



# The Blazer Newsletter

## KANSAS CITY BLAZERS SWIM TEAM

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Eternal Loyalty

Passion Education

Discipline Dedication

Commitment Leadership

Excellence

August 2008 Edition

Page 1

### Volunteer Opportunities

The Blazer Board would like to thank each and every one of you who have volunteered so far this year! The Kansas City Blazers can not do what we need to without the valued volunteer efforts of each and every one of you. There are many ways each of you can fulfill your volunteer hour requirements, some of those opportunities are listed below. Pick the volunteer opportunity that is right for you! As always, please make sure that you log your hours promptly on the KC Blazers website after you have worked. Please feel free to contact Leeann Hearl at [lhearl@kc.rr.com](mailto:lhearl@kc.rr.com) or 913-549-3674 with any questions you may have in regards to these events.

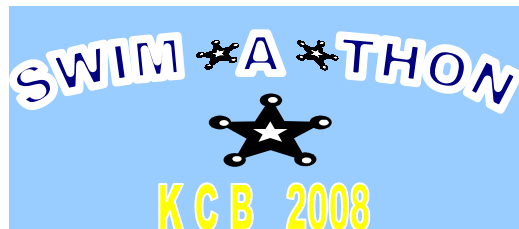
### Inside This Edition

- Page 1 –“Volunteer Opportunities”
- Page 2 – “Thank you to Division1 Volunteers”
- Pages 2 - 4 “Sarah Ladner wins the Brian Howard Scholarship Award!”
- Page 4 –Division 2 Championships a Stepping Stone for Division 1
- Page 5 – “2008 Summer Sectional Long Course Championships”
- Pages 6 - 7 Swimmers of the Month
- Pages 8 - 11 – Corporate & Family Sponsorship Recognition



#### ◆ **NASCAR RACES: September 26-28 2008**

Before you know it, the NASCAR races will be here again at the Kansas Speedway! The Blazers need your help selling programs at these events. This is an example of a different way to earn volunteer hours or money toward your KCB travel fund. Contact the Morris's to secure your spot or to just find out more by e-mailing them at [mmorris21@kc.rr.com](mailto:mmorris21@kc.rr.com).



#### ◆ **Swim – A – Thon: November 2, 2008**

Howdy, KCB! Preliminary planning has started for our annual Swim-a-Thon (this year to be held on November 2, 2008). We are fortunate to have a sponsor for this year's event: Wil Jenny's restaurant (located next to Nick and Jake's at 135<sup>th</sup> & Metcalf) and they have some great ideas. What we need are volunteers from each pool site to help with stuffing boxes and spreading the enthusiasm of this event! We'll also need help the day of the event. This is a great way to get in some service hours, meet other KCB families, and get to better know the kids. Please call Debbie Glenn at (913) 681-2693 or e-mail [dglenn1@kc.rr.com](mailto:dglenn1@kc.rr.com) and volunteer today!

A Speedo Sponsored Team



## Thank You to All Division 1 Volunteers!

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered their time during the Division 1 Championship Swim Meet! This swim meet is the largest one hosted by the Kansas City Blazers. Thirty three teams and more than 500 swimmers were in attendance during this swim meet. With that many people on the pool deck, it can be challenging under the best of conditions. Despite Mother Nature offering up one of the hottest weekends of the year, along with some timing equipment failures Saturday morning, Blazer volunteers did whatever was necessary to ensure that this swim meet was a success. And, with the help of all the volunteers who turned out Thursday night to set up the pool and Sunday night to tear things down, everyone was able to get out of the heat in record time!! It is that spirit and passion that makes the Blazers a truly wonderful organization. Thanks again to everyone for contributing your time in helping the Blazers host the best championship meet in the Missouri Valley!!

Kevin Neeley & Troy Laflin  
Co-Meet Directors

## Sarah Ladner Wins the Brian Howard Scholarship Award

This year there were two applicants for the Brian Howard Scholarship Award, Bobby Bollier and Sara Ladner. The winning essay this year came from Sarah. Her essay is included in full below. The Blazer board, the Blazer coaches, and all those associated with this fine scholarship to honor the memory of Brain Howard would like to congratulate Sarah on her winning essay, and wish her the very best of success as she pursues her goals and dreams in college!

