

The Meadowbrook Woods *Sporting Times*

Late Summer Edition

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Neighborhood Swimmers Conclude Banner Season

Buoyed by herculean efforts in the two final chapters of a swim season that read like a novel, the MBW Makos capped arguably their most successful campaign to date. For eight magical weeks, local sports fans didn't need ESPN or ABC's "Wide World of Sports" for entertainment. Instead, they latched themselves to the Makos' tail fins and held on for dear life. It was a roller-coaster ride to be sure. And like any bestseller, it came complete with "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." Time and again, exhausted but spirited supporters rose to their feet and roared their approval as the Makos held their own with some of the county's best competition. The relay events were perhaps the biggest crowd pleaser - many of which were won or lost by less than a hand's length. Much like their Washington Redskins counterparts, Makos fans supported their team through thick and thin.

The mystique of summer swimming is likely rooted in its constantly changing nature. While more advanced swimmers know their expected times down to the half-second, new heroes emerge from the ranks each week whose times may be several seconds faster than the previous week. Anything can happen and often times does! Close bonds form and the team's "personality" blossoms. Like a fine wine tasting event, there seems to be something for everyone. Families got acquainted with and parents watched their young ones learn a life-long sport. The children simply swam fast and had fun!

Younger swimmers often find themselves under the watchful tutelage of the "Mini-Makos" program. This well-received training bonanza pumps out plenty of smiling faces. Parent-volunteers Gary Hagen, Gary Pomajevich, Howard Olsen, and John Lund work tirelessly in the evenings with youngsters on the fundamentals. Much to the coaches and parents' delight, several of the "Mini's" graduate during the course of a typical season to the Makos team and participate in Saturday meets.

Makos Blow Away F.A.S.T. Hurricanes in Regular Season Finale; Sail Into Divisionals!

While the Makos are known for their speed and agility, they recognized that a special effort was required

against an opponent known by the acronym *F.A.S.T.* The team's calendar on that particular week was full. After pacing the swimmers through thousands of practice yards over 4-days, hosting a team-sponsored neighborhood carnival on Thursday evening, and conducting a "Wacky Relay" fun event on Friday morning, the coaches doubled-checked their barometers and rested comfortably on the night before the big meet.

Even though the Makos were superbly coached and had made every conceivable preparation, no one anticipated just how ready they were for the highly regarded Hurricanes of Faquier County. As expected, a quick hitting blast of choppy waters and swirling winds erupted shortly after dawn but came and went in a matter of hours. When it was over, coaches and fans breathed a collective sigh of relief as the final score was tallied: Makos 2487, Hurricanes 2336. The Makos had weathered a storm of epic proportions and swam away with the victory. The win boosted their regular season record to 3-3 and provided momentum for the upcoming Divisional tri-meet.

Against *F.A.S.T.*, Kenny Parker and Gabrielle Mizerak threw caution to the wind in route to setting the boys 8U 25 Fly and girls 14U 50 Fly records at 20.10-sec and 32.28-sec, respectively. Melissa Ferrone, Elli Hagen, Gabrielle Mizerak, and Rachel Lund batted down their hatches in the girls 14U 200 Medley Relay event with a record with a time of 2:21.29. Matt Pomajevich, Cougar Hagen, Eric Sargent, Courtney Mizerak, and Gabrielle Mizerak electrified the crowd with triple event wins. Somewhere around 11am, Peter Pomajevich surfaced with a double event win. "A-time" standard achievers included crowd favorites John Laufer, Michael Cornwell, Erin McEvoy, Ashley Skertic, Rebecca Baumstark, and Abigail Foucart.

After surviving against *F.A.S.T.*, the stage was set for a showdown at Divisionals between the Makos, Stonewall Park, and Urbanna. This proved to be the highly anticipated "exciting conclusion" to the 2005 story. Just after daybreak, the Stonewall Park pool area frothed with enthusiasm and good sportsmanship as fans and well wishers converged for the final stanza to a remarkable season. Everyone sensed that a highly climatic finish lay ahead and they were ready to drink in down it like a "Big Gulp" on a hot day.

The Makos shot out of the blocks quickly in the early going. Before the first cup of coffee was downed, Kenny Parker, Ella Vanderzyl, Peter Pomajevich, and Kyle Weinberg had churned their way to first place and a new team record in the 8U Mixed 100 Medley

Relay. Lauren Sargent, Rebecca Baumstark, Abigail Foucourt, and Lexie Bisconti took 2nd place in the 10U Girls Medley Relay. Smooth stroking Sargent and Baumstark are poised to provide leadership in the 10U division for an enchanting group of 8U girls moving up next year.

