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UA3/8 Swimming Alum Newsletter

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Summary Report



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Office of Athletics

Hello Alums -

This is the year! Before you read on, go mark your calendar for January 20, 1990. Go make arrangements to get off work and plan to be at our big alumni bash. It's been five years now since the last one, so we're due for the dinner dance, swim meet, et al.

What's new? I have a new office - it's actually pretty nice - , but you won't find me upstairs anymore. They have built me an office in the pool (well, not in the pool). They have taken all the chairs out of the classroom at the diving end of the pool and built me a place across the whole back wall. I have a nice big window overlooking the pool, and it's about three times the size of my old cubby hole! You all will have to come and see it!

Let me try to fill you in on some of our alums. I just have to come up with a better filing system for this - it's hard enough just keeping up with addresses - let alone babies, weddings, and job changes. The computer age has passed me by. I made a couple of weddings this summer - John Holst was married in the Chattanooga area, and about a week later Bobby Peck bit the dust in far Eastern Kentucky. Both were very nice weddings, and I enjoyed seeing Ricky Peck, Kevin & Ann Swaidner, Pete & Cheryl Edwards, Bob & Mary Couch, Tim Roszman, Tyler Nelson, and Ryan Harden - all made one or both of those weddings.

Many of you sent back my questionnaire last year, and I was happy to receive those and hear from so many of you. Brian Collins (1973-75) is now owner/president of Commonwealth Inc., a warehouse and distributing company. Gary Oertel (1980) has moved back from Hawaii to Louisville (culture shock). Tom (T.R.) and Linda Ross (1977-81) are still enjoying life in Germany and will return this spring - too late for our alumni meet. They will return with three children - (they left with two). Laura was born 12-8-88. David Horton (1982-83) is coaching swimming in Atlanta - saw him and had a nice visit at the USA vs. USSR dual meet in August. Tom Angsten called the other day. He's also in the Atlanta area, working as a quality engineer for Yamaha - he plans to be at our November 4th meet in Atlanta. Jeff and Martha Wells (1975-78) popped out another baby in April - Jeff did it right this time and got a boy - Andrew Lane (4-30-89). Mark and Cathy (Lewis) Wells are in Paris - Kentucky, that is, where Mark owns a lawn care service. They made it to our meet in Lexington last year, and it was great to see them and their four year old - Benjamin. Rick and Jackie Yeloushan (1970-74) are still running Tampa Schwinn Bicycle Shop. Rick is now in his 19th year of slow pitch softball and, according to Rick, is more awesome than ever - also doing a little masters swimming. Their 12 year old son, Ryan, is quite an athlete which should surprise no one. Tim and Elizabeth (Hocker) Slattery (1982-83) just added to their family with a new little boy (WKU swimmer 2007). I'll still be coaching, because I'll only be 70 years old.

Mark Owens (1973-77) is the manager of Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Western Technologies Inc. in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tate Nation (1971-73) is an illustrator and says he is the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in graphics. He lives in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, which as you all know was hit hard by Hurricane Hugo.

As of the end of October, they are still trying to dig out. Houses all around them disappeared. Tate and Jeannie were "lucky", but only compared to those around them. They suffered a lot of property damage, but fortunately, no personal injuries. Tate says it's still like living in a war zone.

Mark (Tex) and Laura Ritter (1977-81) are doing great in Louisville. Tex is an anesthetist extraordinaire in Norton Hospital. He bought a Volvo, got a new baby, and is #1 in Who's Who in Yuppie America. He continues to stamp out evil and save lives in the uptown operating rooms of Louisville. Bob and Connie Shaw (1971-73) are living in Yorktown, Virginia, where Bob is the sales director for Commercial Flight Services. Ford and Janie King (1973-74) are still in Meridian, Mississippi, where Ford is known as the "joke telling, machine gunning Chaplain." He received his Doctor of Ministry degree. He is the pastor of Central Presbyterian Church and is also Chaplain (Captain) for the Mississippi National Guard. Big news from Jeff Cavana (1975-79) - Jeff has left his job as head swim coach at Wright State University and has been named the assistant swim coach at Louisiana State University. He is enjoying the new job at LSU and says he is fast becoming a Cajun - still unmarried and on his questionnaire under children's names, he wrote "Unsure!" Here's a twist - Butch Dymowski is going to practically become family to me! He is marrying my niece's sister-in-law up in Michigan. Talk about a small world - Butch, his fiancee, my niece, and her husband all went to dinner together, and my niece started talking about her crazy uncle who was the swimming coach at WKU. Butch sat there with his mouth hanging open, thinking the whole thing was a set up - my niece had no idea that Butch spent four years down here with me. When they both decided the other one wasn't kidding, they went to the phone and called me.