To learn more about this scholarship, and how it is awarded, please click on the following website address:  
<https://kcblazers.splashcentral.com/Portals/162/docs/Incentives/2008%20BHoward%20Scholarship%20info.pdf>

### Sarah's Brian Howard Scholarship Essay

"Hi, my name is Sara Ladner and I'm a senior at Shawnee Mission West High School. I joined the Kansas City Blazers when I was nine years old and I joined Pete's Elite team when I was just 13. The Elite team is the top of the pyramid when you think of the Blazer program, and I felt honored then, and I still do now, to be a part of this team. As a Blazer swimmer, especially an Elite swimmer, we are expected to uphold the Blazers' principles which are: Passion, Education, Commitment, Dedication, Excellent, Discipline, Leadership, Loyalty and Eternal. I believe I have upheld all those principles since I became a Blazer when I joined the team at age nine.

### Kansas City Blazers' Principles

#### Passion

Passion to me is very important, without it, it would be impossible for me to reach my peak potential. I am very passionate about swimming and about the Blazer Swim Team. It is one of the many things that drive me to strive for my peak potential. I remember when I was asked if I wanted to move up to Elite, I was so excited. The main reason why was because I wanted to be able to call myself a Blazer Elite Team member. I loved joining the group back in 2003 and I still love being part of the team today. Along with this passion comes high expectations. I expect a lot from myself and when my goals are not achieved, it only increases my passion to achieve them more.

#### Education

To me education is one of the most important principles this Blazer team has. I have come to accept the fact that after college I probably won't be swimming anymore and I need an education to help support myself. I can proudly say that I have held a 4.0 weighted GPA throughout my entire high school career. The key to a good education is being able to be a diligent worker, and swimming has helped me become one. Swimming has helped me learn how to make the most of the time I have whether its making sure that I do all I can to be excellent in the time we have to practice or whether it's using those extra fifteen minutes before school efficiently to get a little extra studying in.

### **Commitment**

I have been committed to this elite team for five years. I did almost every other sport out there and I can truly say that my heart lies in the water. I was given the hard decision of having to choose between becoming an Elite Blazer or trying to become an elite soccer player. I've never regretted making the decision to become an Elite Blazer, and ever since I made that decision I have been truly committed to the sport. When people find out just how time consuming and strenuous my swim schedule is they call me crazy, but I just laugh it off because I love to swim and I'm willing to commit myself to being excellent.

### **Dedication**

Dedication and commitment go hand in hand. I have committed myself to become excellent, but I have also dedicated myself towards doing whatever it takes to get there. Over the past five years I have maintained the required attendance, and if I can't make it to practice I make sure to e-mail Pete an explanation for why I'm not there. I am also truly dedicated to this group. If someone on this team needs help or advice I am more than willing to give it to them. They are my teammates and we all need to help each other.

### **Excellence**

Being a Blazer means being committed to excellence. I can proudly say that I'm committed to excellence not only in the pool but also outside of it. I strive for excellence no matter what I do. When it comes to swimming, I love being able to say that I am one of the hardest working girls in practice. Practice is my time to prove to people that I work hard to get what I want and I earn everything with hard work and dedication to excellence. I work towards being excellent every time I dive into the water.

### **Discipline**

Discipline is something I have learned over the years in Pete's group. At first discipline to me was doing whatever it took to be on Pete's good side. I would make sure that whenever Pete came behind my lane I worked harder than anyone next to me. That worked for a while, I started getting fast, but I wanted more. I wanted to be the best out of all the new move ups that year. Something my former coach, Tom Herder, told me was, "It's what you do when the coach isn't looking that truly matters," and that finally started to make sense. At first it took a lot of self-discipline to get myself to work hard 100% of the time, but after awhile that became natural. And once I got into the swing of working so hard every day, I was thrown into the world of morning practices. It took a lot of self-discipline not only to get out of a nice warm bed at 4:15 in the morning and drive to practice, but also to go and jump in a cold pool and start working hard. The self-discipline that swimming has taught me so far will not only help me in my college career but it will also help me later in life when I get a job.

### **Leadership**

I was the youngest kid in Elite for two years and during that time I definitely looked towards the leaders of the group to help guide me through the Elite program. In those two years I learned a lot about leadership. I realized how important it was for the team to come together as one, and how to lead by example. As one of the two team leaders this year I have tried to do just that. In previous years our team has been separated men vs. women and this year I have really tried to get away from that and help us become one unified team. This spring sectionals was a prime example of how coming together as a unified team helped us. The men dominated the men's meet and really helped the team dominate the combined team meet too. Unlike previous years the men encouraged and motivated the women to grab a trophy of our own and we did. This year I have also tried to lead by example and become a role model for the younger swimmers. By doing so I feel like I have earned other's respect and that allows for the team to accomplish more than anyone expects us to.

