Montana Swimming General Chair Fall Report 2017

It was a very busy year for Montana Swimming. We were able to sponsor several camps and clinics for our athletes, coaches, and parents. All were great successes and we look forward to continuing moving forward with events like these.

We held 32 sanctioned meets Sept 2016 – Aug 2017. There were no extraordinary issues and all meets ran well.

We had about 70 athletes from around the state make their Zone’s cuts, a dozen or so made Futures cuts , several new Jr. Nat and National times, and five athletes qualified for USAS’s Scholastic All American Award.

It is a new quad for us so we had to renew our LEAP 1 status and now will resume work on our second LEAP 2 qualifications.

Our coaches Shelly and Jade moved on to bigger and better things in Idaho, so I had to fill their positions of Safe Sport (Janel McCormick) and Technical Planning Chair (Sean Marshall). Coach Shelly also held our event coordinator position and this may be a good time to begin a shared service with Inland Empire with that position.

MTS was well represented at the USA Aquatic Sports Convention held in Dallas Sept 12-17. MT sent Dr. Tony, Tami, Kirby, Kyle, Larry, Olivia, Claire, and A.J. Larry was sponsored by USAS as he holds a position on the national rules and regs committee. Claire was named to the Zone BOR as rep from MT and A.J. was named to an athlete task force to determine suggestions concerning skits/cheers/fun events during the zone championships in order to improve the flow and competition of the meet. This proves the importance and power of the athletes in USAS as a ruling by coaches and officials at Zones was over turned by the athletes and this task force formed.

A few things which are changing in USAS are the organization of the officers, limitation on age for use of tech suits, gender language, and better investment opportunities for LSCs. These are items MTS can get ahead of and not wait “to see what happens”.

I sit on the Sports Medicine and Science Committee and we are working on an Age Group sports med program in order to prevent injury and thus retain more swimmers. A survey was recently sent to all USAS coaches in order to assess the common knowledge of coaches on injury, prevention, and rehab.

Submitted by Dr. Tony Popp, Montana Swimming General Chair, A.J.’s dad, USAS Sports Medicine & Science Committee