



BADGER AQUATICS LEADERSHIP TEAM'

WELCOME TO THE BEGINNING OF THE BADGER AQUATICS FALL 2022 SEASON!

The start of any new swim season brings with it an eagerness of getting back to practice to reconnect with old teammates and meet new ones, and excitement around the anticipation of a fresh start and positive changes! This year, we have more than our fair share of changes, so we wanted to bring everyone up to speed on all the recent developments with BAC!

Listed below are the people – head coaches and other team roles – that have some of the main leadership positions with BAC this fall. Not too many new faces, but lots of folks in new and exciting roles with the club!

The obvious main change was with our Head Coach and CEO, Drew Walden, who retired recently after decades in the Madison area swimming community. Drew has essentially led BAC since its creation in 1999, and deserves credit and recognition for the club's sustained success. Drew's retirement date also aligned with a change in Board leadership, with Rick Zuehl stepping back from the President role that he'd been in for over 5 years. And last spring we also had one of our lead coaching positions change when Brenda Erdman in Baraboo stepped away from coaching.

While we'll miss the leadership provided by all of them, we're also incredibly excited for the next chapter of BAC. Here are some brief bios of several key BAC leaders. If you'd like to read more about the rest of our staff, you can find a link to the other [COACH'S BIOS HERE](#). (Just an FYI, we're in the process of updating the page, so it will evolve over the coming weeks.)

JACOB JOHNSON – HEAD COACH AND CEO

Jacob has been with BAC since the beginning – he joined the staff in the fall of 1999 as a UW-Madison Freshman. Jacob has coached every BAC group from Little Badger to Senior, spending the majority of his recent time with MS-aged athletes, and age group swimmers prior to that. Jacob will be on deck most frequently with our WS age group swimmers, but in his new role as Head Coach and CEO he'll be spending a lot of time coordinating between coaches and checking in with every BAC location and group.

BRIAN JOHNSON – BAC BOARD PRESIDENT

Brian is stepping into the role of Board President after having served as a member of the BAC Board of Directors for the past 5 years. Brian – and his wife Jenny – have two swimmers in our Senior Groups, Ethan (16) and Kennedy (14). Both Brian and Jenny have a lot of connections and history with the Madison-area swim community, and actually spent several years as BAC coaches in the mid-2000s!

CHRIS WILLS – HEAD SENIOR COACH

Chris grew up swimming for BAC and then continued this swimming career at the UW-Madison. He's been a BAC coach for 5 years, working the bulk of that time directly with Drew and with our Senior-level athletes. Chris is a classic 'swim nerd' – following results and trends from international swimming down to the collegiate and local levels. He excels with stroke technique and our Senior swimmers are excited to continue to train under him.

JAY TOMASIEWICZ – HEAD JUNIOR COACH

Jay was an excellent age group and HS swimmer from Shorewood (Milwaukee) before joining BAC's coaching staff as a college freshman 10 years ago. Jay has worked with nearly every age and group with BAC but has especially had success with our involved MS-aged athletes. After a year helping to get our Sauk-area programming off to a great start, we're excited to have Jay back in Madison and working with our Junior and Junior Premier swimmers.

JILL DIEHL – HEAD BARABOO COACH

Jill took over as the Head Baraboo Coach last spring and has continued to build upon the strong foundation built by Brenda before her retirement. Jill was actually the driving force behind the process that merged the existing BAM swim club into the BAC family over 5 years ago. In addition to over a decade spent coaching, Jill has been an active board member, organizer, and swim parent for a number of years.

DEREK SCHEER – HEAD SAUK COACH

Another familiar face in a new position. Derek has been a BAC coach for about a decade. He has worked primarily with our HS-aged swimmers in Madison, but with many other groups as well. In addition to his work with BAC, Derek has extensive experience coaching Master's level swimming, as well as organizing and running the safety components of several Ironman races each year. We're thrilled to see some growth in Year 2 of our Sauk site, and we're excited to have Derek leading those groups.

CONNIE MARTIN – DRYLAND COORDINATOR

Longtime BACers are well familiar with the way we were forced to operate during the height of COVID, and the importance of dryland exercise to our training during that time. The silver lining of that experience is that we went into 2021 with a renewed emphasis on that component of practice and the results that we saw - Connie is the driving force behind our excellent dryland programming. Connie has been a BAC Coach for nearly 20 years, and was also an exemplary 'swim mom' for three girls that have come through our program.

SHERRY NEISEN – BUSINESS MANAGER

Returning BAC families know Sherry well, and new families will get to know her soon as well. We're thrilled that she's agreed to stay on in her role as business manager for BAC for at least another year. Sherry has been doing 'the books' for BAC for almost 20 years. She's invaluable in troubleshooting Team Unify questions and issues and does a ton of 'behind the scenes' work to keep the club's operations running smoothly!

EAST SIDE COACHES

Our East Side Groups are going to have 4 different but consistent coaches, led by Alex Beam (3rd year with BAC) and Dan Fortier (2nd year with BAC). Joining them will be Alex's sister Julia (2nd year with BAC) and Michael Radloff who grew up swimming for BAC and is coaching in his 4th year with us.

While the coaches listed are folks in some of the main leadership positions, they're hardly our entire staff. We've got a great group of coaches this year, with a mix of older coaches with decades of experience, young college-aged coaches that are amazing at connecting with our swimmers, and everything in between.

We'd be remiss in not mentioning some of our other lead group coaches, including Alli Bell (WS LBs), Brie Gage (WS Ribbon), Jon Jung (WS Trophy), Rachel Breger and Nicole Oliviera (WS Middle School) and Mikey Drives (WS High School). Be sure to check the link above once the season starts to read up on all the recent bios and get a chance to put faces to names with our staff pics!

Should be a great Fall 2022 season – GO BAC!