### **Loyalty**

I have been a Blazer since I was nine years old. The Blazers is the only competitive swim team I have swum for and I can't imagine swimming for anyone else. Sure there have been very few times when I wonder what it would be like to swim for a coach who isn't known for yelling at a swimmer (Janie Wagstaff) right after she broke the American Record, but I can't imagine myself on any other team. I love being a part of the Elite team, we're basically one big family. I would do anything to help one of my teammates and I'm sure they would do the same. We have all come to realize our differences but still we accept one another, just like a family. I love being able to say I'm a Blazer. While going on recruiting trips to pick out where I was going to swim and get an education, many people would ask me who I swam for. I took pride in being able to say that I'm a Blazer and it felt good to know that we are recognized all over the nation as a strong team.

## Eternal

Eternal is definitely the most meaningful of all the principle of this Blazer program. I know that once I leave at the end of the year to go to college I won't only be leaving a swim team, but a family. I will truly miss not being part of the team. I know I will be one of Pete's college swimmers who will be writing him e-mails telling him how everything is going and I'll also be asking how the team is doing. The friendships I have developed over the years are ones I will keep forever. I've been a part of this team for so long that I've created friendships with many different people who have scattered all over the nation to different colleges, but I know that we will always have this inseparable bond thanks to the Blazer program. I am glad to say that the feeling that comes with being a Blazer sticks with you throughout your whole life."

## **D2 Championship Final Stepping Stone for Many to D 1 Championships**

**Our Kansas City Blazer's took their final step towards the D1 Championship meet. While the meet was not a scored meet, the Blazers dominated most of the age groups. Many of the swimmers took this last opportunity to make their last major effort to prepare and qualify for the D1 Championships. Twenty six of our swimmers established over 50 new D1 time standards thus qualifying them for the Missouri Valley Championships. When the meet was all said and done the Blazers had bolstered an already strong Blazer team and made them even stronger.**

### New D1 Qualifiers:

Colten Becker, 100 fr, 50 Fly, 50 Fr, 200 fr  
Ben Bravence, 800fr  
Nicole Danise 400fr, 50 bk  
Isabelle Finzen 100 bk, 50 fr  
Jonathan Hearl 100 fr  
Beth Houghton 200IM  
Jared Johnstone 100 brst  
Tyler Laflin 50 brst, 100 fr, 100 bk  
Claire McClelland 50 brst  
Jillian Nelson 400 IM  
Amy Seveik 100 fly, 50 fr  
Andy Swetnam 100 fly

Karlee Benefiel, 800 fr  
Jamie Cohen, 50 brst  
Thomas Faulkenberry 100 brst  
Peyton Gajan 200 fr, 200 brst, 400 free  
Adam Houghton 100 fr, 200 IM  
Alec Jackson;  
Katie Kruse 100 bk, 200 bk  
Heath Maginn 200 fr, 100 fly, 200 IM  
Madeleine McCully 50 brst  
Phillip O'Larte 100 fly  
Hailey Sieben 200 IM  
Aubrey Torkelson 100 fr, 100 bk, 50 fr.

Carolina Dugan had the most new D1 qualifying times, with 6 new times! They were the 100 br, 200 fr, 200IM, 200 brst, 200 bk, & 200 fly.

### Individual Winners:

Jared Johnstone 100 breast  
Tyler Laflin 100 back  
Madeleine McCully 50 breast  
Colten Becker 100 free, 200 free  
Jamie Cohen 50 breast  
Jonathan Hearl 100 free  
Alec Jackson 100 fly  
Aubrey Torkelson 100 back.

Katie Kruse 100 & 200 Back  
Heath Maginn 200 IM  
Shyam Narayanan 50 back  
Ben Bravence 800 free  
Peyton Gajan 200 free, 200 breast, 400 free  
Adam Houghton 100 free, 200 IM  
Amy Seveik 100 fly, 50 free

**For some this marked the end of a great summer, but for many more it elevated the swimmers to the next level in the never ending quest for excellence. The Blazers will now prepare to compete in an even more competitive series of meets where each meet marks a much higher level of competitiveness all the way up to the national level.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR A GREAT LONG COURSE SEASON!!**

## 2008 Summer Sectional Long Course Championships



The Blazers recently attended the 2008 Sectional Championships hosted by Chesapeake & the Oklahoma City Community College. This was Coach Malone's 67<sup>th</sup> Sectional Championships! WOW! The Blazers were once again crowned team champions for the combined team title. The men's team was crowned team champion. The women's team was 3<sup>rd</sup> behind a very strong performance by both the Lawrence Aquahawks and Parkway Swim Club. Lawrence, with the support of the KU women's team, was a force to reckon with.

