



# The Blazer Newsletter

## KANSAS CITY BLAZERS SWIM TEAM

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Eternal Loyalty

Passion Education

Discipline Dedication

Commitment Leadership

Excellence

November 2008 Edition

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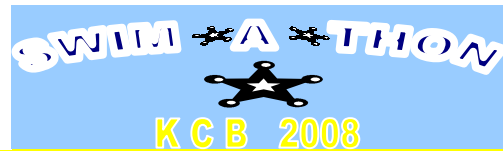
### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Kansas City Blazer Parent Board and Coaches would like to wish each and every one of you a very warm and heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving and wishes for a wonderful holiday season. We have so much to be thankful for – family, friends, health, life, liberty, and the freedom to compete in a sport we love. During this time of reflection of the things we are thankful for, we would like to let all of you know that we are thankful for each and every one of you and your contributions to the success of this organization!

All the Best,  
KCB Board & Coaches

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### Thank You KCB! – Swim-A-Thon Update

A ROOTIN' TOOTIN' great time was had by all at our annual Swim-a-Thon November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thanks to all who made the event a tremendous success. Everyone enjoyed the DJ, snacks, Cowboy (and Cowgirl) Coaches, winning raffles, and swimming laps. The positive energy generated at the event carried over to a fine time at Wil Jenny's later that evening. Our special thanks go out to the coaches, volunteers and staff at Wil Jenny's for making this years' event memorable.

Please remember that the deadline for turning in contributions and ordering prizes is Nov. 21. Please help us out by doing your best to beat that deadline. Elite, Senior, Gold and returning Blue swimmers will have the obligation amounts posted on their December bills. Turn in contributions prior to the deadline to avoid billing.

A Speedo Sponsored Team



## 2009 Blazer College Signings!

The Kansas City Blazers would like to congratulate the following high school seniors on their recent commitments to their future universities:

- Haley Smith- University of Arkansas
- Vito Cammisano- University of Minnesota
- Melissa Funke- St. Cloud State University
- Brooke brull- Kansas University
- Austin Acheson- Seton Hall University
- Cris Smith- Seton Hall University

As more KCB high school seniors make their college choices, we will keep you all informed. Congrats seniors!

## CONGRATS 2007-2008 USA SWIM SCHOLASTIC ALL AMERICANS!

Congratulations to the 7 Elite swimmers who qualified for the 2007-2008 USA Swim Scholastic All American Award. This award recognizes swimmers who achieve success both in the pool and in the classroom with the following qualifications:

1. Athlete completed 10th,11th,12th grade
2. Athlete obtained a time in at least 1 event that met the Junior National Bonus time standard
3. Athlete achieved at 3.5 GPA or better

Those who qualified were:

- Bobby Bollier
- Eric Bonicelli
- Nathan Hoisington
- Brooke Brull
- Emily Schultz
- Haley Smith
- Caroline Woody

Congrats!  
Coaches Kate, Scott, Pete



## Request for Stories on Your KCB High School Swimmers

Many of our high school age Blazers swim for their respective high schools during their high school swimming season. Not only do they swim very well for their respective high schools, but they also illustrate to the high school swimming community the excellent training that our KCB coaches provide through their individual performances and achievements in and out of the pool. In the December KCB newsletter I would like to highlight the performances and achievements of our high school KCB swimmers. So, e-mail me your stories and “snippets” on your swimmer/s performances and/or achievements in or out of the pool to [dsavage2@kc.rr.com](mailto:dsavage2@kc.rr.com) by December 12<sup>th</sup> to be included in this special edition highlighting our high school age swimmers. Depending upon the response I receive this time, they may become a regular feature that will be published several times a year as boys and girls high school swim seasons come to end throughout the school year.

I look forward to hearing from you all real soon! 😊

## PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

KCB has two great volunteer opportunities currently available where you and/or your family can easily fulfill their volunteer obligations. This is a great way to meet other KCB parents and make a real impact within this organization. Please contact Stacy Wooden at [saswooden@kc.rr.com](mailto:saswooden@kc.rr.com) if you are interested. A detailed description of each job is laid out below.

