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“Turning Potential into Performance”

Fan-TAGS-tic!

AQUA FINISHES 10TH IN STATE AT TAGS SHORT COURSE CHAMPIONSHIP; COLE CRAGIN SETS STATE RECORD IN 100 BACK; CAROLINE McELHANY NAMED TAGS SWIMMER OF MEET

AQUA swam its usual 76% best times at the Texas Age Group Swimming Short Course Championship conducted at Loos Pool in Dallas last weekend. The efforts of AQUA swimmers earned the team the 10th place flag [of 45 teams participating] and the recognition from teams across the state regarding how well AQUA swimmers competed.

AQUA swimmers set 22 team records, achieved 12 national Top 16 times, set one state record, and an AQUA swimmer received statewide recognition as the TAGS Swimmer of the Meet.

Caroline McElhany had all 7 swims in Top 16 times, and she was high point earner for the TAGS meet. In addition, Caroline set eight individual AQUA records (including a relay lead-off swim), won the TAGS 10 & Under female age group award, and helped her teammates set team records in the 200 free relay (with **Caroline Baliker, Ellen Lobb, and Adriana Sepulveda**) and in the 200 medley relay (with **Ellen, Adriana, and Julia Sepulveda**). She also is the AQUA Swimmer of the Meet.

Cole Cragin set 6 individual AQUA records, swam four Top 16 times, helped set team medley and free relay records (with **Cameron Dyer, Will Elmore, and Will Kolodgie**), and set a new TAGS and state record with a 1:05.40 in the 10 & Under 100 backstroke.

The Boys 200 medley relay earned third place medals by dropping eight seconds in finals from their seed time. **Ellen Lobb** set a team record in the 50 back in prelims with a Top 16 time. She earned 5th place honors in the finals of the 50 back and 7th place in the 100 back. Other swimmers setting team records included **Mark Grijalva** in the 200 back, **Aaron Olszeski** in the 200 breast, and **Justin Russo** in the 200 free and the 100 free. **Adam Olszeski** came within a fraction of a second of breaking his own team record in the 200 back.

It should be noted that no team in the greater Clear Lake area has earned a TAGS flag in well over ten years. This 10th-place finish by AQUA is a major accomplishment in the swimming community and the

[continued on Page 2]

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“If you have a LANE, you have a CHANCE !”

swimmers deserve substantial recognition for their efforts and their results. Parents willing to make the sacrifice of time and money to drive to Dallas and support the team also deserve substantial recognition.

Some swimmers only participated in relays, while others swam individual events, but did not make finals. In every case, parents and swimmers supported each other in this great team effort.

Way to go AQUA! 🐬



We are proud of our swimmers and our unparalleled record of improvement at meets. No other teams have as sharp a focus as AQUA on technical improvement and translating that into faster times in competition. As a team, AQUA swimmers drop time in 3 of every 4 swims. The clock does not lie.

Strong season-ending showing

AQUA finished the Short Course season in grand style with a strong performance at the Last Chance TAGS meet, prior to the blockbuster showing at TAGS.

AQUA swam well under less-than-ideal meet and pool conditions at the Last Chance TAGS, establishing lifetime best times in 63% of the swims.

Swimmers of the Meet with 100% best times were **Kacie Baker** and **Justin Russo**. AQUA swimmers

Mark Grijalva, Will Kolodgie, Aaron Olszeski and **Justin Russo** achieved 8 new TAGS times.

AQUA also set 9 new team records at the meet, including the 13-14 girls free and medley relays (**Kim Anton, Sierra Dyer, Lynn Fahey, and Jennifer Joines**), and individual records by **Kim Anton, Lynn Fahey, Mark Grijalva, Aaron Olszeski** and **Justin Russo**. This meet set up AQUA for the spirited performance then exhibited at TAGS. 🐬

Upcoming meets

The Long Course meet season begins in late April, so check the calendar and bulletins at the pools for meet formats and entry deadlines. Meet information, entry forms and invitations are available at both pools typically 3 weeks prior to each meet. Contact any of the coaches or Kelli Baliker at (281) 488-3943 or kbaliker@ev1.net with questions about meets and entry procedures.

