

# *The Meadowbrook Woods Sporting Times*

*13 July 2013*

## **Leading Off**

Summer sports are in full swing and we saw a number of milestones during the past fortnight. Bryce Harper became the youngest player ever selected to start in baseballs' annual All Star Game. At The All England Club, Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic played an exciting match in the men's final with Murray winning in three sets. Twenty-eight year old Marion Bartoli of France defeated Germany's Sabine Lisicki on the ladies' side. The tournament finals were shockingly without former champions Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Serena Williams who lost earlier.

The only event more shocking during the past fortnight was our own Kevin Olsen's 50m butterfly effort (28.84s) that brought him to within 0.19-sec of the 18U club record vs. Dale City. In total, Kevin lowered his seed times by a combined 4-seconds over four events (no easy feat for an already speedy swimmer). Following his older brother's lead, Nicholas Olsen also had a breakout day for the Makos in the 12U group in his three individual events; and especially in the 50m butterfly in which he now has a PWB time (46.59s). Congratulations gentlemen!

## **Some Heroes Wear a Mask; Others Wear Flippers**

In 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act chartered the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroad Companies, and tasked them with building a transcontinental railroad that would link the United States from east to west. Over the next seven years, the two companies raced toward each other from Sacramento,

California on the one side and Omaha, Nebraska on the other. They struggled against great risks before they met at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

By the summer of 1867, the Union Pacific was in Wyoming, having covered nearly four times as much ground as the Central Pacific. The Central Pacific broke through the mountains in late June, however, and the hard part was finally behind them. Both companies then headed towards Salt Lake City, cutting many corners (including building shoddy bridges or sections of track that would have to be rebuilt later) in their race to get ahead.

By early 1869, the companies were working only miles from each other, and in March the newly inaugurated President Ulysses S. Grant announced he would withhold federal funds until the two railroad companies agreed on a meeting point. They decided on Promontory Summit, north of the Great Salt Lake; some 690 track-miles from Sacramento and 1,086 from Omaha. On May 10, after several delays, a crowd of workers and dignitaries watched as the final spike was driven linking the Central Pacific and Union Pacific. Telegraph cables immediately went out to President Grant and around the country with the news that the transcontinental railroad had been completed.

Movie director Gore Verbinski provides another look at what the events leading up to the Promontory rail connection might have looked like in his new movie starring Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer. Depp is an American treasure (*watching him stagger around buttes in the western United States while feeding nuts to a bird perched atop his head makes us laugh*). In his latest big screen

role, Depp plays a quirky American Indian helping a less than perfect lawman that dons a mask to hide his identity.

In the movie that was set in the 1860's, both characters experienced tragic losses of loved ones. After being flung together by a series of events, Tonto and The Lone Ranger get to know each other while chasing a gang of unsavory outlaws (led by the dreaded Butch Cavendish). Did they save the day? *See the movie for some Scooby Doo antics and an exciting conclusion.*

Closer to home, area youngsters are barreling through the annual outdoor swim season like a speeding train filled with silver nuggets. This week, the MBW Makos will host Veteran's Park to conclude a two week home stand in week #5. Both clubs will be trying to get back into the win column today. The Makos came up short last week to Dale City (2752-2208) while the Marlins lost to Montclair (2700-2158). The two teams last met way back on July 24, 2010 and the Makos won by a score of 2974-2008. Then swimming in the 12U group, Matt Healey lowered the 50m club backstroke record by 8/10-sec (36.20s) on that 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of July.

Last week it was 13-year-old Emily Sterling leading the way for the Makos. The youngest of four swimming sisters, Sterling won triple gold in the 50m Free (33.08s), 50m Fly (40.06s) and 100m IM (1:24.58) events. She also teamed up with Riley Curry, Jessica Feshari, and Danielle Bartholomew to win the 200m Free (2:33.82) and Medley (2:51.87) relays. Their combined efforts on the day were impressive. Bartholomew was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the field of freestylers; Curry was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m IM; and Feshari was 6<sup>th</sup> in the 50m butterfly (an amazing achievement for a mostly land based athlete – see *Faces in the Crowd*).

After working for several weeks with the team, Coaches Bradley Morrison and Rachel Lund are pleased with the club's progress. Lund noted that swimmers like Collin Foster and Emma Pahls are very hard workers and are constantly seeking improvement. She also tipped her cap to 8U swimmer Andrew Goff

who has significantly improved his butterfly technique; and to Lauren Rotante, Sam Kaufman, Joy and Mayce Combs who dropped significant time at the Old Bridge meet. Look for the Makos to trim times again this week when the Marlins of Veteran's Park pay a visit. Following today's meet, the Makos will travel to Virginia Oaks next Saturday for the season dual meet finale.

## **Faces in the Crowd**



*Based on encouragement from her friend Riley Curry (left), Jessica Feshari joined the Makos this year and has made a big difference for the 14U girls. A June graduate of Benton Middle School where she ran track and played soccer, Jessica was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She will run cross-country for Osbourn Park this September to begin her freshman year. In addition to sports and academics, Jessica regularly serves the community and received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence and the President's Volunteer Service Award; Gold level for over 100 hours of community service. For her part, longtime swimmer Riley (also a rising freshman at OP) continues to be a leader for the girls group.*

*On a sentimental note, Feshari is swimming this summer with her brother (Josh) who will be making his final home appearance for the Makos in the 18U division this week vs. Veteran's Park. Good luck Josh!*