### Concessions Coordinator Job Description

The Concessions Coordinator is responsible for planning all snack items to be sold in the concession stand including healthy snack foods and beverages. This position is in charge of coordinating concessions for the following meets: Future Stars(October), Blazer Bucks-blue/gold meet(October), Ann Ketterer Intrasquad (November), MAL's (February), long course D1's(August) and Wheels or Worms- blue/gold meet (November).

This person(s) will **delegate** the purchasing/gathering of items to volunteers. Coordinator(s) will also need to supervise the set-up, operation and clean up of concession stand at these meets throughout the entirety of the meet. Most or all concessions volunteers will have already signed up on the website job sign up, so volunteer recruiting will rarely, if ever, be necessary.

Ideally, this position will be held by more than one person or a committee consisting of someone from the 12 & under age group, 13 & up age group who will have swimmers who will be attending the bigger, more competitive meets and possibly even someone who has a swimmer who would be participating in the blue/gold meets. This way, all the responsibility and time served is not put on any one person/family.

It is important that we find persons to fill this permanent position so that we can continue to have a concession stand at our west side sponsored meets.

### Hospitality Coordinator Job Description

The Hospitality Coordinator is responsible for planning meals, snacks and drinks for coaches and officials during the following meets: Future Stars(October), Blazer Bucks-blue/gold meet(October), Ann Ketterer Intra squad(November), Wheels or Worms- blue/gold meet (November) , MAL's(February) and long course D1's (August). For longer meets both breakfast and lunch will need to be planned. For shorter Blue/Gold meets usually just snacks and drinks are sufficient.

The Hospitality Coordinator will **delegate** all shopping, cooking and serving. Most or all volunteers who help out with this job will have already signed up on the website job sign up, so recruiting will rarely, if ever, be necessary. Majority of work will be done prior to meet but coordinators will also need to attend assigned meet(s) in their entirety to setup, supervise and clean up hospitality area.

This person(s) need to decide what items are needed, how much, when they need to arrive and email/call predetermined volunteers to let them to know how they can contribute and report volunteer earned hours for contributions to volunteer coordinator. They are also in charge of contacting hospitality volunteers who work at the meets to remind them of their scheduled volunteer time and duties, which is to basically serve water to coaches, officials and timers and to help keep an eye on hospitality area.

Ideally, this position will be held by more than one person or a committee consisting of someone from the 12 & under age group, 13 & up age group who will have swimmers attending the bigger, more competitive meets and possibly even someone who has a swimmer who would be participating in the blue/gold meets. This way, all the responsibility and time served is not put on any one person/family.

## Parent Volunteers of the Month

The KCB Board would like to thank these wonderful ladies for all of their hard work to help each pool site feel a special connection to the recent Swim-a-Thon. These tireless volunteers turned “fundraising” into “FUN-raising!” They set goals, organized drawings and contests, stuffed mailboxes, answered questions, stapled packets, sent and answered countless e-mails, became accountants. All the while, having fun and making kids feel like they were a part of our team.

### Thank you Swim-a-Thon Pool Site Chairs!

- Karen Barnett
- Gill Houghton
- Nancy Laflin
- Jane Snyder
- Stacey Wooden

## BLAZER BUCKS MEET A SUCCESS!

The Blazer Bucks meets officially marks all the new and beginning level swimmers introduction into USS competitive swim meet. The meet began with the usual chaos and the barrage of swim meet related questions and the situation was magnified by the larger than usual numbers of swimmers (277) attending the meet. Fortunately, our able bodied veteran parents came to the rescue, and after about the first half hour, things had settled into a very organized type of chaos. The swimmers were of course rewarded with Blazer bucks which they could use to buy valuable items like squirt gun rings, plastic bugs, and of course I'm sure those at the meet saw all the swimmers who purchase Dracula teeth.

In general, a very good time was had by all, and the coaches and swimmers alike got to see how much improvement has been made and of course the areas that still need some technical attention. The whole team has taken some major strides toward a successful season and now has some good direction on how greater improvements can be made.

