

Bud and Irene Hackett



**FLORIDA
SWIMMING
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE**

Bud and Irene were long time members of Florida Swimming. Over the years, Bud served Florida Swimming in almost every volunteer position possible, from coach to official, Board Member to Review Committee Chair, car pool driver to the fan of each and every Florida Swimming athlete. Irene played many roles as well including Florida Swimming Executive Chair. Bud and Irene were also very active at the national level of USA Swimming. They chaired the United States Aquatic Sports & USA Swimming Convention Committees and the National Registration Committee. Over the years, Bud and Irene together also received every honor USA Swimming and Florida Swimming can bestow upon non-athlete members of the organization, including USA Swimming's highest honor, the USA Swimming Award and the award that meant more to both Bud & Irene than any other they received, the USA Swimming Athletes' Appreciation Award.

Tom Lamar



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Tom Lamar is the unsung hero in the creation of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and in helping to shape the young lives of the boys and girls who he taught and coached in swimming. He was born on June 20, 1917 in Meriwether County, Georgia. Tom coached the high school swim team, volunteered for U.S. Coast Guard duty and served as the Lake Worth recreation director. From there, it was on to the University of Miami in 1946, graduating Cum Laude in 16 months and coaching the school's first legitimate swimming team which went undefeated. He then coached at Fort Lauderdale High School for six years before moving to Pine Crest School as coach. While in Fort Lauderdale, Tom went into public administration as assistant to the City Manager. In this role, he helped pass the bond issue, which provided the funds to dredge the Intracoastal Waterway and Bahia Mar to fill in the seawall, which is now the site of the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The site became State property and the State granted the rights allowing the Hall of Fame to be built and the City to build a swimming facility. Tom traveled to the 1962 AAU Convention in Detroit to lobby for Fort Lauderdale to become the selected city to host the Swimming Hall of Fame. Tom then moved on to Winter Park, Florida, where he taught junior high school and coached the Winter Park High School Swim Team. It was during this time that he received a U.S. State Department offer to travel to Iran as an advisor to their Athletic Association, instructing their swim coaches. He returned to Winter Park and retired a few years later in 1973, turning the program over to his assistant, Skip Foster, who continued to produce winning teams.

29 State Champion Teams, Tom is the second winningest high school coach in the nation. At the Lake Worth High School, State Champions in 1945,46,and 47. At Ft Lauderdale High they won eight championships, at Pine Crest School, state Championsas well. He had another Championship at Winter Park. Tom won State Championships at four different schools.

After two years coaching at the University of Miami, Lamar was selected as the U.S Women's Swimming Team Coach for the 1955 Pan American Games. Two of his swimmers, Carolyn Greene and Cynthia Gill competed on the team. Other swimmers included 1956 Olympian Jack Nelson, who succeeded Tom at Pine Crest School and Phil Drake, butterfly NCAA National Champion. Lamar has thousands of swimmers who tribute him as their reason for success.

Coach Harry Meisel



(known as Harry to some, but "Coach" to all) Born: Stamford, CT (December 6, 1922)
Graduated: Darien High School (Darien, CT), 1940. Graduated: St. Basil Prep (Stamford, CT), 1941. Military Service:

- Inducted Jan. 19. 1943; Discharged February 10, 1946.
- Sixteen months overseas as member of the 565th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (565 AAA AW BN), 3rd Army, Pvt. First Class, Forward Observer.
- Service medals include Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Theatre Campaign Ribbon, 3 Battles (Ardennes - Rhineland - Central Europe), Certificate of Appreciation for Contributions to the Liberation to Luxembourg (1944 - 1945), Veterans of Foreign Wars Award for Meritorious and Distinguished Service (2001), 50th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge Certificate of Appreciation, U.S. Veterans Friends (Luxembourg A.S.B.L.) Medal of Honor (2002), and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains "Legion of Honor" Award (2003).

Graduated: Stetson University (Deland, FL), 1949, B.S. in Physical Education.

Graduated: Columbia University (New York, NY), 1953, M.A.

Coaching & Teaching: Orlando Senior H. S. (1950 -1952); W.R. Boone H. S. (1952 - 1956); Bishop Moore H. S. (1956 - 1962); Chimney Rock Camp for Boys, NC (Summers of 1957-1959); Rollins College (1962 - 1997) and Retired Professor Emeritus in August 1997. USS Swim Team: Blue Dolphins of Orlando - Twenty Florida Swimming Championships; Many Junior and Senior National Qualifiers, as well as High School and College (NCAA) All-Americans. Many of his swimmers also Top 16 times in the USA, Top 10 in Florida, were State and National Age Group record holders, and Zone All Star team members.

Member:

- American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA) Life Member with Level 5 certification.
- Founding member and three terms as President of the Florida Swim Coaches Association (FSCA).
- Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- Parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Orlando, FL for 51 years.
- Life member of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
- Eustis Golden Triangle VBOB (Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge), Chapter 48

Other:

- Author of numerous swimming articles and lectured at Florida Swim Clinics and six ASCA "World Clinics".

