

**2009 BRIAN HOWARD MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER - NOMINEE**  
**2009 ELITE GROUP MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER - WINNER**

**Stephan Franke**

School:           Pembroke Hill High School – Graduate  
                      George Washington University - Freshman  
Age:               18  
Stats:             Top 8 Sectional finisher 2009  
                      Junior National Qualifier Short Course 2009

Stephan Franke and family moved to Kansas City from Chilcathe, MO to enable Stephan to pursue his swimming potential and dreams. As we looked at him joining the Blazers and the elite group, we discussed the lifestyle changes that were needed for both him and his family. I was concerned about what they could or would be willing to do. With the support of his parents, Stephan followed and took ownership of all the recommendations that were made.

After joining the Elite group in June 2007, Stephen would face some large challenges. He was now part of a large team and a very talented and successful Elite group. He also entered a high school that was a major cultural and academic change and challenge. He was on the way to what came to be a great two years. He learned from tough choices followed by ownership and willingness to take risks and learn from all he did. The strides were slow in the first twelve months in meet performances. During the next fifteen months, things were came together. From March 2007 through August 2009, Stephan made some exceptional strides in his performance, training, racing, and becoming a leader in all he does. Stephan has been a major complement to the both the Elite group and Blazer program. He has magnified himself and the program.

Congratulations Stephan for being an Elite Blazer! We have become a better group and program because of all you have accomplished and given. We are excited to follow you in the years ahead. The best is yet to come.

Peter D. Malone  
Head Coach and Program Director Kansas City Blazers

Scott Bliss  
Associate Head Elite Coach

Maggie Kroemer  
Assistant Elite Coach