A special thanks goes out to the entire parents group who helped make the meet a big success. Special kudos goes to the parents who assisted the running of the meet without even having any kids in the meets.

Our first place winners of the events were as followed:

- 8 and under girls - Anna Samuelson, 25 yd. Free, 25 yd. Breast; 25 Back Natalie Xu; Gabi Ross 25 Fly
- 8 and under boys - Jack Ramza 25 free; John Paul Hynes 25 back, 25 Breast, 25 Fly
- Next Age Group, girls - 50 Free, Lauren Zastrow; 100 free Becca Colbern; 50 back Lauren Zastrow; 100 back Meredith Sight.; 50 breast Journey Eubank; 100 breast Sarah Freshnock; 50 fly Gabriella Lorino; 100 fly Meredith Sight;
- Next Age Group, boys - 50 free Ian Lee; 100 free Brody Arvesen, 50 back Damien Putnam, 100 back Issac Powell; 50 breast Ian Lee; 100 breast Colin Martin; 50 fly Colin Martin; 100 fly Josh PERFECT. What a perfect way to end the meet. 😊

GO BLAZERS !!!

-Your Blazer Coaching Staff

## SWIM-QUIK FUTURE STARS INVITATIONAL MEET

The Swim Quik Future Stars Invitational is a one-day meet with the emphasis on getting some racing in with good skills. This year, the emphasis was on the word “future” and not the word “invitational”. While there were some other teams represented, the vast majority of the swimmers were Kansas City Blazers. Speaking of the future, it was the first time we processed a meet entry as a team using our website of the future. While we had minor glitches that we were able to work out and start the meet on time, there were no major issues converting to the new software. Double-checking by coaches and parents leading up to the meet helped ensure that the meet entries were as good as with the old system on the day of the meet.

Once the meet started, technology took a back seat to what was happening in the water. And while the meet was an “invitational”, we saw very little of the other teams at the top of the result board. Whether they had been Blazers for years, or still unattached, the Blazer swimmers picked up the first place finish in 55 of the 60 events offered at the meet. That was a positive.

There also was a sign we need to continue to work harder to create future “stars” from the swimmers in this meet. As a team, our total disqualifications rose from 18, a year ago, to 35 this year. This is nearly a 100% rise, with pretty much the same number of entries. While the younger, less experienced swimmers accounted for the majority of the DQs, they also had more events offered – 36 vs. 24 – including the 100 I.M. Eight of the 35 disqualifications were in the 13&Over age groups. We will improve this number over the course of the season, both in raw numbers and in ratio to number of events.

We also saw something very positive outside the water. Close to 90% of our swimmers remembered that we are starting Navy Saturdays this year (as posted in last month’s newsletter). During stretches we had a sea of navy blue T-Shirts on deck getting ready to swim fast. This was noticed by the other teams at the meet and was a striking difference from the way we ended the season last year.

All in all, the Swim Quik Future Stars meet was a success. It showed us that we are a large team working together. It also gave us the data we needed to start our season and what we need to work on to create future “stars” at the end of the season.

GO BLAZERS !!!

-Your Blazer Coaching Staff

## MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

ELITE GROUP, October 2008

Blue Valley North High School

CAROLINE WOODY

### CRITERIA:

A: Attendance

B: Attitude

C: Growth as a Swimmer

D: Growth as a person

E: Inspiration to staff & team

Since joining the Elite group two years ago, Caroline has been a leader both in and out of the pool. Caroline’s dedication this fall while dealing with adversity has been awesome to watch. She has been able to manage her physical therapy for scoliosis along with her regular workout load and school work. Not one area listed has lacked, instead she is training and racing better this fall than ever before. The commitment to excellence exhibited by Caroline, is truly “elite” and is why the coaching staff chose her to be the October Swimmer of the Month. Caroline, you are only starting to reap the benefits of your hard work this fall, keep up the good work. Congratulations Caroline, from the Elite Staff!

