

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Bottom's Up Swim Meet

34th annual event drew 700 participants

Submitted by Randy DeVecchi



OCC's Lea leads her race before the turn

Photo Jordan Fong



15 year old Valerie Su swimming backstroke

Photo Les Hata

Hundreds of local swimmers, from five to 15 years old raced in the 34th Annual "Bottom's Up" swim meet hosted by Moraga Valley Pool.

This event features children at the bottom of their respective age brackets and gives them a chance to compete against other swimmers their own age. It differs from most local swim meets because it brings together all Orinda-Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) bottom age group swimmers for a one day event, rather than the typical meets where kids swim against one team with age appropriate groupings.

More than 700 participants swam in the events, including

mixed relays, individual medleys, free, back, breast, fly, and the day wrapped up with the coaches relays and parents relays.

Assistant head coach for Moraga Valley Pool, Adam Schaefer was impressed with the fierce competition and the efforts by all of the swimmers. "As a team, we have been working extremely hard, and today there were a lot of popped times. This shows that all of their hard work is paying off". He added, "It's great for these kids to have this venue and this event, it will prepare all of them for a great time at OMPA."

During the day, boys and girls competed for their best times and

the top ten swimmers in each event earned points for their respective teams. Orinda Country Club led the nine swim clubs with the most points and won the championship trophy for total team points scored. OCC head coach Steve Hauffler was pleased with the results of his swimmers after a day at the pool, "The meet went very well, and the kids swam great."

A pat on the back was earned by all who participated, but only a few earned the distinction of breaking new "Bottom's Up" records. Two meet records were set by five year old Brody Crouch of Moraga Ranch in the 25-yard freestyle and the 25-yard butterfly. Maddie Murphy of Orinda Country Club also set two new meet records in the 50-backstroke and 50-butterfly. Another meet record was set by Sleepy Hollow in the 200 Medley Relay featuring mixed nine year olds.

The Legends head coach Matt Ehrenberger was pleased with his team's success, "Overall it was a good meet for all the swimmers who attended. Soda Center is a really fast pool and leads to great races." He added, "Sleepy Hollow did well; our nine years olds were particularly strong in both the girls and boys."

High point winners in each age group also went home holding trophies. High point winners were as follows: Boy's Champions - Brody Crouch, 5, Moraga Ranch Swim Club; Mark McCurdy, 7, Moraga Country Club; Marcus Ferreira, 9, Sleepy Hollow; Cole Stevens, 11, Moraga Country Club; Jonathan Ratchford, 13, Moraga Country Club; Tennyson May, 15, Meadow Swim Team. Girl's Champions - Allie Saber, 5, Sleepy Hollow; Alex Fellner, 7, Orinda Country Club; Kenna Van Steyn, 9, Sleepy Hollow; Maddie Murphy, 11, Orinda Country Club; Allison Miller, 13, Orinda Country Club; Molly Schoenfeld, 15, Orinda Park Pool.

Local Rowers Take First Place in Philadelphia Regatta

Submitted by Gloria Lenhart



The four plus cox boat is the winning boat with (from the back not including the cox) Matt, Billy and Zack Photo provided

While most kids participate in traditional sports, recent Campolindo High School graduate Matthew Lenhart, current student Billy Deskin and Acalanes High School student Zack Attaran are athletes of the lesser-known sport of rowing. The local boys began rowing with the Oakland Strokes under for-


mer Olympic rower Ivan Smiljanic. Recently, the athletes were selected to participate in an intensive, competitive five-week summer rowing program. The boys traveled Back East as three of the 19 specially selected athletes from eight states and Canada to row for the Pennsylvania Athletic Club Rowing

Association.

As a part of the Penn AC Club the boys raced in the Independence Day Regatta in Philadelphia. The three-day regatta has been continuously held since 1880 and is the largest summer club regatta in the U.S.

The local athletes held three out of the four seats in the Men's Junior 4+ (four rowers plus a coxswain) and they rowed to a first place victory in a six boat race, beating the second place boat by 1.46 seconds. Attaran gained a second win as part of the Men's Junior 8 team that blasted through the finish line over three seconds in front of the other five boats.

First place finishers received a commemorative watch awarded dockside by a grand master of the Schuylkill Navy, the 150-year-old organization that oversees Philadelphia's famed Boathouse Row.





