



# THE SANDPIPER SKINNY

Sandpipers of Nevada

Volume 25

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Katie Ledecky, Bella Sims, and Erica Sullivan congratulate Katie Grimes after she placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 800-Meter Freestyle

Photo by Maddie Meyer/Getty Images

## *Five Sandpipers to Compete in Tokyo Olympics*

With Covid-19, this year's USA Swimming Olympic Trials were a little different. There were two waves of competition—to minimize the number of athletes. The first Wave was held at the CHI Health Center in Omaha, Nebraska, between June 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>. The top two swimmers in each event qualified to compete in Wave 2, which was held in the same location June 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sandpipers of Nevada brought 18 swimmers to the Olympic trails—two shy of their 20-person goal. Those athletes are Abby Dunford (Canadian Olympic Trials), Chloe Freeman, Katie Grimes, Reese Hazan, Paige Kuwata, Arabella Sims, Erica Sullivan, Brice Barrieault, Bowen Becker, Dylan Becker, Tyler Edlefsen, Joseph Gutierrez, Brennan Gravely, Sawyer Grimes, Nick McDowell, Cody Miller, Blake Pieroni, and Nick Simons.

Between these swimmers, Sandpipers competed in 8 semi-final heats and 12 finals, for a whopping 20 second swims. **Barrieault** was the first Sandpiper to obtain a place in finals.

Competing in the Wave I, Barrieault placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the Men's 400-meter Freestyle by .04 seconds in prelims. He then went on to chase down 3<sup>rd</sup> place at finals, out-touching his competition by .11 seconds and securing a place to compete in wave II.

Barrieault wasn't the only Sandpiper to touch second from lane eight. In the Women's 800-meter freestyle, fifteen-year-old **Grimes** placed 8<sup>th</sup> in prelims. The next day, in one of the most electrifying finals of the entire competition, she took 2<sup>nd</sup> place by .15 seconds and placed herself on the USA Olympic Team.

Proving once again that all you need is a lane, **Sims** took 5<sup>th</sup> in the Women's 200-meter freestyle from lane one. She beat 6<sup>th</sup> place by .08 seconds to secure a spot on the USA Olympic Team.

While not competing from an outside lane, **Sullivan** fought her way through prelims and finals to touch 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Women's 1500-meter freestyle. Along with Sims and Grimes, teammates she trains with every day, Sullivan earned her spot on the Olympic Team.

**B. Becker** and **Pieroni** also placed themselves on the USA Olympic Team. They finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Men's 100-meter freestyle, respectively, out-swimming some of the fastest sprinters in the world.



Sandpipers Head Coach Ron Aitken with Bowe Becker, Sullivan, Sims, and Grimes

These five leading the way, Sandpipers had an overwhelmingly impressive showing at the Olympic Trials. While these are not the only incredible moments to highlight, they are the epitome of what we try to achieve every single day.

Congratulations to all our athletes who competed, and good luck to those racing in Tokyo! Let us strive to make Sandpipers of Nevada the pinnacle of hard work, determination, and grit.



## SANDPIPERS HOST FIRST LCM MEET SINCE QUARANTINE

Sandpipers of Nevada once again paved the trail for swimming standards. In 2020, Sandpipers hosted the first swim meet and open water meet in the nation after quarantine. In May of 2021, Sandpipers continued that tradition and provided the first long course meters competition in the valley since Covid-19.

Held at Pavilion Center Pool, the annual *Cinco de Mayo* Invite saw over 200 Sandpipers compete. Athletes ranged from six-years-old to nineteen, from beginners to seasoned swimmers. While this was like many other meets—with incredible races, effort, and cheering—it also provided wonderful opportunities for Sandpipers to strengthen their bonds.

In addition to 6 Team Records falling, 3 Sandpiper teammates picked up Olympic Trial cuts. **Brice Barrieault** started the meet of adding the 1500m Free to his event line up. **Bella Sims** stepped up and swam Trial time standards in both the 100 & 200 Backstroke. Finally, **Katie Grimes** added the 200IM to her Trial resume.

With the deck closed to parents, our younger swimmers were forced to be more responsible for themselves. However, our older swimmers took them under their wings and ensured no one sat alone. They also helped figure out lane assignments, where to warm down and up, and encouraged them in place of their normal supporters.

What an incredible sight it was! Thank you all for strengthening our familial bonds. And to the volunteers who helped run the meet to perfection: We couldn't have done it without you!

## SANDPIPERS COMPETE IN MESA, ARIZONA

June 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>, one-hundred Sandpipers traveled to Mesa, Arizona to compete in the *Narwhal Invite*. Hosted by Mesa Aquatic Club, this outdoor meet provided prelims and finals for all age groups, temperatures above 110° F, and overwhelming sunlight.