Head Coach Peter D. Malone

Assoc. Coach Scott Bliss

Asst. Coach Kate Zabler

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
BLUE VALLEY WEST – ADVANCED BLUE GROUP**

**October 2008**

**BECCA COLBURN**

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During the month of October, the Advanced Blue Group was hard to predict. One night, we'd have 8 swimmers, the next night we'd have close to 20. In an inconsistent atmosphere, one person who has shown leadership with consistent performance is Becca Colburn.

Although she was slowed at the beginning of the month by soreness from a car accident, she came back quickly and then moved forward. As we progressed through the month, she became stronger and stronger in the water and increased abilities out of the water as well.

In meets, she was not intimidated by her first events as a teenager. She maintained technique that we had worked on in practice while racing hard. She's gained good momentum heading into November and the rest of the season. Look for good things from Becca in the future!

Coach Derek & Jenny

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
BLUE VALLEY WEST – SENIOR GROUP**

**October 2008**

**SMATHANTHA BRENNAN**

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During the month of September, the new Senior Group spent much of the time getting to know the new coach, getting to know the new group and getting to know each other. In October, with many of the formalities out of the way, we worked our way from teaching to training. Some of the swimmers took a while to make the adjustment, or stood out during the teaching *or* training, but not both. One swimmer who has fit right in and worked on both skills and training is Sam Brennan.

As we made it to Butterfly week in early October, it was obvious that Sam needed some work on her butterfly. Instead of just surviving the week, she gave real effort toward changing her stroke. She also competed in her first 100 butterfly and maintained some of the improvements she'd been working on.

As we made the transition to training, Samantha continued to show equal effort. Turning in a performance of 103 lengths on her T-30 and attending each of the Sunday workouts that we added during the month, she showed that she was anxious to raise her work level in preparation for the meets coming up in November and December.

Sam has done more than just "fit in" since joining the Blazers this fall, she has shown a positive attitude and leadership. Keep it up, Sam.

Coach Derek

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**BLUE VALLEY NORTH – GOLD GROUP**  
**October 2008**  
**ALLIE WOODEN**



Allie the quiet one: She is always working hard in and out of the water, but you never hear from her. Since I never hear Allie it is always refreshing to look over and discover her working on dry land and leading a lot of the swim sets in her lane.

Allie has had perfect attendance the last two months and working diligently on developing her kick power and speed. These past two months have been a great jump start for Allie to accomplish some improved goals this short course season.

Thank you Allie for inspiring me with your great work ethic, your quest for knowledge of the sport of swimming, and for learning pace clock management. I wish Allie well in the months ahead and looking for some attained progress in the future.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Coach Bob

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH**  
**BLUE VALLEY NORTH – ADVANCED BLUE GROUP**  
**October 2008**  
**ISAAC POWELL**



Isaac has been a **GREAT** new addition to the Blazers Swim Team this fall. His 90% attendance has helped Isaac move into the top group of Advance Blue and he also had the second fastest test set numbers this past month for the Advance Blue Group.

Blazer Bucks Meet: Isaac had a super first Blue/Gold meet on October 25th at Roeland Park Pool, making Level II times in his first two legal swims. I was pleasantly surprised with his times at the meet, but looking back at how Isaac swims in all of his workouts, it all makes good sense.

Isaac is always on time for practice and many days he is early, willing to help me get the pool ready for his other team mates. He truly has been an inspiration for me and I know he will keep up the fantastic work that he has shown the past two months.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Coach Bob

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
ROELAND PARK – SENIOR GROUP**

**October 2008**

**JOHNATHAN GRANDSTAFF**

As we headed into the second month of the new Senior Group at Roeland Park, some of the high school boys were starting to think about it as their “last few weeks” before high school. Jonathan Granstaff was one who stood out as trying to build on a solid month of September in preparation for November and beyond.

While the stated focus of our first meet was to maintain the skills we’d developed over the first several weeks of the season, Jonathan showed that he was also ready to race. He turned in three best times at the Swim Quik Future Stars meet and dropped a total of about nine seconds.

At the practice pool, Jonathan had regular attendance and moved to the front of lane three. When working on dryland, he is attentive to the exercises and makes adjustments. When in the water, he has a lighthearted attitude, but gets down to work and knows what needs to be done to lead a lane. With performances like this, Jonathan has set himself up to swim well on day one of high school and year-round. Keep it up, Jonathan.

