

The Meadowbrook Woods Sporting Times

23 July 2005

Storm Front Approaching for Regular Season Finale!

According to “storied” meteorologist Admiral William Boom, “A storm is brewing on Superior Court.” Gail force winds are expected to propel swimmers today as the MBW Makos batten down their collective hatches and prepare to swim faster than fast when the F.A.S.T. Hurricanes of Fauquier County blow through town. The area is faced with a flurry of fast-moving fronts projected to arrive at around 6:30am. Strong winds and choppy waters will erupt by 7:00am but the storm is expected to pass and give way to tranquil pool conditions by 11:00am. The Makos’ cookout squad will be on hand all morning long dishing out mouth-watering hamburgers and hotdogs to feed those courageous onlookers who decide to hunker down and witness what is billed as a 100-year event in which record speeds are anticipated. Move to high ground and hold on to your hats - this should be a good one!

Ordinary citizens oftentimes transform into heroes during natural events such as hurricanes. In their own brand of heroism, several of the Makos have not only survived past encounters with the Hurricanes but also have walked away with neighborhood records. Way back in 2000, Leanne Ralph (8U 25m backstroke) and Kelly Goggins (14U 50m breaststroke) dazzled the crowd with record times of 20.13s and 40.06s, respectively. In 2001, Leslie Campbell blew away the 18U 50m backstroke record with a time of 35.49s.

While the *Sporting Times* is intended to add color and entertainment to today’s event, life in the real world goes on. Fans and swimmers are encouraged to observe a moment of solitude for those people affected by the recent events in London and by storms in the southeastern United States...and now, go get ‘em Makos!

Makos Stock Nears All Time High

Bullish investors rushed to the ~~trading floor~~ “hill” last Saturday at Ridgewood as news quickly spread that the MBW Makos’ stock value was approaching record

levels. Wall Street analysts believe the surge is due to a solid “business plan” that is founded on friendship, stability, and character. Others argue that the Makos’ recipe for success is simply a combination of artistic strokes, raw power and a dash of superb coaching. Much to the crowd’s delight, the Makos pumped out megawatts of power against a strong Ridgewood squad. “Record” advances ruled the day during fast-paced trading from the opening bell until 11:00am. Kenneth Parker powered his way to records in the 8U 25 Back (20.94) and 25 Fly (20.21) events while Matt Pomajevich eclipsed the 10U 100 IM record (1:31.02).

The Makos also set their sights on some T.E.A.M. oriented work. In the world of relay races, individual accomplishments often succumb to strategy and teamwork. Races can be won or lost during the all-important middle stages of an event. Over the course of a season, foursomes typically build comradery to the point where they swim as a unit. Like other successful groups, the 14U boys and girls relay squads champion the concept of T.E.A.M. – Together Everyone Achieves More.

Near the end of the Ridgewood meet, Mellissa Ferrone, Elli Hagen, Richard Arena, and Daniel Miller knew the daunting task ahead. After lead-off swimmers Rachel Lund and Devin Wright set crisp paces to start the relay events, they were challenged to keep the races close for the anchors. As the crowd roared its approval and with Barracuda swimmers bearing down, Ferrone, Hagen, Arena, and Miller churned furiously to keep their respective groups in contention. By the time Eric Sargent and Gabrielle Mizerak hit the water with just 50-meters of racing remaining, the stages were set for two of the closest finishes in PWSL history. Amazingly, Sargent erased a ½-length deficit and came within a fingernail (2/100-sec) of the Barracuda’s Jordan Enlow in a virtual tie to the naked eye. Afterwards, Mizerak brought the crowd to its feet again and held off Paige Freeman by 16/100 of a second for the win in a record time of 2:09.01sec. Interestingly, all four of the Makos girls are swimming as 13-year olds and have the opportunity to improve their own records next season. Congratulations to these

and all relay teams for adding new meaning to the word TEAM!

Makos Set for Divisionals

The Makos wrap up their 2005 summer swimming campaign next Saturday in a three-team Divisional Meet at Stonewall Park in which championship ribbons will be awarded for the top 24-places in each event. Also, league-time improvement ribbons will be presented for any time improvement over 1-second. Special league-wide ribbons will also be awarded for the 12 fastest times recorded (for each event from every championship meet) in the league. Souvenir T-shirts may also be available – check with team officials for more information. The long weekend of festivities begins on Thursday (28 July) with the annual team party and pep rally that will be held two days prior to the tri-meet.

While ribbons and other awards are exiting, perhaps the biggest reward is yet to be realized. Years from now, everyone involved will likely enjoy the memory of a successful summer filled with good sportsmanship, effort, and humility. Special thanks to the coaching staff and legions of parent/volunteers who made the summer of 2005 one to remember.

Faces in the Crowd



“Sharkboy” (a.k.a. Nicholas Olsen) puts on this game face in preparation for a boys 8U event.



*I wonder what it's like to be a super hero
I wonder where I'd go if I could fly around downtown
from some other planet, I get this funky high on yellow
sun
boy I bet my friends will all be...stunned, they're
stunned!* (Artist: Matchbox Twenty, “Real World”)



“Cruise Control”



“A gulp in time saves nine”