

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New England All Stars WINNERS in a Break-Out Performance –  
Home with the hardware (Two Trophies)**

95 swimmers, 8 coaches, and more than 28 chaperones and volunteers from the Greater Boston area attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Heritage Championship Swim Meet, held over Memorial Day weekend. Held at the Triangle Aquatic Center (TAC) in Cary, North Carolina the meet is to encourage more minorities to swim competitively for future opportunities. The North Carolina Aquablazers in partnership with TAC and USA Swimming's "Make a Splash" Program hosted the meet. This is the premier minority swim meet in the United States where World Record holder and 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones joined 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist Maritza Correia attended and spent time speaking with young swimmers, encouraging them to take their swimming to the next level by way of clinics, autographs, exhibition swims and numerous photo opportunities.

The New England All Star Team returned home with, not one but **TWO** trophies. The New England All Stars competed against 40 teams with 750 swimmers from across the country. Swimmers rose to the occasion, showing their skills in Freestyle, Back Stroke, Butterfly and Breast Stroke. Two New England All Star swimmers were chosen via drawing to participate in an exhibition swim with Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones.

On the final day of the meet at relay time the team's parents and supporters let out a thunderous roar as the Sr. Men's relay went off running a tight almost stroke for stroke race, followed by the coach's relay that was as exciting with the New England All Star Team coaches taking first place. The afternoon session of the meet came to a finishing splash with the 8 and under women and men's relay teams taking first place. Many of the team's parents arrived at the evening banquet with no voice and not surprisingly the New England All Star Team took home the Team Spirit Trophy.

Many organizations such as New England Swimming, the USA Local Swimming Board, Boston Center for Youth and Families Community Centers, Boston Elite Swim Team and The Dorchester House have worked tirelessly to transform the lives of these youth, providing resources that promote fitness and nutrition. Swimmers and coaches worked diligently in the months prior to attending this meet, attending early morning and evening practices while in school and learning that a strong work ethic, commitment and dedication are what it takes to become winners. Prior to the team leaving for this event a Kick-off ceremony was held, on Tuesday, May 25, 2010, honoring children from a variety of backgrounds for coming together to attend the National Black Heritage Championship Swim Meet. Representatives came with encouraging words and inspiration for the Swimmers.

The team's participants reflect commitment to the sport of swimming, learning to swim, drowning prevention, swim team access, health benefits of swimming, and our passion for healthy engaged community involvement. Members of the team are delighted to come together once again on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00p.m. at the Flaherty pool in Roslindale, where the team will receive ribbons, relay trophies and special acknowledgements.