Coach Eric & Christie

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH/ROELAND PARK – BLUE GROUP**

**October 2008**

**DAMIEN PUTNUM**

Damien Putnam has just begun his swimming career with the Blazers in September. In a very short period of time, Damien has morphed from a beginning level swimmer to an advanced one. Damien not only has great natural speed and quickness, but he has also shown great diligence in making the changes necessary to improve his strokes. Damien is committed to working hard and continually making adjustments to his strokes. Damien did not start competitive swimming till the age of 13 but he is quickly catching up with his peers and I expect he will just as quickly advance up through the groups.

Damien’s best quality perhaps is his coachability and his desire to improve. He listens to the coach’s instruction, and then he does what is needed to get the job done. When you combine all of these qualities together, you get a swimmer with a great future. Damien has acquired all the tools necessary to be very successful in the sport of swimming, now let’s enjoy watching his journey to the top.

Sincerely,  
Coach Henry

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE MONTH  
SHAWNEE MISSION NORTH/ROELAND PARK – GOLD GROUP**

**October 2008  
PEYTON GAJAN**



Finally, at long last, one of my most talented and fun swimmers have been selected as SMN's "Swimmer of the Month". Peyton Gajan has always had the natural talent, competitive spirit to be a true champion, but this year she has "finally" put together hard work, commitment, and great attendance to go along with those other qualities.

Since September, I have been watching Peyton gradually develop the quality of her training habits to a point where she is now one of the Gold group's leaders. If Peyton continues down this path of accepting the challenges of the practices and pushing hard to reach the next level she will be on her way to the sectional meet in the spring.

Peyton is loaded with lots of talents, but as with most champions, hard work, good attendance, great perseverance and desire are the only way to get to the top. Peyton certainly has the ability, now all she has to do is make the right choices and my money is on Peyton.

I have always enjoyed working with Peyton over the past four years, but as she continues to make greater efforts, I am now more motivated than ever to help her get to the top.

Best wishes,  
Coach Henry

**BLAZERS...The Next Generation Update – November 2008**



As mentioned in the October 2008 newsletter (page 3), we have a list of many team goals that impact our team over the next quadrennium (2009-2012). Not all goals pertain to each swimmer in our program at any given time, however, each swimmer in our program can help us achieve at least one of our team goals. Each month, we will provide an update on some of the team goals. Swimmers may find that they can help out immediately, or they may find out that they will be in a position by 2011 to help out with a team goal that they are not ready for at this time.

For example, we have set a goal that each swimmer in the Advanced Blur group and up, achieve an IMX score. (For more information on what an IMX score is, and your swimmer's IMX ranking, you can go to the USA Swimming website and typing IMX into the search box at the top right of the screen.) All of the IMX events were offered at the Ann Ketterer Intrasquad meet, so many of our swimmers have already completed an IMX score for this year. IMX rankings are automatically calculated for each swimmer as each meet is loaded into the SWIMS database at USA Swimming headquarters. Only swimmers aged 9-18 are tabulated. So, if a swimmer is below the age of 9, or not in Advanced Blue yet, they cannot help with this goal yet, and however, they can be working toward this goal and make sure they are ready at some point during this quad. We will tabulate a report at the end of each phase to show progress and be encouraging swimmers to fill out their IMX slate of events during the season.

Another goal that we have is to rank in the top 10 each year in the Virtual Club Championships. This is another feature that comes out of the SWIMS database at USA Swimming. It ranks teams from all across the country based on performances of swimmers aged 11-18. Again, not all swimmers in the program will be eligible for scoring, but they will be by the end of the quad. Last year, we ranked 9th in the country – just 149 points away from 8th. That's a close race when you consider we scored over 223,000 points! We will give an update in the newsletter after each phase to show where we stand, but you can find the rankings at USA Swimming's website.

