

## Bright Family Biography



For forty-two years, and spanning three generations, the Bright name has been synonymous with Northern Kentucky swimming. The connection to swimming was forged in 1962 when Arthur, a Scottish immigrant, was approached about becoming a founding member in Bluegrass Swim Club. Seizing the opportunity to provide a summer haven for his 8 children, Art jumped at the chance to invest in this new community pool. The same bonds purchased for that investment remain in the family today.

From the outset, Art was a fixture at swim meets. From 1964 until his sudden and untimely death in May 1970, Art could be found on the side of the pool serving as a stroke judge, starter, and later Meet Director for every meet at Bluegrass. But with his passing, the love of the sport and the dedication to the Northern Kentucky Swim League was carried forward by his wife Mary Jean. For years, Mary Jean and her committed group of friends comprised the Bluegrass Women's Auxiliary and raised money for the swim team through bake sales, organized events for the team, and assisted with the running of the meets. Her commitment to Bluegrass continued until all of her children finished their swimming careers, at which time Mary Jean "retired" to become a spectator and watch her grandchildren compete.

The connection to the Northern Kentucky Swim League is extensive. The five boys (Johnny, Robbie, David, Dennis & Kevin) served as Head Coaches at a total of five different NKSL teams. Not being ones to sit idly by while their brothers participated in meets, the girls (Chrissie Kathy and Lynne) also contributed in their own ways. Chrissie was a fixture at the microphone announcing meets for Bluegrass for many years, with Kathy and Lynne supporting their mother in preparing for bake sales and various other fund raising activities.

But don't be fooled into thinking that all of the activities were restricted to the sidelines. Quite the contrary, the Bright family was most prolific during the heyday of the Bluegrass Dynasty, when NKSL Championships seemed more commonplace than unusual. Over the years, the numbers of NKSL records and Championship Meet first place finishes have long since faded into distant memories. . .but those successes were not limited to the NKSL exclusively. David, Dennis & Robbie were all members of the 1975 Dixie Heights State High School Championship Team. During their tenure at Dixie, three State High School records were established.

As the direct descendants of Art and Mary Jean grew up and started their own families, the third generation of Bright swimmers and divers took to the waters of Bluegrass and Beechwood. Over the years, Kyle, Courtney, Connor, Clayton, Caroline and Christopher Bright all swam and/or dove for Bluegrass, with Jessica Bright diving for Beechwood. In addition, Courtney and Kyle coached the diving and swim teams for Bluegrass after their years of competing were over. And the connection to swimming even made its way to Cleveland where Kathy's son, Paul Chambers, swam in the local summer league.

From Bluegrass to Beechwood to Cherry Hill to Ludlow to Taylor Mill, and even to Cincinnati Coke, The Piranhas and the Kenton County Clippers, the Bright family has been involved in advancing swimming in Northern Kentucky. Surely, Art is smiling down from heaven as he's watched the dividends that have been paid through his small investment in that new community pool. It's been said that you can count your fortunes by the friendships you've developed. If that's the case, the connection to the NKSL is foundation upon which the Bright family has built a fortune that would be the envy of kings.