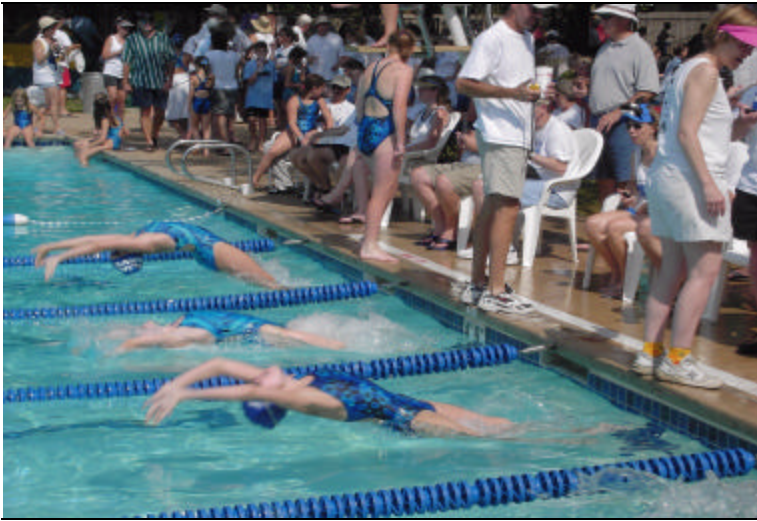


ORCA NEWS

June 26, 2003, Issue 5

Orcas Primed for Champs



Orcas look to continue the improvement they have shown throughout the season as they prepare for this Saturday's finale, the Championship Meet at the UT Swim Center.

We made a most respectable showing against our perennial rival and neighbor, Balcones Woods. Not only was it difficult at times to tell the teams apart due to the similarity of the suits, but Orcas have many friends among the Blue Waves, so groups often included swimmers from both teams.



Just hours out of the bookstores, the new Harry Potter book cast a spell on more than one Orca last week at Balcones Woods.



Lane Lines

Team Presidents

Leslie Bagby

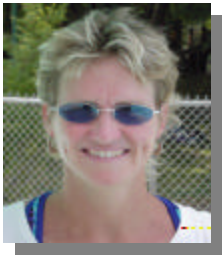
Laura Garner

What a great meet at Balcones Woods! The pool was boiling over from the exciting relays and individual swims. Now we're looking forward to Champs this Saturday at the UT Jamail Swim Center. A map is available at wildorcas.com. Parking info is at tsc.utexas.edu. Follow the Austin Aquatic League Champs link. Champs is a split meet with ages 10 & under swimming in the morning and 11& up swimming in the afternoon. For warm-up times, stay tuned to the website and email for news from Coach Sandy.

On arrival at UT, please escort swimmers to the deck entrance, which is on the floor at the bottom of the main stairwell in the center of the building. Swimmers will then be brought to age group parents on deck by a team escort. Westover age groups will sit together on deck at a position to the right of the deck entrance, at the pool side nearest the stands. Pack a large towel for your swimmer to sit on in addition to the usual dry off towels. Pack healthy snacks and beverages in unbreakable containers that your swimmer can keep on deck.

At all times, swimmers should remain on deck with their age group parents. Please ensure your children's safety by telling them to remain on-deck. Age group parents can't leave the deck to escort your child to the stands or to concessions or locate them elsewhere in the Swim Center. Tell your child that you will escort them away from the deck at the end of the session. Visits to the stands should be kept to a minimum and for as short a duration as possible to ensure their safety and to ensure their events are not missed.

Most parents will be seated in the stands unless they are working on-deck at the meet. UT limits the number of people who can be on-deck. (Continued, page two)



Coach's Corner

Sandy Neilson-Bell

I can't believe we're closing in on our last week of the season already! Last week's meet was a good one. One of the closest we've had against Balcones Woods! We had 190 best times and among those 24 new entries on the Top Times pages :) WOW! Congratulations to Team Record Breakers:

Ryan Smith, (6U) 25 Free, 22.95 and 25 fly, 35.98

Max Kerwick, (11-12) 100 IM, 1:15.75

Kyle Blount, (11-12) 50 Back, 38.18 and 50 Breast, 41.11

A couple more days to go and we'll be at Championships at UT. Our swimmers are looking good – we coaches have seen much improvement over the short season. It's exciting to see everything coming together!

Speaking of "together" I would just like to mention that our success is due not only to the efforts of our swimmers, but of our parents, & coaches as well. I really appreciate the support you parents have shown in every way possible. I'd like to send out a **HUGE THANKS** to our co-presidents, Laura Garner & Leslie Bagby, who have worked so hard this season to help all of us do what we do. They took on a monumental job and haven't stopped working on behalf of the Orcas since earlier in the year – much earlier than season start time!

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to head committees, who did the footwork around town, the shopping, the planning, the grunt work, the watching over everyone else's swimmers. I will not attempt to name everyone because as soon as I start, I think of someone I've forgotten. You know who you are, and I hope you know how much I truly appreciate your support.

My assistant coaches & helpers have done a superb job this summer. Thanks for your support of them. We appreciate you letting us do our job with your children.

Remember Friday Spirit Day, 9-11 a.m.

See you at the pool! Coach Sandy

LANE LINES, *from page one*

Parents who will be working on deck have already been notified and will receive a marker to gain entry to the deck. Please email us if you have any questions or concerns.

Everyone, thanks for your participation, camaraderie, and support this season. We'll see you at Champs and at the Team Banquet this Sunday, where we'll celebrate the 2003 Wild Orca Swim Season.

Go Orcas!

Laura & Leslie

WARMUP TIMES AT UT SWIM CENTER

10 & Unders warmup at 7:00; arrive at 6:40 a.m.

11 & Overs warmup at 11:00; arrive at 10:40 a.m.

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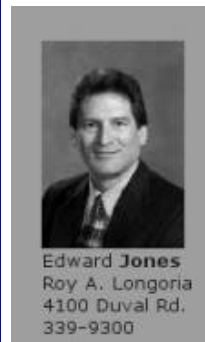
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