The last item for this issue of the newsletter has to do with our community goals. We want our swimmers to be excellent both in and out of the pool. We have set a goal to have at least five USA Swimming Scholastic All-Americans each year of the quad. Last year, we had seven. To achieve this, swimmers must be in 10-12 grade, achieve certain time standards and have a high GPA. Our swimmers that are awarded Scholastic All-American do not figure out how to swim fast and then start figuring out how to be good in the classroom. They come up through the program with good study habits and progressively become better swimmers. We have a program to reward swimmers of all ages for excellence in the classroom. At the end of first and second semester, we will issue forms for students to record their grades. Students who achieve the Blazer honor roll in both semesters receive Blockbuster gift cards. Last year, we had 87% of our swimmers on the honor roll and have set a goal to be at, or above this mark each year – something everyone in the program can impact! Please look for the grade report form in your pool mailbox in the coming weeks.

Your Blazer Coaching Staff

## Reporting From ... The Golden Goggle Awards

### *The stars come out for USA Swimming's annual awards banquet.*

By Anna K. Clemmons and Laura Lane – Origin - ESPN.COM

Wonder where your favorite swimmers have been hiding since Beijing? Or does anyone recognize **Jason Lezak** outside of the pool? We did, too, so we headed to USA Swimming's fifth annual Golden Goggle Awards dinner at the New York Hilton last night. NBC sportscaster **Bob Costas** served as the MC as the 200-plus attendees honored the individual and team performances of USA Swimming's stellar season.

Magician **David Blaine**, a presenter, stopped at various tables to perform magic tricks throughout the evening. **Michael Phelps** was blown away by Blaine's quarter-bending trick and showed Coach **Bob Bowman** the evidence. "I've never seen anything like that," Phelps gushed, holding up the slightly bent pocket change. **Donald Trump**, also a presenter, handed out the award for the best male athlete. No surprise here, the award went to Phelps, his third of the night. With his mom Debbie and sister Hilary in tow, Michael thanked his supporting cast and said he was "looking forward to the next four years."

Women's swimmer **Rebecca Soni** was also a multiple award winner, including Breakout Performer of the Year. Two tables over from Phelps sat fellow gold medalist **Ryan Lochte**, dressed in a striped tux with red button-up shirt. Since Beijing, Lochte said he's traveled all over the U.S. and that New York City's Fashion Week was his favorite stop. Asked about his fave designer, Lochte said he's a **Calvin Klein** guy. He also predicted the Florida Gators (his alma mater) as a lock for the SEC Championship (in a win over Alabama) as well as the BCS Championship (triumphing over Texas Tech).

Speaking of football, former New York Giant **Tiki Barber** presented the award for Relay Performance of the Year. When asked for his Super Bowl pick, Barber said that after so many years in the league, he learned that it's "too early to tell," and that you can never predict how things will shake out, citing the 1999 season as proof. "The Denver Broncos were undefeated; we never should've beaten that team," Barber says.

Triple Beijing medalist **Katie Hoff**, who lost her voice because of a bad cold, said she's already back in the water and back at school. But Jason Lezak, whose famous out-freestyling of the French saved Phelps' quest for eight in the 4x400 relay, said he hasn't had much time in the water because of all of his public appearances. He also said that while he owns a DVD copy of his relay leg, "it's not like I watch it every day. It's shown so often at the appearances I go to that I don't need to."

Gold medalist **Cullen Jones** has stayed busy working in conjunction with USA Swimming's Make a Splash Foundation, which promotes teaching children, particularly African-American children, how to swim. His first stop this fall was Philadelphia, and he says that possibly Raleigh, NC (Jones went to NC State) or the New York area (where he grew up) may be next.

**Aaron Piersol** said the highlight of the last few months was attending his first NASCAR race in North Carolina. As the honorary host, Piersol announced, "Gentlemen, start your engines!" at the beginning of the race. Also ranking high on his list was getting to play tennis at the US Open and meeting some of the tournament's stars.



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Wish to Thank  
The KC Blazer Boosters!  
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Flottman Family	Kate and Jack Snyder's Grandfather
Foster Family	Strickland Family
Steve, Rebecca and Stephan Franke	Trombley Family
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	Woody Family
Kirby Family	You too Could Be Here ☺

**SPECIAL THANKS!**

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!

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