On the boys side of the medley relays, swashbucklers Joe Cornwell, Cougar Hagen, Corbin Foucart, and Eric Koob grabbed 1st place in the 12U boys event. Devin Wright, Andrew Gambarani, Eric Sargent, and Richard Arena gave the 14U Stonewall Park foursome all it could handle in route to photo finish and 2nd place.

As the meet wore on, overall team scores ebbed and flowed. Peter Pomajevich and Kenny Parker provided a vital 1-2 punch for the 8U Makos across the board. Gabrielle Mizerak and Eric Sargent knew that they would have to hurry in the very competitive 14U division and they chipped in countless team points through gritty determination. A plethora of Makos hit the scene with personal best times and kept the squad in contention all morning long. The seemingly endless array includes Clayton & Alexis Bellamy, Stephen Cornwell, Ronald Peterson, Sam & Matt Pomajevich, Douglas Barns, Michael & John Hardy, Ryan Kam, Ayden Kish, Sean & Lauren Kingsbury, Kevin Olsen, Sean Rouffa, Nicholas & Julia Vaccaro, Joey Chrabot, Samuel Fleshman, Jake Ploschnitznig, Sean Gambarani, Joe Cornwell, Corbin Foucart, Richard Arena, Tommy Beecher, Steven & Jessica Ozl, Madison Barnes, Rose & Rachel Conway, Devin Kaucher, Tristen LeBlanc, Kendra & Alex Sabol, Ashley Skertic, Gabrielle Mizerak, Cassie Bisconti, Michelle Koob, and Christy Wright.

By the time freestyle relay events arrived, the anticipation was just about as thick as a poundcake. The brothers Sam & Peter Pomajevich got together one last time with Kenny Parker and Kyle Weinburg for a record-setting win in the 8U boys 100 relay. Claire Loper, Ashley Skertic, Kendra Sabol, and Lindsey Sterling took 1st on the 8U girls side. Corbin Foucart, Eric Koob, Ty Lang, and Cougar Hagen won the boys 12U relay.

In the end, the Makos came close enough to earn the respect of two of the area's best teams. Final score: Urbanna - 3891, Stonewall Park - 3718, Makos - 3567.

Congratulations to the Makos!

The 2005 edition of the Makos was one of the most prolific neighborhood record breaking machines ever assembled.

While records come and go, wise youngsters recognize that the most important ingredients of their success are friendship, stability, and character. Long after their times and records of the summer are forgotten, they will be remembered for their good sportsmanship and respect for a sport that has given them so much. Special thanks to coaches Kate Southcott, Michelle Blue, Shannon Smith, and Nancy Tebell and to co-managers Karen Gambriani and Lynn Sikora for providing an atmosphere chock full of opportunities and fun. Until next summer, "So long everybody."

Faces in the Crowd

In each edition of *The Sporting Times*, staff photographers "span the globe" to bring you images of local heroes and heroines in action. Sit back and enjoy. Careful though! A mixture of sunscreen, pool water, and hotdog grease tends to ooze out of the corners. Special thanks to Greg and Kary Heck for providing 35-mm memories all season long.



With more than 100-years of coaching experience between them, the Makos coaches steered the squad to a highly successful season.



By the looks of these two youngsters, the sporting life is often times as social as it is serious.



“You can do it, we can help.” Older swimmers pointed youngsters in the right direction via the popular Makos Swim Tutor Program. Daniel Smith, shown here at the Kingsbrooke meet, graduated from the Mini-Makos program and had a blast in his first meet for the Makos.



Makos coaches placed heavy emphasis on good sportsmanship and technical skills. By season’s end, many of the swimmers had developed picture perfect form.



Swimmers dove into the action with great eagerness and came up with big results. During the course of the season, neighborhood records were constantly in jeopardy. Team statisticians feverishly kept pace as neighborhood records evaporated before the ink dried from the previous week. Congratulations to the record setters and to all those swimmers who established personal best times this summer.



Shown here enjoying a lighter moment just prior to their race at Kingsbrooke, Kyle Weinburg, Kenny Parker, and Sam & Peter Pomajevich set a team record in the 8U 100-m freestyle relay with a blistering time of 1:22.43s. They would go on to break their own record several times during the course of the season.