Despite all the challenges, Sandpipers did what they always do: Race. They shattered two team records, earned innumerable best times, and dominated finals in every event. Shout out to Lewis Bateman, Michelle Grabowski, and Ilya Kharun for winning high-point awards for their respective age groups.



For up-to-date news, event information and more, visit the team website: [www.sandpipersnevada.com](http://www.sandpipersnevada.com)

## SANDPIPERS DOMINATE 2021 U.S. OPEN WATER NATIONALS

### Thirteen Athletes Compete in Florida

Sandpipers' own **Erica Sullivan** won the Women's 2021 *U.S. Open Water National Championships* in Fort Myers, Florida, out-touching three-time defending champion Ashley Twichell by 18 seconds. Sullivan conquered the 10K race, finishing with a time of 2:02.43 which qualified her for the U.S. National Team. Sullivan was followed by Twichell from Tac Titans and Haley Anderson from Mission Viejo Nadadores, who came in third.

Sandpipers of Nevada dominated the Women's Open Water National Championships, with **Katie Grimes** following closely behind in fourth with a time of 2:05.25.

Grimes also earned herself a spot on the U.S. National Team.

**Arabella Sims** charged in at ninth place with a time of 2:13:14 and Paige Kuwata finished eleventh at 2:15:45.

In the Men's U.S. Open Water National Championships, Sandpipers alumni swimmer **Brennan Gravely** came into a close second behind Mission Viejo swimmer David Heron with a time of 2:05:25; just missing first place by one hundredth of a second.

**Dylan Gravely** followed close by, touching in fifth place with a time of 2:07:33. Both Brennan and Dylan will join Sullivan and Grimes on the U.S. National Team.

Sandpipers swimmer **Brice Barrieault** completed the race in eleventh place, with a time of 2:12:32. Several additional distinguished swims included Sandpiper swimmers **Devin Bauman, Riley Clinton,** and **Maksim Maskalenka.**

In the 5k event, **Ilya Kharun** and **Luke Ellis** went first and second, placing them on the roster to compete in the 2021 World Junior Open Water Championships. Sims and Grimes also earned their spot on Team USA! They placed first and second in the women's 5k—by over one minute.

Way to go Sandpipers!



**Ilya Kharun (left) and Luke Ellis took 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Men's Jr. Open Water 5k**

## TO OUR NEW ATHLETES: WELCOME TO SANDPIPERS!

In the last six weeks, over 60 athletes have tried out to be Sandpipers! With many more looking to join our team, all groups across Sandpipers will have new members to welcome.

THANK YOU for choosing Sandpipers! While our years of excellence and our most recent success has put us well above the competition, we continuously strive to hold to our roots: working hard and having fun. Two traits we believe should always be glued together, hand in hand.

Our next try out date is July 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have a swimmer—or know someone who is interested—email [swimsandpipers@gmail.com](mailto:swimsandpipers@gmail.com) for more information.

## GEAR UP FOR END-OF-SUMMER MEETS

In the swimming world, some of the biggest meets of the season occur in July and August. This year, Sandpipers will compete in several competitions for our end-of-summer meets. Below is a rundown of said events. Before attending any of these, please visit our team store, Bodyline Swim Shop, to acquire all your competitive needs.

On Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>, **Rock the Block Summer Championships** hits Desert Breeze! This swim meet is for all Sandpipers who are not participating in any of the meets below. We plan on making this event sanctioned, which means the times swimmers obtain here will count towards bigger meets. We can't wait for the first RTB meet at Desert Breeze in nearly two years!

A week after the RTB, Sandpipers will travel to two different **Junior Olympics**. With one in Fresno, California and the other in Mission Viejo, California, over one-hundred Sandpipers will compete the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. Both these competitions are for swimmers who meet the Junior Olympic qualification time standards. Your coach will have already spoken to you about either one of these, if you are to attend.

**Arena Western Senior Zones** occurs in Fresno, California July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. These time standards are more difficult to obtain. As such, this meet is for Senior-level swimmers only. They will travel as a team to the competition in order to represent Sandpipers of Nevada.

In the final meet of the year, five Sandpipers will travel to Tokyo, Japan to represent team USA in the **Olympic Games**.

Good luck to all our swimmers! No matter which meet you attend, you represent Sandpipers of Nevada. May you race, cheer, and compete in typical Sandpiper fashion.

## TEAM BREAK JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> – AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>

Sandpipers will be taking a team break the first eight days of August. Practices will resume on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Lead Level coaches will email groups the new schedule once that is confirmed.

Thank you and enjoy your holiday!

