



# Birmingham Blue Dolphins

Monday, December 8, 2008

Ninth Edition

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**Everybody Swims!**

**Everybody Wins!**

## Coach's Corner

Dear Parents and Swimmers,

### *Macomb Meet*

We had a very nice dual meet with Macomb on Sunday. They are very glad to host us and I am very grateful that they are willing because organizing a dual meet is a challenge and finding a site is difficult.

### *Board Meeting / Strong Kids Campaign*

At our regularly scheduled board meeting last Monday we discussed opportunities for BBD to support the YMCA's "Strong Kids" Campaign that provides financial support to people who are interested in participating in YMCA programs who lack the ability to pay. As many of you know, in the past we have done a successful bottle and can drive. This year, under the leadership of Carin Michaels (Maya Krishnan's mom) we have already raised a significant amount of money using the *Kroger Cares* program. Kroger supermarkets will kick back to the Y 5% of a customer's bill if they use a pre-purchased card. If you aren't already participating in this program, I hope you will consider it.

In addition to this, Carin brought several fresh ideas to the board to consider. I hope you will support these initiatives as we bring them to you. One of them is the presented to us by Max and Erma's. They will give the Y a significant contribution if we eat at their restaurant. So after the holidays we will reserve evenings for the swimmers and families to go out to dinner by age group. These activities accomplish several team goals: they help us bond as a community and make a significant contribution and they will be a lot of fun! Stay tuned.

### *Our High School Girls*

We couldn't be prouder of our high school girls who performed so beautifully at their respective high school state meets. Rachel Dekar led Cranbrook -Kingswood to a third place finish. She won the 100 breaststroke and set the POOL RECORD at Oakland University!

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## Practice Updates for the Upcoming Week...

The following practices are changed for the upcoming week:

### Tuesday 12/9

- ▶ 13 & Up morning practice begins on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30-6:45 @ Cranbrook
- ▶ 6:00-7:15 - Derby 11-12 boys
- ▶ 7:15-8:30 - Derby 11-12 girls

### Thursday 12/11

- ▶ 6:00-7:15 - Derby 11-12 girls
- ▶ 7:15-8:30 - Derby 11-12 boys

### Saturday 12/13 & Sunday 12/14

- ▶ No Practice All Age Groups

An updates printable version of the regular season practice schedule is available on the [Practice Schedule](#) page of the BBD website.

**Attention Parents:** Please visit the website regularly for any changes or updates to the practice schedule. Changes do occur during the week, sometimes with little notice. We do our best to inform you of these changes as soon as possible. The most effective way of doing this is on the BBD website, but you must visit the site to be in the know. If you have any questions navigating the website, please send an e-mail to [bbd@htdconnect.com](mailto:bbd@htdconnect.com). For the regular season practice schedule of times and locations and a complete listing of practice updates, visit the Practice Schedule page on [www.birminghambluedolphins.com](http://www.birminghambluedolphins.com).

## Strong Kids Campaign Newsflash

**Newsflash:** BBD SKC received another \$300 from the Kroger Cares Program! And another check is on its way. Please remember to use your card during the holidays.  
And: Thank you! Thank you!



**IMPORTANT CARD FACTS:** Some cards have become **demagnetized** because they are:

- ▶ Placed by a cell phone.
- ▶ Rubbed up against metal.
- ▶ Or rubbed against another card's magnetic strip.
- ▶ Or if you scraped the ice off your windshield with your card!

If your card has become demagnetized, please contact me for a new card. I can send you one in the mail. The \$5 cost is cash on the card. My email is [carinmichaels@gmail.com](mailto:carinmichaels@gmail.com). Also, if your card balance drops to "0" you may need to buy a new card in order to reload it with cash. However, some cards have been reloaded at a "0" balance.

We are planning a **Border's Benefits Day** in February before Winter Break where Borders gives SKC 10% back of our purchases. We can open it to all Y members, your friends, and family. Thank you again. One of the many advantages of our YMCA BBD competitive swim program is its ability to develop the Y in You!

STAY TUNED for more exciting events to come with YMCA's BBD SKC.

## Meet Entry Update

Friendly holiday comments from the Entry Chair

The meet entries are coming fast and furiously. I know it is a busy time of the year for us all but please look at the entry dates and get your entries in as soon as possible. The entry chair will take a holiday break starting December 19 and will not accept late entries.