Steve Crocker (1982-85) is still training for the 1992 Olympics. All he's done this year is win U.S. National Indoors (19.5), placed 2nd in Outdoor Nationals (22.45 l.c. - which was just twenty-two one hundredths of a second off the world record and the third fastest in the history of swimming.) He finished 3rd at the Pan Pacific Games in Tokyo (got a rare bad start in the final - should have had second, but Jager broke the world record in first place, 22.12). Then he competed in the USA-Soviet Union dual meet. I went down to watch the meet - Steve led for 49 meters, 3 feet, 2 inches, and got touched out by Vladimer Tchurchenko by two one hundredths of a second.

Dan Powell (1984-88) is a financial consultant for First Investors Corporation, a Wall Street firm. He has been their top salesman every month he's been with the firm and makes in a month about what his old man makes in a year. However, he hasn't been in a pool since the 1988 Olympic Trials - total withdrawal.

Dr. Steve Merrill is still pulling teeth in Indiana but is heading for a two year general dentistry residency in San Antonio, Texas. He says he's looking forward to the warm climate. He'll leave in the summer of 1990. Dick and Marcia Torp (1971-73) are happy campers. After 14 years, they finally entered family life. They are the proud parents of Dana Michelle who, according to her mother, at the age of 6 months, hikes, horsback rides, camps, swims, skis, sticks her face in the dog's water bowl and blow bubbles, pulls the plug from the bath tub with her mouth, chews electrical cords, hits the dogs, and falls down steps. But then, what else can you expect from a kid who's mom fell while walking on her husband's back and forced him out of some swim meets?

Kevin Swaidner is still a geologist, working as a consultant. Kevin's wife, Ann, is a CPA. Chris and Melanie Karsen are the proud parents of a little girl (Megan Michelle - 11-23-88). Mark and Melissa Hackler are enjoying their life in Spain with their three beautiful little girls. Mark is still flying and his flights have taken him to Germany, England, Greece, Turkey, and Italy.

Art Manwell is coaching high school swimming in Michigan. I saw him this year when I went up to the state high school meet on a recruiting trip.

I had a phone call awhile back from Gary Binger (1971-74) and Jim Finn (1972-74). They were in a smoke-filled honky tonk somewhere in Arizona. Jim, who resides in Texas, was on a business trip in Arizona. He looked up Gary, and they got together to discuss the good old days.

We've just finished Homecoming weekend. John Mc Clure, Mike Hill, and Keith Romine all came down and had a great time. I also saw Tom Potter for the first time in years. He is working in one of the hospitals in Nashville. Also attending Homecoming festivities were Steve Crocker, Jay Mc Atee, and Matt Rydson. It was a great weekend as the Hilltoppers pummeled Tennessee Tech 61-14.

I have once again included the questionnaire at the bottom of the page. If you didn't send in last year's or you had something new happening, by all means send it back to me. I will be sending you a questionnaire concerning our alumni swim meet and swimming homecoming in the near future, so be on the lookout for it.

I have also enclosed our Hilltopper Athletic Foundation pamphlet, and I urge you to make a contribution. All of the money goes into our program, so you can be assured the right team is getting it. While the different memberships are outlined in increments of \$25 to \$125, you can give any amount you desire. Your help is really needed and appreciated. If all of you give a little bit, it would really help. Last year we had a \$500 donation from Pete Edwards, \$200 from Jeff Cavana and John Eaves, and \$100 or more from Bob Peck, Rick Yeloushan, Brian Collins, Bruce Binger, Bill Lowendick, Bob Shaw, James Mullikin, Tag Garrod, Anne Powell, Keith Romine, and Gary Oertel. We also had some parents who went over the \$100 mark. We really appreciate this and hope to add to our "100 Club" members this year. Our alums have contributed in the neighborhood of \$3,000 each year. I would like to see us break that mark this year.

Coach *Coach*

NAME _____

WIFE' NAME _____

PRESENT JOB _____

PRESENT ADDRESS _____

YEAR SWAM AT WKU _____

CHILDREN'S NAMES & AGES _____

Recent family events, professional accomplishments, athletic endeavors, or whatever else you would like to tell me _____

