

The Meadowbrook Woods Sporting Times 18 July 2009

Razor Sharp Makos Set to Show up for the Showdown!

Ever had an “Aha!” moment? In her monthly magazine *Opra*, Ms. Winfrey occasionally writes about snapshots in time forever framed in ones’ mind eye. Such moments are often indicators that something truly special has happened or is happening. Rarely do they occur multiple times during the same day. Last week vs. Dominion Valley, the Makos stepped things up a notch, tore past the visiting Sharks by a score of 2712-2489, and generated a virtual cornucopia of singular moments. With a capacity crowd cheering wildly during every race, the Makos were ahead by only a hand full of points at the halfway mark. It’s impossible to tell what sound-bites may have been going through fans minds as they watched the Makos surge ahead, but we’ll give it a try.



With strong swimmers in every age group, the Makos have bridged together an exciting team this summer.

When 10U girls Elizabeth Healey, Riley Curry, and Ashley Pearson landed a 1-2-3 punch in the 50m freestyle...*Un-B-Lievable*; When 14U girls Rebecca Baumstark, Lindsay Sterling, Emma Skelley, and Shelby Ingram grabbed the 200m medley relay...*Brilliant*; When 8U 25m freestylers Samantha Townsend, Lakyn Fearson, Lauren Pion, Peyton Whitaker, Becca Jones, Avery Oullette, and Brigit Turner all placed in the top ten of the 42-swimmer field...*Holy cow! I can’t count ‘em all*; when Joshua Feshari, Kevin Olsen, and Kyle Alonge racked up 34-team points with their 1-2-3 finish in the 50m freestyle...*Power, raw power*; When Aubrey Naujoks, Camille Derderian, Claire Loper, and Devin Kaucher won the 12U girls 100m medley relay...*Couldn’t have done it better myself*; When Christopher Kerner, Lucas

Fearson, Kyle Alonge, and Kevin Olsen took 4 to the top 5 spots in the 50m backstroke...*Greased lightning*; When Melissa Ferrone, Alycia Rouffa, Megan Baner, Ellie Hagen, Sarah Olsen, Stephanie Belamy, and Lauren Kingsbury all but swept the 18U girls 50m backstroke...*Must be something in the hotdogs*.



The Makos appear to be laser-focused and may be peaking at the right time with Divisionals just seven days away.

When Reid Sutton (6) completed his very first 25m freestyle for the Makos...*The Force within this one is strong, Obi-Wan*; When Trevor Fearson, Liam Turner, Jimmy Baumstark, and Clayton Bellamy muscled up and won the 100m freestyle relay...*Sonic Boom!*; When Sean Rouffa, Tanner Curry, and Sean Kingsbury took three of the top five 14U 50m breast stroke times...*Hi-Yo Silver!*; when Cougar Hagen, RJ O’Neal, and Nicholas Marsilio rode shotgun for Eric Sargent in the 18U 50m breast...*Him one fast hombre, Kee-Mo-Sah-Bee*; when Rachel Lund anchored the 18U 200m medley relay squad to victory...*Aha! We might just win this thing*.



Hometown fans are hoping the highflying Makos will fling themselves to new highs this week vs. Ridgewood.

Last Saturday’s win over Dominion Valley set the stage for a showdown this week when mighty

Ridgewood comes to call in the season home finale. The Barracudas are not the kind of team to rebuild year after year - they simply reload. Having had dual meets with the Wellington Dolphins, Ashland Stingrays, Victory Lakes Piranhas, and Sudley Seahorses this summer, Ridgewood knows how to compete at a high level. Last week we asked the surging Makos to step it up a notch and they responded resoundingly. This week we're asking our hometown heroes and their faithful entourage to hunker down just one more time. If there ever was a time in which the Makos could knock off one of the county's best, the time is now. Grab a friend and cheer loudly – every team point counts! For a virtual simulation of this highly anticipated match-up, visit reachforthewall.com.

Makos Bid Farewell to Andrew Gambarani

Last week, local fans rose to their feet and cheered for longtime standout Andrew Gambarani who will be attending the University of West Virginia this Fall. During his 10-year career with the Makos, Andrew's steady presence and friendly attitude have been a hallmark for the team. Throughout the summers, he has been part of many incredibly exciting races and currently holds two neighborhood records along with his relay teammates (Cougar Hagen, Eric Sargent, and Ty Lang). The boys set the 200m freestyle and medley relay records last summer at Ridgewood on June 14 with times of 1:54.88 and 2:16.46, respectively. Those marks will likely be broken by youngsters coming up the ranks due to Andrew's own actions. As a swimmer-coach, he has instructed and inspired many beginning swimmers who will carry on his legacy and likely set new records. Hats off to a great one – thanks Andrew!

Faces in the Crowd

Photos Courtesy of Greg Heck