Remember, that your swimmer's best times can be found on Team Manager Online and the link is on the Schedule and Entries page of the website. The "best times" you see on Direct Athletics are not actual times only the best times you have put on an entry.

Please remember to pay for your entries as well. We will be putting a report on the website soon listing swimmers who are missing payments to BBD Boosters. BBD has to pay the host team for the entries as soon as we submit them so we need you to help us keep our finances healthy.

As always, if you have any questions about entries you can contact me via email. Susan Withrow [svarner-withrow@comcast.net](mailto:svarner-withrow@comcast.net).

### **Bulldog Invitational (aka BAC Winterfest Meet) – January 9-11, 2009**

- ▶ Entry deadline is Monday, December 8, 2008

### **Flint Meet, January 10-11, 2009**

- ▶ Meet Packet has been posted,
- ▶ The meet is only being offered to High School Girls who need another YMCA meet for qualification. Other age groups are visible on Direct Athletics but entries will not be accepted by the entry chair.
- ▶ Deadline for entries is Monday, December 15, at 10:00 p.m.

### **BBA Superbowl Splash has been renamed the BBA "Share the Warmth" Meet – January 16, 2009**

- ▶ Meet Packet has been posted. Note that this is a USS meet but has no qualifying times.
- ▶ Only the Friday night events will be available to BBD swimmers. Even though the other events are visible on Direct Athletics no entries will be accepted for Saturday and Sunday events.
- ▶ Deadline for entries is Monday, December 15, 2008 at 10:00 p.m.

### **Macomb Marlins Invitational, January 17-18, 2009**

- ▶ Meet packet has been posted.
- ▶ Deadline for entries is Friday, January 2, 2009.

### [Officials Needed for Farmington Meet](#)

Farmington is still looking for 2 additional officials at each of the 4 session of the Holiday Invitational on Dec 13 and 14. Maynard Timm has already volunteered but perhaps someone else will be there and wants to be on deck. Please e-mail Mike McNeese (FFYS Meet Director) at [mamcneece@att.net](mailto:mamcneece@att.net) if you are interested.

## Coach's Corner - Continued

Very impressive! Lauren Nichols won the 100 freestyle representing Seaholm and Katherine Carl won the 50 and the 100 freestyle for Lahser. There were a number of other outstanding performances by our female swimmers many of whom qualified for the National Meet at the State Meets and at the Day-After Meet

### *Day -After Meet*

For several years BBD has hosted the "Day-After " Meets at Cranbrook the day after the girls' and boys' high school meets. I have never attended any of these meets because I am always at the RAYS invitational in the fall, and at the US 12 and Under Meet after the boys' meet, but I understand we do an outstanding job doing these meets. The group of volunteers who put these on is the parents of our high school swimmers. I'd like to thank them for their work that gives swimmers a chance to swim non-high school events while they are tapered and for building our team's reputation.

### *The Rays Meet*

All of our swimmers did extremely well in Grand Rapids. Bobby Powrie broke the meet record in the 9-10 100 fly (1:11) and Alexander Margherio just missed the pool record in the 8 and under 50 backstroke. Thanks to Lisa Milton (mother of Carrie and Jimmy Aldrich) who organized a team dinner on Saturday night. We had a great time!

### *Last Wednesday*

The 9-10 and 11-12 practices were shuffled around on Wednesday. We sent out an e-mail about the change but we encountered problems when we tried to change it on the website due to technical problems. Consequently, some people did not get the message and we apologize for the inconvenience it caused. I know it was frustrating for a few families and for the coaches. If you did not receive an e-mail you might want to follow up with Teryl Murphy (our co-president) to ensure that she has the correct e-mail for you.

## Newsletter and Web Site Information

The information found in the newsletters and on the website will help guide you through the 2008-2009 BBD swim season. The newsletter will be available each Monday morning for downloading from the website. The website will have information such meet entries, practice schedule, coaches information, etc. We will also inform you, on the website, of any changes such as unexpected practice changes. Please take the time to see what is available on [www.birminghambluedolphins.com](http://www.birminghambluedolphins.com). Also, if you have any suggestions, questions or comments, please feel free to send an e-mail to [bbd@htdconnect.com](mailto:bbd@htdconnect.com). Thank you.



**Everybody Swims! Everybody Wins!**