- Invented the Swim Bench in 1974, a dry land exerciser that revolutionized dry land training for swimmers.
- Honors include: FSCA Coach of the Year (1984, 1986), ASCA Coach of the Year (1987), Central Florida Sports Hall of Fame (1987), Florida Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Leadership Award (1987), Bishop Moore High School "Hornet Athletic Hall of Fame" (1994), W.R. Boone Sports Hall of Fame (1999),
- The Board of Directors of the Kingswood Manor Association (KMA) recognized the distinguished service and contributions made by Harry Meisel in 2009 by naming the KMA swimming pool "The Harry Meisel Pool". He had urged the development of the pool in 1961, assisted in its construction (dedicated in 1962), organized and coached the KMA "Kingfish" Swim Team, and directed the pool's development throughout the years.
- Battle of the Bulge Monument at Lake Eola Park (Orlando, FL). Harry Meisel served as president of the Battle of the Bulge Memorial Committee and led the fund raising, design and construction of the Monument, which was dedicated on the 55th Anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge (December, 16, 1999).
- Together with other Veterans from the Battle of the Bulge WWII, Harry spoke to thousands of students in schools throughout Orange, Seminole, Osceola, and Lake County about those that participated in the greatest land battle ever fought and won by the United States Army.

Other Personal Information:

- Married: Ethel Jeanette Smith Meisel - September 3, 1949, in Deland, FL.
- Five children: Karen Lynn (married to Dr. David Hales); Harry Stephen (married to Janice Sheehan); Mary Catherine; Kevin Michael (married to Barbara Elaine Howard); and Teresa Ann (married to Michael Crant).
- Seven Grandchildren: Rachel, Sarah, Daniel and Monica Hales; Kevin Meisel; Julia and Brian Crant. And three step grandchildren (Meghan, Lauren and Evan Clancy)

Harry ("Coach") in summary:

- A strong disciplinarian - be the best you can be through hard work - physically, mentally, and morally.
- He loved his students and athletes. He was not only a teacher-coach, he was a student who never stopped learning from others - -his fellow teachers and coaches as well as from his students and athletes. He taught his students and athletes about the small things in life, to be winners - to excel in all phases of life.
- He loved his fishing. The early years it was lake fishing, before turning to salt water fishing principally in the Indian and Banana Rivers of Florida as well as the Gulf waters at Captiva Island. Then in the 80's he turned his attention to fly fishing and Alaska sockeye and king salmon out of the Rainbow King Lodge. Always the smile graced his face when hearing him say "fish on".
- He loved the Irish and Notre Dame. And he cherished the chats, autographed hat and pictures, dinners, and friendship of Lou Holtz. Go IRISH.
- Most importantly, he loved his family, and they him. He was a loving husband to Jeanette for 60 years, and a caring father to Karen, Steve, Cathy, Kevin, and Teresa. He was known as "Pop Pop" to his adoring grandchildren.

7/18/2010

A package arrived at the Meisel home. Inside was a Notre Dame baseball cap. Written on the underside of the bill: "To Harry, the best coach ever, Lou Holtz."

"Harry was not only successful, he was significant. When you're successful, you dial that in. When you're significant, you help other people be successful," Holtz said Tuesday. "That lasts a lifetime, and Harry certainly did this."

Brooke Bennett



After spending her entire life being interviewed by newspaper and television journalists all over the world, three-time gold medalist Brooke Bennett always wondered what it would be like to work on the other side of the camera. Brooke is now pursuing her second dream, a broadcasting career. In February 2009, that dream began at Bright House Sports Network. Brooke's specialty is obviously swimming, with intentions of covering all sports in the bay area.

Along with her television career, Brooke is a certified personal trainer and nutritionist, and is spending hours in the kitchen, currently working on her own cookbook. But with all she is accomplishing, Bay area sports fans still remember her from one place—the pool.

Under coach Peter Banks at Brandon Sports and Aquatics, Brooke Bennett grew up as one of the elite swimmers in the country. She qualified for her first junior national cut when she was only 12 years old!

As much talent as she possessed, her determination was even greater. Brooke burst onto the world scene qualifying for the 1994 World Championships in the 800 freestyle. After finishing third behind the legendary Janet Evans, Brooke returned two years later on sports biggest stage. Facing off again with Evans at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, Bennett won gold and began her four-year reign as the top distance swimmer in the world. She went on to win two more gold medals at the 2000 games in Sydney. Her 800 meter freestyle victory was an Olympic record. Immediately following the games, Brooke joined the likes of Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan and Mary Lou Retton by making the cover of Wheaties. Brooke now resides in Brandon and joined the Bright House Sports Network team full-time in January 2010, with an emphasis on high school sports.

SAM GRINER



"These are tough little munchkins" Sam Griner

I'd feel like I betrayed his memory if I failed to mention that Coach Griner had the most distinctive "HOOT" in the swimming world and went everywhere in the bright orange Opel that he babied as much as his own daughters and each of us."