One final meet note: AQUA has developed a good reputation at Gulf meets for visible displays of team unity and sportsmanship, and we always provide plenty of timers to help meets run uninterrupted. One thing we should always do to maintain this goodwill with host teams is remember to clean up our team area after each day of a meet.



Short courses



Please contact Susan Joines at Creek or Marcy Barr at La Porte, or either at the April social, with questions on team apparel items. AQUA has t-shirts, rear window decals, and AQUA logo caps available. We want to encourage team spirit and involvement with all team logo items.

SOCIAL ON APRIL 6; PARENT MEETING APRIL 9 TO ELECT OFFICERS

AQUA's next team social is coming up in April. Everyone should receive an invitation this week in this mailing with information and a map. Barb Kolodgie is planning the event. We also have a special parent meeting and Board meeting scheduled for April 9th at 8:30 pm at Gloria Dei in Nassau Bay to elect a new slate of Board members. Please plan to exercise your constitutional right to vote (as guaranteed in the AQUA by-laws) and attend and vote at that meeting.

SLWUS PROGRAM STARTED WITH A SPLASH

The Summer League Warm-Up Swimmer Program (SLWUS) is now running from 5-6pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at Creek through the month of April. Our goal is to give these swimmers a jump start in their preparation for the upcoming CCSL season, and to offer the added benefit of year-round practice and meet competition. The Board and coaches are very encouraged by the interest shown in this program. Keep the SLWUS Program in mind when talking to your friends and neighbors.

Note to Creek Parents: We need some extra hands to help with lane ropes and backstroke flags each day. If you can, try to arrive a few minutes early and lend a hand getting the pool ready for practice. Thank You!

Know Gulf recruiting rules

The greening of lawns and blooming of flowers marks the beginning of spring. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when those inclined to do illegal recruiting are most active.

Gulf Swimming rules prohibit anyone (coaches, parents and swimmers) from recruiting swimmers currently registered with other teams. If you are asked for information about AQUA (whether by a USA Swimming-registered swimmer or not), there is no problem. It is illegal, however, for any parent, or USA Swimming-registered coach or athlete to initiate a conversation with another USA Swimming-registered athlete or parent with the intent of encouraging a transfer to another team.

Given our consistent improvement at meets and our Top 10 finish at TAGS, it is not surprising that other teams may try to improve themselves by recruiting AQUA swimmers. If you have been approached in a manner you think may be a violation of these Gulf Swimming rules, please contact a coach or a Board member. 🐟



USE THOSE RANDALLS AND KROGER PROGRAM CARDS!!

We are realizing benefits from the Randall's *Good Neighbor* and the Kroger *Share Card* programs, but we should be able to at least double the current \$50 a month in cash rebates. If you use the cards, keep it up! If you don't, the cards cost nothing and in the case of Kroger are used in addition to any other discount card you may also have for the store. Our Randall's *Good Neighbor* number is **9266**. Ask any cashier to code that number into your card. Marcy Barr has extra Kroger *Share Cards*, so we can easily replace lost cards or provide extras for friends and relatives to use. Any "friend of AQUA" – whether a team member or not – can help by using these programs. See Marcy on pool deck or call her at (281) 471-6666. 🐟



Continue to check the practice calendars and AQUA *Splash* news for updates and team info. Visit the AQUA website (www.swimaqua.org) for schedules, team news and other features. Keep submitting pictures for the website, and look in the local *Citizen*, the *Houston Chronicle This Week* and Friendswood papers for articles on AQUA swimmers. 🐟

Cameron Dyer	4/ 2/93
Ryan Swaney	4/ 2/93
Cole Cragin	4/ 7/91
Ellen Preston	4/7/92
Kaitlin Kirasich	4/ 9/92
Jonathon Berezin	4/11/90
Dusty Wortman	4/26/84
Cole Porter	4/29/87



The optimist says we live in the best of all possible worlds; the pessimist fears this is true.

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