For up-to-date news, event information and more, visit the team website: [www.sandpipersofnevada.com](http://www.sandpipersofnevada.com)

# TEAM RECORD UPDATE

## 17 TEAM RECORDS FALL IN MESA AND OMAHA

### US Olympic Team Trials Wave II— [LCM]

**Bella Sims:** Women 15-16 200 Free—1:57.53; 100 Fly—1:00.02; Women Senior 200 Free—1:57.53; 100 Fly—1:00.02  
**Katie Grimes:** Women 15-16 800 Free—8:20.36; 1500 Freestyle—15:52.12; Women Senior 800 Free—8:20.36  
**Erica Sullivan:** Women Senior 1500 Free—15:51.18  
**Nick Simons:** Men 17-18 100 Back—54.52; 200 Back—2:00.81; Men Senior 100 Back—54.52; 200 Back—2:00.81  
**Bowe Becker:** Men Senior 50 Free—21.78  
**Blake Pieroni:** Men Senior 100 Free—48.13; 200 Free—1:46.57

### MAC 2021 Narwhal Invite— [LCM]

**Luke Ellis:** Men 13-14 200 Free—1:58.92  
**Ilya Kharun:** Men 15-16 50 Free—23.95

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Speedo Invite— [LCM]

**Ilya Kharun:** Men 15-16 100 Free—52.01; 100 Fly—54.36; 200 Fly—2:03.58

### 2021 TYR Pro Swim Series—Indianapolis [LCM]

**Bowe Becker:** Men Senior 50 Free—22.37  
**Blake Pieroni:** Men Senior 100 Free—48.76; 200 Free—1:48.06

### 2021 Cinco De Mayo Invitational— [LCM]

**Bella Sims:** Women 15-16 100 Back—1:02.52; 200 Back—2:13.42; Women Senior 100 Back—1:02.52  
**Katie Grimes:** Women 15-16 200 IM—2:16.27; Women Senior 200 IM—2:16.27  
**Ilya Kharun:** Men 15-16 100 Fly—55.20

### 2021 GAIN Invitational— [SCY]

**Bella Sims:** Women 15-16 100 Free—49.16; 200 Free—1:44.21; 500 Free—4:32.13; Senior 100 Free—49.16; 200 Free—1:44.21  
500 Free—4:32.13  
**Katie Grimes:** Women 15-16 400 IM—4:06.24; Women Senior 400 IM—4:06.24  
**Luke Ellis:** Men 13-14 500 Free—4:33.24; 100 Back—52.40; 200 Back—1:50.16; 200 IM—1:53.81; 400 IM—4:04.25  
**Ilya Kharun:** Men 15-16 50 Free—21.00; 15-16 100 Fly—48.90; 200 Fly—1:49.62  
**Nick Simons:** Men 15-16 100 Back—49.66; 200 Back—1:47.05; 400 IM—3:54.30; Men Senior 100 Back—49.66  
**Blake Pieroni:** Men Senior 200 Free—1:36.57; 100 Fly—47.60  
**Bowe Becker:** Men Senior 50 Free—19.94; 100 Free—43.28

### 2021 Gain Invitational Time Trials— [LCM]

**Bella Sims:** Women 15-16 100 Fly—1:00.59  
**Katie Grimes:** Women 15-16 400 IM—4:41.39; Women Senior 400 IM—4:41.39  
**Luke Ellis:** Men 13-14 400 IM—4:35.09  
**Nick Simons:** Men 15-16 100 Back—56.32; Senior 100 Back—56.32  
**Ilya Kharun:** Men 15-16 100 Fly—55.71; 200 Fly—2:05.01  
**Brice Barrieault:** Men 17-18 200 Free—1:53.84  
**Blake Pieroni:** Men Senior 100 Fly—54.71

### 2021 Speedo Swimvitational of the Universe— [SCY]

**Jack Fulham:** Men 13-14 100 Breast—1:01.09; 200 Breast—2:11.89

### 2021 Speedo Swimvitational Time Trials— [LCM]

**Luke Ellis:** Men 13-14 200 Back—2:08.01  
**Nick Simons:** Men 15-16 100 Back—56.76; Men Senior 100 Back—56.76

## TEAM RECORD UPDATE--CONTINUED

### 17 TEAM RECORDS FALL IN MESA AND OMAHA

#### 2021 CA/NV Sectionals LCM Time Trials—[LCM]

Luke Ellis: Men 13-14 200 IM—2:12.89

Ilya Kharun: Men 15-16 100 Fly—56.74

#### 2021 TYR Pro Swim Series San Antonio— [LCM]

Katie Grimes: Women 15-16 100 Back—1:02.75; 200 Back—2:14.67; 400 IM—4:42.51  
Women Senior 100 Back—1:02.75; 400 IM—4:42.51

Bowe Becker: Men Senior 50 Free—22.57; 100 Fly—55.73

Blake Pieroni: Men Senior 100 Free—49.19; 200 Free—1:48.68

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