the fight.
Sign up at:

WWW.WORLDSWIMAGAINSTMALARIA.COM/SPEEDO
Donate as little as \$5 to save one life

Supermodel Alex Wek for WSAM

WORLD SWIM AGAINST MALARIA



Come visit us at our
new location in
Parkway Plaza
at the NW corner of
135th & Roe

Swim Quik

4876 W. 135th St. Leawood, KS
913.649.8456 • www.swimquik.com

**THE BLAZER SWIMMERS
WISH TO THANK
THE KC BLAZER BOOSTERS!**

2007-2008 BLAZER BOOSTER FAMILIES:

BARTNETT FAMILY
BAYER FAMILY
BENSON FAMILY
BOLLIER FAMILY
BOND FAMILY
BONICELLI FAMILY
BRIMACOMBE FAMILY
BRULL FAMILY
COHEN FAMILY
DONNELLY FAMILY
ELSENER FAMILY
FARRAHI FAMILY
FLOTTMAN FAMILY
FOSTER FAMILY
FRANKE FAMILY
FRIES FAMILY
GARIES FAMILY
HEARL FAMILY
HINDE FAMILY
HUTCHISON FAMILY
JOHNS FAMILY
KIRBY FAMILY
KRUSE FAMILY
LOCHOW FAMILY
LOMBARDO FAMILY
LYTLE FAMILY

MARGRITIER FAMILY
MEISTER FAMILY
MILLS FAMILY
MIKE & MARY BETH MORRIS
FAMILY
NEELEY FAMILY
NELSON FAMILY
O'HEARNE FAMILY
ROHDE FAMILY
SANDOY FAMILY
SCHWERMANN FAMILY
SCHULTZ FAMILY
SHARP FAMILY
SHERARD FAMILY
SIMPSON FAMILY
GARY & THERESE SMITH FAMILY
GEORGE & VICKIE SMITH FAMILY
KRIS & BELINDA SMITH FAMILY
STRICKLAND FAMILY
TROMBLEY FAMILY
VREELAND FAMILY
WEATHERFORD FAMILY
WELCHLIN FAMILY
WOODEN FAMILY
WOODY FAMILY

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!

MAJOR MEET SPONSOR

Commerce Bank

EXCLUSIVE LANE SPONSORS

Thomas & Associates

Teague Lumber Co., Inc

Kolbe Windows & Doors

Westlake Ace Hardware

B & F Custom Homes

Kopps Decorating Center

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

Cedar Creek Inc.

Waller Trucking

Elite Tree Service

Midwest Anatomic Pathology Laboratory

Midwest Gloves & Gear

Peavey Corporation

Capitol Federal Savings

Hawthorne Plaza Dentistry

Midland Marble and Granite

ADVERTISERS

Dr. Andrew Jacobs

RPS

Wellbody-DR. Goldstein

Factory Direct Appliance

Go Wireless

Jam Ridge Services

Brimacombe & Company

Smith Investment Consulting Group

Swim Quik

Copy Club

Catering By Design

Bordner Installation Group

Oak Park Veterinary Clinic

Trailers Plus

THE KC BLAZERS EAST BRANCH WISHES TO THANK OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS AND ADVERTISERS:

- **SWIM QUIK**
- **DICK'S SPORTING GOODS**
- **SHOW ME PRESENTATION
RESOURCES**
- **LEES SUMMIT HOSPITAL**
- **LOVELACE AND ASSOCIATES**

- **The "A" List Salon**
- **First National Bank of Missouri**
- **Genesis Environmental Solutions**
- **Independence Bonding Co.**
- **New Heritage Realty, LLC**
- **Novus Auto Glass**
- **Susan Appleberry Widick, DDS PC**
- **Speedo**
- **2006 Golf Tournament Sponsors**

Coca Cola Bottling Co of Mid America – Bill Wilson Cygnus Systems Development – Ben Bluml
DeMoss Real Estate and Construction – Craig & Becky DeMoss
Dick's Sporting Goods – Darrin Wheat ECB Identity – Garry Blevins
Johnson County Park and Recreation Midwest Anatomic Pathology Laboratory – Russ Benson
PGA – MidWest Section – Brad Demo Speedo Swim Quik – Gary Bietka
Cheese Burger In Paradise – Jay Fisher KC Royals – Tom Jackson
Tom & Joan Bigham Kansas City Chiefs Football
Blockbuster Video Long Horn Steak House

**These generous companies help make it possible for the KC
Blazers to offer quality swim programming and first rate
competition for amateur athletes in our area. Please support their
businesses whenever you can!**