There were many meet highlights. We had a five new swimmers qualify for Junior Nationals:

Griffen Peavey  
Luke Musser  
Matthew Margritier  
Vito Cammisano  
Austin Acheson.

We will be sending a team of 9 swimmers to Junior Nationals and 4 swimmers to US Open in Minneapolis.

Bobby Bollier, after an awesome Olympic Trials, came to help his team reach their potential at Sectionals. He won all six events and set Sectional and pool records in 5 out of 6 events. Bobby also broke one of the oldest team records on the KC Blazers in the Men's 200 Back, a 30 year old record. Bobby was crowned Men's High Point Swimmer. Shannon Vreeland was Top 8 finalist in all 6 events and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Women's High Point.

As has been the tradition of the Blazers, the men's team and women's team each honored a male swimmer and a female swimmer who each played a major role in the success of the team's efforts at this swim meet. This summer our women's team selected Shannon Vreeland and the men's team selected Vito Cammisano.

The Blazers coaching staff of Grant Messick, Kate Zabler and Mike Lewellyn were spectacular in helping Pete Malone orchestrate a squad of 56 swimmers.

The chaperone team for this trip was headed up by Tracy Hoisington and assisted by Annette Rohde, Donna Madison, Barbara Bollier and Debbie Glenn. They provided the athletes and the coaches a wonderful environment in which all the swimmers and coaches could stay focused on this swimming competition.

Special thanks from Tracey and Pete to the parents who assisted the chaperone team by running errands, icing down coolers and providing Sam's runs: Pat Schultz, Cathy and Steve Weatherford, Sue Sweeney, Margaret Bonicelli, Jennifer Smith, Beth Cramer, and little extra kudos's to Kris Smith and Jim Woody.

**Congratulation to all the Blazers who participated for victories on so many dimensions!**

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
BLUE VALLEY WEST, BLUE MORNING PROGRAM**

**June 2008**

**KRISTINE SULLIVAN**

During the summer months, the Swimmer of the Month for the Blue Groups is awarded to one outstanding swimmer in the morning program at Roeland Park and one winner in the evening program at Blue Valley West. I am proud to announce our June Blue Morning Program Swimmer of the Month, Kristine "Sully" Sullivan!

Kristine joined the Blazers in the fall and started in Advanced Blue at the Blue Valley West Program. As coaches, we immediately recognized Kristine's raw talent and quickly moved her into our Extreme Blue Group at Blue Valley North. Over the course of the fall, winter and spring, Sully learned a lot about what it means to be an athlete, a year-round swimmer and a Blazer. I have watched her mature, grow and develop in all aspects of her swimming. There were some challenges and tough practices that she had to push her body to limits and realize that it is not always easy. She has to grit her teeth through the sweat and make her body push through the pain. As a coach, it has been very rewarding to see her be successful and watch her confidence in her ability grow and strengthen.

This summer Sully has been a tremendous example to the other swimmers and set the bar high in early June. The early morning practices can be easy to play the sleepy and grumpy card but not Sully! She is ready to go with a smile on her face, being a chief in dry lands and leading her lane! The swimmers have followed her example of combining hard work with a ton of spirit and our result has been fabulously successful! She has picked up a ton of A times and achieved her first AA's in the 50 and 100 Free.

She is set to have a great championship season! Congratulations on all your development, both in and out of the pool!

GO BLAZERS!

Coach Lindsay and the Blazer Coaching Staff

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
BLUE VALLEY WEST, BLUE EVENING PROGRAM**

**June 2008**

**ELLY SHAREMET**

I am so excited to recognize Elly Sharemet for the Swimmer of the Month for the Evening Blue Program. Elly has been with the program for a three years, swimming in the Blue Group at Blue Valley North. She has a wonderful, positive attitude and we have been so proud of her this June!

This past spring Elly had to overcome a couple challenges, including a broken arm! Even with a broken arm and not being able to be in the water, Elly still came to practice. She would work hard and sweat up a storm in dry lands. She also volunteered her coaching skills with the novice group and just enjoyed being around her teammates and being part of the Blazer team.

After her cast was off she came to her first summer practice at Blue Valley West. By the end of the first practice back in the water, Elly was leading the lane with a huge grin on her face! She has listened extremely well to all the instruction, and all of her determination as paid off. At Dad's Day Dunk in mid-June, Elly swam all best times and achieved her first long course Division II time in the 50 Fly.

