

Desert Storm Swimming



National Group Meet Schedule

- > Sept 11—BCH Desert Invitational
- > Sept 24-27— DSS September Invitational
- > Oct 30-31-Sandpiper Pumpkin Meet
- > Nov. 12-14 Kevin Perry Senior D
- > Dec. 2-5 USA Short Course Nationals
- > Dec. 9-12 USA Short Course Junior Nationals
- > Dec. 10-12-Winter Age Group Championships

Team Schedule

- > Sept. 11 –BCH Desert Invitational
- > Sept 24-27– DSS September Invitational
- > Oct 30-31 Sandpiper Pumpkin Meet
- > Nov. 20-21– BCH Short Course
- > Dec. 10-12 –Winter Age Group Championships

Message from Coach Bill

On September 1st, Desert Storm will be celebrating our 10th anniversary. So as we begin our 11th year of operations, the coaching staff wants to welcome all the new swimmers to Desert Storm, as well as all the returning swimmers and their families, to another exciting year with Desert Storm.

We have made some changes to our format. Hollee Garcia will continue to be the club's head Age Group Coach, but in addition, she will start a new group called the Junior National Group. The purpose and function of this group is to get swimmers ready for the National Group. Increased practice time and work load will be added, and a continued emphasis will be placed on technique.

The formation of this group was made possible by the hiring of a new coach. At this time I want to introduce Lalo Rodales as the newest coach for Desert Storm. Lalo is one of the more experienced coaches in the Las Vegas Valley. In the past Lalo was the Head Coach for the Sandpipers, and the High School Group coach for Team Rebel Aquatics. For the past 10 years, Lalo has been raising his family and teaching math at Von Tobel. Desert Storm is very lucky to get Lalo out of retirement. His coaching philosophy very closely follows that of our existing staff.

There will be a parent meeting on Thursday September the 9th, that will be lead by coaches, Sara, Hollee and Bill. At that time we will explain some of the

changes for the 2011 season. Also, at that meeting parents will be asked to volunteer for the upcoming Desert Storm September Invitational. That will be the first of the 3 meets we will host this coming season, the next meet will be in April.



Making Splashes in New Pools

Following the California/Nevada sectional meet, two of our long time swimmers have moved on to college.



Alix Mertel, will spend the next 4 school seasons at New Mexico St University. Alix spent over 10 years swimming for DSS, and the last 8 in the senior group. Over the years, Alix was a multiple State champion, reached finals numerous times at JO's and set many team records. Alix qualified for Junior Nationals in the 1- & 200

back, and the 200 IM. Additionally, Alix was a two time Scholastic All-American. She will be very hard to replace, but she will return in May and represent DSS for the summer season. Also Moving on to college is Brian



Martinez. Brian was one of the original members of Desert Storm. He will be spending the next 4 years swimming for California State-

Bakersfield. Brian has a similar resume to Alix Mertel. In addition, Brian

was a Junior Nation Finalist and swimming A-American in the 100 Free and 100 Breast. Over the years, Brian was a Junior Nation Qualifier in the 50-100-200 free, 100-200 breast, and the 200 IM. We wish both departing athletes much success and happiness at college. Also, former DSS swimmer Galab Cline is now a manager for the West Point swim team, where former Storm Star Bret Lundgaard is coaching.

Desert Storm Swimming

Swimmers of the Summer

Each year we like to recognize the outstanding swimmers in each group. This is always a tough decision, and this year was no different.

Senior/National Group: This year, the choice was so difficult that two swimmers were chosen for the award. All the Senior group had outstanding summers, but these two were just a little bit better. **Dylan Wolf** had one



of his best summers ever. Dylan made final swims at Swim Meet of Champions, The LA Grand Prix, and

won numerous medals at the California/Nevada Sectional Meet. At the Junior National Championships, Dylan placed 12th in the 200 fly, with a new team record, and with a time that will in all probability, be a 2012 Olympic Trial qualifying time. Dylan will be only the second DSS swimmer to reach that standard.



Nicole Mertel is sharing the honor of Swimmer of the Summer. Nicole also made final swims at the

Swim Meet of Champions, and the LA Grand Prix. It was at LA that Nicole not only qualified for the Long Course Junior National Championships, but she also

qualified for the Short Course Senior National Championships. Nicole becomes the first DSS woman to qualify for any USA Swimming Senior Meet. In total, she set 4 new team records over the summer. Both Dylan and Nicole will be in Columbus, Ohio for the Senior National meet this December.

JD Group: **Hristo Mirchev** was



the unanimous choice for this group. Hristo increased his attendance and work ethic. At

the Summer AA meet, Hristo place in both breaststroke events, and then at Jo's he repeated the feat. Hristo came very close to making the Sectional cut in the 200 Breast. Hristo has moved to the Junior Group, and is working harder towards his goal of the Senior/National Group.

State Group: **Jaime Martinez**



improved in numerous areas. His attendance was greatly improved. Jaime followed direc-

tions, worked very hard and concentrated on his technique.

High School Group: **Joseph Buthro** is a new comer to the



sport, but he was a real please to have in the group. His ability to work hard while holding his technique, and at

the same time maintaining a positive attitude was simply inspiring.

Novice I and II: **Jeffrey Madu-eno** and **Angel Rocha**. Both



these young men have started their swimming careers in the right directions. Each swimmer comes to prac-



tice regularly, work hard, and has great attitudes. Positive things are ex-

pected out of both these fine young swimmers.

Congratulations to all the winners. It shows that hard work pays off.



If you haven't signed up to help with our September swim meet please contact Lea Martinez or your child's coach.