The Bartow Civic Center has been dedicated and re-named the Sam Griner Swimming Pool. U.S. Swimming's Florida Association created and awarded a Sam Griner Memorial Award for outstanding service to the sport. Polk county has awarded a Sam Griner Scholarship for swimmers. USA/AAU Swimming tenure, (as well as high school coaching for Bartow High School and Santa Fe High School): Sam was a Florida native who was a high school diver. He served in the military after high school then completed his college degree at Middle Tennessee State and Peabody College. His first coaching was in Hialeah, Florida; and he began in Winter Haven in 1968, where Rowdy Gaines was one of his age-groupers.

The bulk of Sam's career was in Bartow, where he was head coach of the Bartow Imperial Flyers. His age-group swimmers number nearly a thousand, and those who went on to achieve full or partial college scholarships would be counted in dozens. Two particular outstanding swimmers are Annie Lett, an Auburn All-American, and Susie Thayer, who made the 1980 Olympic Team. His freestyle sprinters were recognized by coaches across the country. He was a major role player in the development of High school swimming and where it is today.

"A kid who picks swimming as his game is going to succeed in life" Sam Griner

"Sam Griner put Bartow on the map"

Anthony Nesty



“Anthony is one of the most revered coaches in college swimming, and one of the few who is considered both a great athlete and a great coach,” Florida head coach Gregg Troy says. “He’s got a great work ethic and a tremendous ability to get results. His experience at the Olympics as an athlete is instrumental in his ability to relate to our current athletes, and his reputation for getting the most out of them speaks for itself.” Nesty brings experience at the highest levels of international swimming to the Florida staff. At the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, he won the first-ever Olympic medal for his native country of Suriname when he edged seven-time medalist Matt Biondi of the United States by .01 to bring home the gold in the 100-meter fly. Nesty also won the gold medal in the 100 fly at the 1990 Goodwill Games and captured the world championship in the same event in 1991. He concluded his swimming career at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where he earned the bronze in the 100 fly. Not yet finished on the international scene, however, Nesty served as an assistant coach for Suriname at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, and continued his Olympic tradition as the head coach for Suriname at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China. On the 20th anniversary of Nesty’s Olympic gold medal in the 100-meter fly, not only was Nesty honored as head coach of his country’s team, he was recognized as the Suriname flag bearer at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Games. Nesty returned to the international coaching realms during the summer of 2009, as he traveled to Rome, Italy, as a coach for the 2009 Cayman National Team to the 2009 FINA World Championships, where he tutored Gators Brett and Shaune Fraser. In the summer of 2010, Nesty coached the Cayman National Team at the 2010 Mutual of Omaha Pan Pacific Championships, the largest international meet of the year. This past August, Nesty served on deck as an assistant coach for the U.S. men’s team at the World University Games, his first time coaching for the United States.

Nesty also found success on the national level during his collegiate career at UF, capturing three consecutive NCAA crowns in the 100 fly from 1990-92. He also won the 1990 NCAA title in the 200 fly and was a member of Florida's 1991 NCAA champion 400 MR team. He held the school record for NCAA titles until 2006 when former Gator Ryan Lochte finished his illustrious career with seven such honors. For his accomplishments as a Gator, Nesty was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in April 2002. Nesty made his return to Gainesville on June 1, 1998, to assume duties on the pool deck. Prior to that, he served as a club level coach for three years with Swim Florida in Sarasota.

Making the coaching stop at Florida has not only allowed Nesty to reach a career goal, but his post on the Gators' deck has allowed him to be reunited with a close friend in Gator swimming head coach Gregg Troy, for whom Nesty swam in high school. After Nesty's college career was finished, he served as one of Troy's assistant coaches at The Bolles School in Jacksonville, Fla., while also holding the head coaching position at Jacksonville's Nease High School.

Coaching Career:

- Club Coach, Swim Florida, 1996-98
- Assistant Men's Coach, University of Florida, 1998-99
- Assistant Coach, University of Florida, 1999-2006
- Assistant Coach, Suriname National Swim Team, 2004
- Head Coach, Suriname Summer Olympic Team, 2008
- Assistant Coach, Cayman Islands National Team, 2009
- Assistant Coach, Cayman Islands National Team, 2010
- Associate Head Coach, University of Florida, 2006-present
- Assistant Coach, United States National Team, 2011 World University Games

Career Highlights:

- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of his Olympic gold medal as Suriname's flag bearer at the 2008 Olympic Games
- Inducted into University of Florida Athletic Hall of Fame, 2002
- Olympic Bronze Medalist in 100-meter fly, 1992
- Three-time NCAA Champion in 100-yard fly, 1990-92
- World Champion in 100-meter fly, 1991
- Member of NCAA champion 400-yard MR team, 1991
- NCAA champion in 200-yard fly, 1990
- Goodwill Games Gold Medalist in 100-meter fly, 1990
- Olympic Gold Medalist in 100-meter fly, 1988
- Assistant Coach, United States National Team, 2011 World University Games