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June 10, 2016

Weekly Updates and Reminders for BAC swimmers, parents and coaches

Practice Calendars

Practice calendars are updated on the BAC website. Please check there for any changes in practice times or locations.

Follow BAC on Social Media!

Follow BAC on Facebook (Badger Aquatics Swim Club), Instagram (badger_aquatics) or on Twitter (@SwimBac). If you've got a swimmer practicing with us this spring you'll see some great pics – if you're not around for the spring it's a great chance to see what we're up to!



Preparing for College Swimming

One of the advantages to being on a larger club is that it can give you additional access to certain resources, and at BAC we try to take advantage of that fact. There were recently two different talks given by in-state college swim coaches that we're attended by some BAC parents and coaches. The first was a talk at the first annual WI LSC Awards Banquet by Chris Collier. Coach Collier is currently on the staff at UW-Madison, and comes from a very successful HS and Club Coaching career. The second talk was at the BAC Parent Social and Silent auction, and was given by Joel Rollings. Coach Rollings has coached all over the country and has spent the last 10 years at UW-Whitewater. Obviously not every interested parent was able to attend these talks, so this newsletter will highlight some of the main points brought up at each of these talks.

Coach Rollings talked for about an hour on the perceptions and the

realities of the different levels of collegiate swimming open to interested athletes. His presentation included a lot of details, numbers, and facts and figures along with an overview look at college swimming. For those that missed the presentation or would like to review some of the specifics, the entire power point demonstration has been posted to our website under the 'more info' tab. One of the main things – and probably the biggest overall 'takeaway' - that he discussed is that there is a college and a college swimming program out there for everybody. There are men's and women's programs offered at the NCAA DI, DII, and DIII levels, as well as other organizations like NJCAA and NAIA. 'Higher level' swimming doesn't always mean higher level swimming. There are very accomplished, very committed and serious DIII programs as well as more casual DI programs. It's important to look beyond the division or conference and get more detail about what a school truly has to offer.



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Preparing for College Swimming Cont.

Money to offset the cost of tuition is often available at all levels, it's just structured differently. Only DI and DII schools can offer scholarships that are strictly based on athletic performance. These are essentially one-year contracts that can be pulled by the school for a variety of reasons. The money available at other levels is often in the form of various grants, loans, or academic scholarships. These – by rule – have to be separate from any athletic influence, but they can still help with the cost of the school.

Coach Rollings also discussed the steps a HS athlete should take to be eligible and prepared for college swimming. This was broken down by year in HS and included academic coursework, registering with the NCAA clearinghouse, and learning about perspective schools and programs. He encouraged athletes to visit schools whenever possible to get a feel for the campus. Athletes can take 'official visits' that can be paid for by the school, but it can be equally helpful to take a more informal visit to get a different perspective of a campus.

Other topics in the power point included time differences across divisions and conferences, conduct on official visits, permissible recruiting periods and contact, and about a dozen other things. Please check out the power point if you have a HS aged swimmer that might be at all interested in competing collegiately!

Coach Collier was the key speaker at a Wisconsin LSC Award Banquet in April. While his talk cov-

ered many aspects of collegiate swimming and high-level swimming in general, some of the biggest takeaways from the talk related to transitioning to college swimming (and college life in general) and the level of independence required of a college athlete.

Depending on HS chores and responsibilities, transitioning to college can be a huge culture shock for most kids. They're now forced to independently handle any number of things that were either previously done for them or that they got help with, including laundry, meals and food prep, time management and bedtime, monetary decisions, and academic course load. College athletes can add hours of practice and competition to this weekly schedule. Being able to handle this independence is crucial to success at the college level. One of his statements that garnered the most interest around the room was that the parent has ZERO involvement in the swimmer-coach relationship once that swimmer reaches college.

At BAC, we've always aimed to have a club philosophy and structure that promotes excellence in our athletes, but does so in a way that allows for the continual, progressive development of a swimmer. This includes their development through their HS years and beyond. We're proud of all of our HS graduates, especially the dozens of program alumni that we've sent to various college programs over the last decade. Included in this newsletter is a list of our 'CLASS OF 2016', including their post-HS plans!

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BAC 'Class of 2016'

Alex Center – Memorial – swimming at Washington University
Grant Disch – Memorial – attending UW Platteville
Claire Eckerle – Memorial – attending UW Madison
Katie Lambert – West – attending Emory University
Emma Lederer - West - swimming at Carleton University
Victoria Lin – Middleton - swimming at Boston College
Tess Lutz – West – attending UW Madison
Maggie McNeil – Edgewood – attending UW Madison
Aidan Meara – West – swimming at University of Chicago
Baird Miller – Memorial – attending University of Iowa
Elliott Patterson – Memorial – attending UW Madison
Sam Pyett – Edgewood – attending Colorado Boulder
Charlie Radloff - Memorial - swimming at Savannah College of Art & Design
Sam Roll – Middleton – swimming at IUPUI
Justin Temprano – Memorial – swimming at UW Madison
Roy Weng – West – attending UW Madison
Sam Wheeler – West – attending UW Madison
Michael Zimmerman – West - attending University of Michigan

Join us in congratulating these outstanding young individuals!

*We apologize if we missed any seniors with a BAC history



Badger Aquatics Club