

The Meadowbrook Woods Sporting Times

Special Mini-Makos Edition

30 July 2010

Mini-Makos Conclude Banner Season!

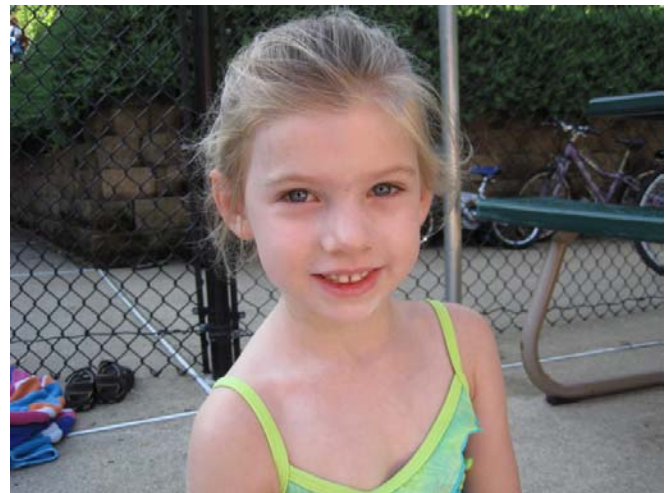
As farm systems go, the Atlanta Braves are renowned at “hiding” talented amateur players so that other major league teams don’t seek to lure them away. Their latest diamond-in-the-rough slip is right-fielder Jason Heyward. Of the 6’-4”, 220-lb south-pawed phenom, team manager Bobby Cox says he can close his eyes during batting practice and know that Jason is batting because the sound of his batted balls is louder than anyone else on the team.

Closer to home, the MBW Mini-Makos take just the opposite approach. Coaches Kathy Meltzer and Rhonda O’Neal have a very talented bunch and are pleased to let the community know that some future stars are on the way. To give perspective, youngsters start with the “simple” goal of swimming from the wall to the first row of flags (approximately 5 meters). Working closely with a host of swimmer coaches, they tend to progress rapidly and are sometimes called up to “The Show” during the course of the season to swim with the big kids.

Meltzer was especially optimistic about Katie Harmon who she believes is most improved for the Minis this summer. “Katie wasn’t able to put her head in the water early on, but soon swam 5-meters to pass her first test. Now she’s freestyling up a storm, breathing, and working on her backstroke.” Meltzer cited longtime Makos standouts Lauren Sargent and Camille Derderian who worked closely with Harmon to get her started and using the proper stroke technique. Other swimmer-coaches that have done a terrific job this summer include Jessica Rapone, Sarah Olsen, R.J. O’Neal, Rhyanna O’Neal, and Reagan Goulla. Avery Ouellette served as a junior coach for the youngsters.



With some hard working youngsters in the Mini-Makos feeder program, the future looks bright for MBW. Shown here are Owen ‘Astro Boy’ Graydon, Jasmine Beckett, Reese Orwig, and Katelyn Cassedy on the front row and Zachary Marks, Katherine Fowler and Liam Harman on the back row.



Five-year-old Libby Weaver was named “Hardest Worker” for the Minis.

“Why I like being a Mini-Mako”



Being a Mini-Mako is fun in many ways. For ‘starters,’ you receive encouragement from older swimmers.



When swimming on my back, I can see the clouds.



The coaches are very helpful.



After slaving for my parents all day, sometimes I like to get away from it all and float.



These groovy goggles keep the sun out of my eyes.



Sometimes I feel like I can walk on water.



We get to wear caps just like the big kids.



Mini-Mako Meet Results

Shown below are results from the mini-meet conducted on Tuesday, July 27. Note that placing first is not the goal. Instead, simply swimming from one end of the pool to the other is the goal. Congratulations to everyone involved. Now you have a target for next season!

#1 Mixed Mini-Mako 25 SC Meter Kickboard

1. Owen Graydon	3	1:01:12
2. Sarah Meltzer	4	59.54
3. Zach Marks	5	44.60
4. Jasmine Beckett	5	43.12
5. Libby Weaver	6	1:03:00
6. Allison Marzo	6	41.19
7. Katelyn Cassidy	6	1:03:00
8. Katie Harmon	7	40:07
9. Owen Orwig	7	35.59

#2 Mixed Mini-Mako 25 SC Meter Freestyle

1. Owen Orwig	7	39.02
2. Zach Meltzer	6	42.09
3. Jasmine Beckett	5	46.03
4. Katelyn Cassidy	6	47.09
5. Zach Marks	5	45.34
6. Sarah Meltzer	4	58.21
7. Katie Harmon	7	52.00
8. Allison Marzo	6	50.45
9. Libby Weaver	6	1:00:41
10. Owen Graydon	3	1:05:83



Faces – and Artwork – in the Crowd



Seven-year-old Owen Graydon's favorite board game is 'Operation' and his preferred vacation destination is Mexico. Coach Meltzer named Graydon the best 'Backstroker' for the Minis.



Five-year-old Jazzy Beckett's favorite game is 'Monopoly' and she likes to read 'Cat in the Hat.' Beckett was named 'Most Enthusiastic' swimmer this summer for the Minis.



Libby Weaver (5), whose favorite vacation destination is Disney World, says Minnie Mouse rocks.



In addition to swimming, Sarah Meltzer plays soccer. Her favorite book is '101 Dalmations.' At age four, Sarah may be one of the youngest – if not the youngest swimmer – ever to complete an event for the Makos. At home last Saturday vs. Veterans Park, she dropped 25-sec off her 25m Freestyle. Great job, Sarah!



Zach Marks (5) - whose artwork appears above and whose photograph appears below with Maddy Ingram - likes going to Grandma's house to 'get away from it all.' His favorite book is 'Star Wars.' Coach Meltzer named Marks as the 'Best Kicker' on the squad.





When not swimming, Katelyn Harmon (7) enjoys dancing and reading – her favorite book is ‘Goodnight Moon.’ Katie won the ‘Most Improved’ swimmer award this summer.



Outside the pool, Liam Page (6) enjoys playing soccer and reading books by Dr. Seuss. Page was awarded ‘Best Listener’ this summer.



Aspiring artists of all ages were on hand at poolside this summer for the Minis.

Special thanks to Sarah Olsen who helped the youngsters over the past eight weeks.



Katelyn Cassedy and Sarah Meltzer were all smiles last Saturday during warm-ups as they prepared for their very first meet with the Makos.



Cassedy (left) enjoys a moment with Jazzy Beckett and Owen Graydon. Swimming in her first meet for the Makos, Beckett won a heat ribbon vs. Veterans Park last Saturday. At age three, Graydon may be the youngest ever Mini-Mako.

