



INSIDE THE WAVES

The Official Newsletter of the Waves of Westlake

WAVES CARRY MANTLE OF VETERAN TEAM

2009 WAVES SCHEDULE

JUNE 20—Silver Spring Tsunami @ WOW

JUNE 27th—WOW @ Greenbelt

JULY 4th—BelAir Swim & Racquet @ WOW

JULY 11th—WOW @ Whitehall Pool & Tennis

JULY 18th—Montpelier @ WOW

(End of Regular Season)

JULY 19th—Charles County Championships!

JULY 25th—Division B Championship Meet

JULY 25th—Awards Banquet

AUGUST 1st—All-Star Meet

Thanks to Everyone Who Volunteered at Time Trials!

The Waves would like to thank all the parents who stepped up to volunteer for deck positions, photography, snack bar and setup/breakdown this past weekend. This was the first Time Trials event in years where we got everyone we needed with just one request, and there were no delays getting underway! Your support for our kids was fantastic, and we'll need you again this season.

As the Waves left the water at the end of the 2005 PMSL swim season, they had just completed a 20-5 regular season meet record dating back to 2001. Making that record even more impressive, the Waves included in those numbers a 2-3 record during a one-year stay in the A Division. Against non-division A teams, the Waves were 18-2 in a four year span and captured the Charles County Championship four consecutive times. There were storm clouds on the horizon however. The coaching staff that guided the Waves during those years was departing, and the team encountered three heavy losses of 18 year old swimmers in a row. All of that resulted in the Waves going into rebuilding mode in 2006. Despite having the talent to keep division rivals close, they were too young, and age groups too thin to get over the top against a very tough B Division. 2006 and 2007 saw the Waves slump to a 1-9 regular season meet record, but were able to hold onto the Charles County title for two more years.

Despite the losses, this newsletter continued to report that the young Waves were building, and that in many cases over-achieved to stay strong enough for the PMSL to keep the Waves in B Division.

In 2008, the Waves rallied for a 3-2 regular season record, but as their confidence grew, the Waves grew

from a young team, into a team with some swagger that expected to win the big meets. Despite two close disappointing losses, the Waves shocked the B Division by winning the Division Championship meet, and narrowly missing capturing the division trophy. Montpelier won the trophy based on a 2 point victory over the Waves during the regular season.

Now there will be no more “over-achieving” or accepting close losses due to youth and inexperience. For the first time since 2005, the Waves are considered throughout the Division as one of the most veteran groups, and as luck sometimes has it, the aging process has progressed perfectly. For the first time in a long time every age group will be deep and very talented, and in the PMSL where numbers and depth prove daunting for smaller teams, the Waves are positioned for a strong run this season. Add in consistency in the coaching ranks with three long time former Waves, and Westlake Wolverines head coach, Seth Rose, and this should be a fun campaign.

So allow me to make my 2009 prediction! Waves to go 4-1, tie for first in the division, win the trophy at the Divisional meet, and cruise to their eighth straight Charles title too. But win or lose, let's get out and support these kids. They deserve a full house!

WEEKLY REPORT FROM DIVISION B

2009 B Division		
Montpelier	0-0	0 pts
Westlake	0-0	0 pts
Greenbelt	0-0	0 pts
Belair S&R	0-0	0 pts
Silver Spring	0-0	0 pts
Whitehall	0-0	0 pts

The Waves will be trying to open 2009 in style with a home meet win over Silver Spring Swim Team at Dorchester Pool. The meet begins promptly at 8:30 and swimmers should arrive in time for warm-ups as instructed by the coaches. Silver Spring is a smaller team, but not small on talent. They hold a two year winning streak over the Waves, and we'll need to swim our best to avoid an opening letdown. In Bowie, Montpelier invades Whitehall Pool and Tennis, while Greenbelt visits Belair Swim and

Racquet. BSR and Whitehall were long-time residents of A Division, while Montpelier and Greenbelt more closely resemble the progression of the Waves through the PMSL divisions. There isn't an easy win among the six teams in the B Division and it really will come down this season to who can field the best team from week to week. Absences due to vacations, other sports and swimming tournaments always play a huge role in who comes out on top in the tight scoring meets.

July 19th...three hours to glory...win it...own it...live it...Charles County Championship



CHARLES COUNTY SWIMMING NEWS

Focus on Smallwood: our friends and county rivals from the other side of Rt 301. The Marlins were one of the premier PMSL teams for many years, preceding the Waves to A Division for a short stay and dominating B and C Divisions consistently. As with many teams, age outs of both swimmers and parents contributed to a downturn several years ago and Smallwood moved down to D Division where they remain a power.

Smallwood used to host the annual Shark Meet, a nighttime meet during the swim season where the older swimmers could compete in a laid back atmosphere, with a little rock and roll playing over the speakers, and a chance to win ribbons and some choice prizes. It also was well known for some interesting variations of swimsuit design and stroke techniques! Good luck to the Marlins in 2009 and see you at Three Brothers!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Prince-Mont Swim League celebrates the start of its 50th season on Saturday. The league has grown into one of the most respected leagues throughout Maryland and boasts 39 teams stretching from Southern Maryland to northern PG County and Montgomery County. The PMSL is selling 50th Anniversary magnets at www.princemont.org.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE PMSL

While we focus on bringing home a B Division Championship, there are six teams just above us in A Division that will be hotly contesting the top spot among the PMSL's 39 teams.

Still a holdover from Westlake's one season in A Division, Belair Bath and Tennis is considered the early favorite this season, but they will be battling the formidable Maximum, Velocity, Propulsion (MVP) select team from DC,

the deeply talented West Laurel Swim Team, former rival Strathmore Bel Pre, Takoma Park and Teresa Banks Swim Team. Teresa Banks is a quality swim organization who regularly competes at the Annual Black Heritage Swim Meet, and was a two year rival of the Waves in B Division. The meets we held with MVP were classics with each team winning once in close finishes. Good luck to the "big six" in 2009.

WANT TO BE A TIMER? IT'S THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!

Looking for a way to get a better view of your child during a meet? The view from "way back" can be frustrating! Well then volunteer to time a home or away meet. Timing requires no advance training, and really puts you on top of the action throughout the meet. The team will provide you a stopwatch, and you will join two other timers in each lane to decide the

official times for each event. It also gives you a great chance to meet the other parents from both teams, and get to know all of your fellow Wave swimmers.

There also is a need for an official team photographer and someone to get meet results/info to the Southern Maryland Independent newspaper.

Shhh, I hear it...the cheering...the trophy...EIGHT STRAIGHT! Be there!! July 19th...

For late-breaking Waves news: www.wavesofwestlake.info