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Eight and Under Swimmers participate in special event

By Lucy Amaral



Coaches Jesus Salcedo (OCC), Chris Horner (Meadow) and Kevin Honey (Sleepy Hollow) Photo Kaye Jacuzzi

More than 650 swimmers, all ages eight and under, from eight Lamorinda swim clubs converged on Meadow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda, July 19 for the 39th annual Meadow Mini Meet.

Designed specifically for the smallest swim set, this was truly a battle of the ages, where each child swam against someone their own age rather than being grouped into a "six and under" or "seven/eight" category. "The purpose of this event is to highlight the younger swimmers," said Kaye Jacuzzi, who along with Joy Braitberg, organized this year's event. "It evens the playing field, age-wise."

Jacuzzi said that this event serves as the main fundraiser for Meadow to support swim team activities and as an official meet, the results count on a League level. Joining Meadow swimmers were Orinda/Moraga Pools Association teams including Orinda Country Club, Orinda Park Pool, Moraga Valley Pool, Moraga Country Club, Campo Cabana Club, Sleepy Hollow and Miramonte Swim Club.

Jacuzzi estimated that more than 1,500 people filtered through the club during the day in both the form of swimmers and fans. Accenting the festive day, food from Baja Fresh and Jamba Juice was available, a 'mini meet' store with inexpensive trinkets was set up for the kids, and a swim gear vendor offered its wares. "We even have a woman who braided and beaded hair, raising money for Helping Hands."

Jacuzzi said it was a truly swim club-wide event. "Our own Meadow's nine and up swimmers

work at this event," she said. "They work in the mini meet store, shepherd the kids when it's their turn to swim. It's a nice full circle."

Marilyn Blackburn, whose daughters swam for and still belong to Meadow, headed the committee that put on the first Mini Meet in 1970. The meet, she said, was conceived along very pragmatic lines. "We needed new lane lines and the swim team didn't have the money for lane lines," said Blackburn.

She and the other swim team committee members decided that an invitational focusing on the youngest swimmers would fit the bill. "If you're four years old and swimming against someone who is six, you don't stand a chance," said Blackburn. "We wanted to give these kids a chance."

Not that Blackburn was expecting any County times, but it was serious business for the kids and she made sure they were rewarded for their hard work. "Everybody got something after they swam, either a place ribbon or heat ribbon," she said.

Thirty-seven years later, the Mini Meet is going stronger than ever and, of course, every competitor still receives a ribbon "The kids love it," said Jacuzzi. And, she added while it's an invitational, "It has the feeling of a championship meet. It's very official and trophies are given to the winning team."

At day's end, Orinda Country Club's swim team took first place, Meadow Swim and Tennis Club's team took second and Sleep Hollow Swim and Tennis Club's team took third.

New Mini Meet records

- Provided by Meadow Swim and Tennis Club
- Name: Channing Hanley**
Age: 6
Team: Orinda Country Club
Event: 6-yr old girls 25 yd Breaststroke
Time: 23.33 seconds
Previous record: 23.60 seconds
- Name: Brody Crouch**
Age: 5
Team: Moraga Ranch Swim Club
Event: 5-yr old boys 25 yd butterfly
Time: 21.07
Previous record: 22.72
- Name: Ashleen O'Brien**
Age: 8
Team: Campolindo Cabana Club
Event: 8-yr old girls 25 yard butterfly
Time: 15.70
Previous record: 15.80
- Event: 5-yr old boys 100 yd medley relay
Team: Moraga Ranch Swim Club
Names: Luca Rago, Brody Crouch, William McGaughey, Cooper Lenahan
Time: 1:54.95
Previous record: 1:58.56
- Event: 5-yr old Boys 100 yd Freestyle Relay
Team: Moraga Ranch Swim Club
Names: William McGaughey, Luca Rago, Cooper Lenahan, Brody Crouch
Time: 1:34.94
Previous record: 1:39.53
- Event: 8-yr old girls 100 yd Freestyle Relay
-- TIED MEET RECORD
Team: Orinda County Club
Names: Alex Fellner, Paige Hanley, Sophia Kosturos, Ryan Hagglund
Time: 1:03.69

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