


2006 Joseph G. Rogers Award

For dedication, accomplishment, and excellence in
YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving

Stu Marvin



It all started with a phone call from the meet director late one evening. The timing system at the aquatic center where the National YMCA Swimming & Diving Championships was being held had just crashed. A desperate plea was being made to drive two timing consoles 4 hours north in the middle of the night. Preliminaries were scheduled for 8:00 am and something needed to be done, fast. As the YMCA would come to always know, the answer was "yes" and at 6:00 am the following morning, Stu Marvin walked into the Championship Committee Meeting carrying the timing system that ultimately saved an embarrassing situation. The year was 1991 and it marked the start of a relationship with the YMCA that has covered 16 years.

When hired by the City of Fort Lauderdale to manage the Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex, Stu Marvin's first priority was to bring the YMCA Nationals back to Fort Lauderdale. The meet was moved to Orlando in 1984 when spring break reached its peak and forced the meet out of town. His first official trip was to observe how the event was run. The night before the meet, he watched members of the YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee install touch pads and other equipment. He promised himself that if the meet ever returned to Fort Lauderdale, they would never have to do that type of work again. Thanks in part to his midnight drive, the YMCA returned to Fort Lauderdale in 1992 where it has remained for 14 out of the last 15 years. This remarkable relationship is mostly due to Stu Marvin and his staff that went out of their way to make Y Nationals the best it could be for the swimmers, coaches, parents, and the YMCA of the USA. The pool staff became famous for their motto: "never say no".

Over the years, Stu Marvin's relationship with the YMCA became much more than serving as a meet host. In 1993, following a request by the YMCA Coaches Committee, he instituted time trials for the first time at nationals and has gone on to direct them for 15 years. He has served four different meet directors as their assistant for short course nationals from 1994 - 2004. He was appointed to the YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving Advisory Committee in 1994, and in 1996 he was named meet director for long course nationals in Buffalo, NY. He assisted with the development of the YMCA National Championship Site Selection Bid Form and was instrumental in upgrading emergency response procedures for the championships. But it doesn't end there.

As an avid masters swimmer and one who was involved with the organizational side of United States Masters Swimming, Stu has been very supportive of the YMCA Masters program. He has successfully hosted 5 YMCA Masters National Swim Meets in Fort Lauderdale from 1992 to 2004. Since 1998 he has served as an assistant to the meet director for the Y Masters Nationals at various other facilities around the country. For the past 8 years he has been the liaison between the YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee and United States Masters Swimming. He has also competed in several YMCA Masters Nationals, winning 12 national championships and setting 3 YMCA masters national records.

Stu has also been involved in the local swimming community as well. He recently received the Florida Gold Coast Masters' Hall of Fame Award for his contributions to masters swimming in South Florida. He is currently the Vice Chairman of Florida Gold Coast Swimming, served as FGC Secretary for three years, and has been on the FGC Board of Directors since 1998. Stu was a member of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Beach Council for several years and received an Award of Appreciation from the County Board of Commissioners in 2000 for his promotion of amateur sporting events in Broward County. He is a former member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame's International Congress and helped Swim & Dive Fort Lauderdale raise funds for swimmers and divers needing financial assistance in order to stay involved in their sport. Stu was also a speaker for the Leadership Broward Foundation's Youth Leadership Program from 1991 to 1998, and in 1993 received the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitor's Bureau Courtesy Award for his commitment to tourism.

In November of 2004, Stu retired from the City of Fort Lauderdale and has focused his attention on his family: his wife, Meg, and their two boys, Kel and Matthew. He continues to support the YMCA by serving on the host committee for the 2006 Short Course Championships and the 2006 Masters Nationals, because he can "never say no".