Thank you Elly for being a great inspiration! Congratulations on a fabulous June!

GO BLAZERS!

The Blazer Coaching Staff

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**

**Shawnee Mission North/Roeland Park**

**July 2008**

**Kate Synder**

Kate Snyder has once again been chosen as the SMN team "Swimmer of the Month". Kate has done so much to exemplify the type of swimmer behavior we coaches are trying to promote and foster. Simply put Kate comes into practice every day with a good positive attitude, ready to work hard. She is quick to respond to critiquing and proceed to make the corrections necessary to do to improve. Kate's work ethic has been especially inspiring to me as I have watched her make major adjustments to the Elite Select group. I really thought she would struggle with the increased work load associated with the Elite Select group. I am very happy to say I was wrong; in fact with the introduction of heightened work level, Kate just seemed to become more determined and committed than ever. The more demanding the challenge, the more positive her response has been. Kate is always positive and pleasant with her team mates and help sets the example of the superior Gold team swimmer.

After this summer season Kate will move on to Elite where I have no doubt she will continue her rise to the top. It has been a great pleasure for me to coach Kate this year and the Gold Team will greatly miss her presence next year. It is my hope that the younger swimmers who swam with Kate will inherit her quest for excellence. She is my idea of a real winner. Go Kate and Best of Luck at Zones.

**Best of Luck,  
Coach Henry**

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**

**Elite Group**

**July 2008**

**Haley Smith**

**Blue Valley North High School**

**CRITERIA:**

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

Haley is completing her second year in the Elite Group. The Phase III of this swim year has been the biggest step towards her potential. Haley's coach-ability, focus, and level of determination in the training pool and racing at meets have been a major step forward. Haley has found it easier to communicate, especially with Coach Kate. This has been a major reason for our ability as coaches to help direct her talent to her potential. She is on her way to Junior Nationals in four events and close to moving to the National and World Class performers.

Congratulations on making June and July awesome!

Head Elite Coach Peter D. Malone and Coach Kate Zabler



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

**Swim Quik**

4876 W. 135<sup>th</sup> St. Leawood, KS

913.649.8456 • [www.swimquik.com](http://www.swimquik.com)

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

2007-2008 BLAZER BOOSTER FAMILIES:

FAMILIES	FAMILIES
Bartnett	Margritier
Bayer	Meister
Benson	Mills
Bollier	Mike & Mary Beth Morris
Bond	Neeley
Bonicelli	Nelson
Brimacombe	O'Hearne
Brull	Rohde
Cohen	Sandoy
Donnelly	Schwermann
Elsener	Schultz
Farrahi	Sharp
Flottman	Sherard
Foster	Simpson
Franke	Gary & Therese Smith
Fries	George & Vickie Smith
Garies	Kris & Belinda Smith
Hearl	Strickland
Hinde	Trombley
Hutchison	Vreeland
Johns	Weatherford
Kirby	Welchlin
Kruse	Wooden
Lochow	Woody
Lombardo	
Lytle	

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**

<b>Dr. Andrew Jacobs</b>	<b>Smith Investment Consulting Group</b>
<b>RPS</b>	<b>Swim Quip</b>
<b>Wellbody – Dr. Goldstein</b>	<b>Copy Club</b>
<b>Factory Direct Appliance</b>	<b>Catering by Design</b>
<b>Go Wireless</b>	<b>Bordner Installation Group</b>
<b>Jam Ridge Services</b>	<b>Oak Park Veterinary Clinic</b>
<b>Brimacombe &amp; Company</b>	<b>Trailers Plus</b>

# **The KC Blazers East Branch Wishes to Thank Our Corporate Sponsors & 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
- 2008 Golf Tournament Sponsors

Coca Cola Bottling Co of Mid America – Bill Wilson  
DeMoss Real Estate and Construction – Craig & Becky DeMoss  
ECB Identity – Garry Blevins  
Midwest Anatomic Pathology Laboratory – Russ Benson  
Speedo  
Cheese Burger In Paradise – Jay Fisher  
Kansas City Chiefs Football  
Long Horn Steak House

Cygnus Systems Development – Ben Bluml  
Dick's Sporting Goods – Darrin Wheat  
Johnson County Park and Recreation  
PGA – MidWest Section – Brad Demo  
Swim Quik – Gary Bietka  
KC Royals – Tom Jackson Tom & Joan Bigham  
Blockbuster Video

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