

The Orca Coaches

You and your kid(s) know his/her/their coach(es) very well, don't you? And more than likely, you are wild over him/her/them. But what about that tall lanky boy or that sweet girl who's always smiling? Wouldn't you like to know a thing about him and her? We thought as much. So we wrote up a little survey for each of them to fill out and then we picked out an interesting factoid or two from the surveys to relay to you. In answering our queries, some coaches were reserved and some were darn right loquacious.

The Guys



Handsome is as handsome does

From left to right: Mike Deely, Ryan Whitsitt, David Gerstle

Our inimitable head coach, **Ryan Whitsitt**, is 20 years old. Ryan coaches everyone but especially concentrates on training 11 and up. This fall, Ryan will be a junior at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. His favorite swim event is the 400-freestyle relay. Ryan enjoyed "The Shawshank Redemption" because "the main character shows incredible determination to achieve his goal". Ryan shares the following story from his water polo days at Naperville North:

"My senior year of water polo, we were doing drills and my friend John and I were leading the drills. We were treading around the deep end at Naperville North when all of a sudden I hear this gigantic splash. Our coach, who was yelling at us for doing it wrong, got so animated when he was leaning on the goal that the goal actually caved under his weight and he and the goal went into the water. [Editor's Note: Said coach can best be described as Santa's physical clone, but with a red goatee instead of a long, curly, white beard!] John and I were so mad since we were the only two who hadn't seen it happen, but our other teammate Jon said one of the funniest things I have ever heard in my life: 'When that goal fell and I knew Coach was coming down on top of me, I actually saw my life flash before my eyes.' To this day, whenever I think about the story, I chuckle to myself."

David Gerstle who is 18 will begin college life at Yale University this fall. David coaches the 9-10 age group and favors the 100M event. David was thrilled to have finally made Sectionals in the 200M for Naperville North last winter “after four years of very hard work” because he “started as a slow JV swimmer”. He appreciated the crowd cheering when he stood on the block at the start of the race - it helped him shave another 4 seconds off his best time. David's favorite musical performer is concert cellist Yo-Yo Ma because “he really cares about the music he plays and is a master of his instrument”. (David plays cello, too, by the way.) He likes fall because “I like crisp air and listening to the leaves underneath my feet, and fall is football season – a great way to waste Sunday afternoons”. [Editors Note: Because David's mother has a nasty habit of talking to herself, she let the Editor know that David is only imagining such idle afternoons because the boy hasn't had a chance to waste a Sunday afternoon since he left Junior High.]

Michael Deely is 15 and will be a sophomore at Naperville North this fall. Mike works with the 6-U and 7-8 groups. He can butterfly 100 yards like nobodies business! Mike enjoys the *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, and *Batman* movies and reads Lemony Snicket novels, but his all-time favorite book is Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird. Using his Word™ skills, Mike was able to fit the following anecdote into the very average-sized space provided for answering the question about a favorite memory:

“HMMMMMMMM..... Well during the Naperville North High School Men's Varsity Swim Season one time all of the Varsity guys went to Fuddruckers, home of the one pound burger. Naturally the restaurant was crowded, and naturally, out of the thirty Varsity guys that were there the freshmen had to go in the back of the line. To carry on the tradition of the swim team, most everyone, especially the freshmen, were forced into eating a one pound piece of cow. That's right, the big one, and with only an hour left to eat I had to order quickly. Twenty minutes later I had my chance to order a one pound cheeseburger, large chocolate shake, and fries dun...dun...dunnnn. I sat down eagerly at my table witnessing everyone else maliciously masticate their victim; not even thinking about the mass murder of cows that must have been committed. But hey, that wasn't going to stop me either! Yes sir! I was hungry, and I needed to eat something before my stomach ate me! After a while all my senses began to ignore the obtrusive feasting habitat that surrounded me, especially my ears waiting desperately to hear number sixty-seven to be called so that I may start my own gorging. Every second that passed by was another second less that I would have to devour that delicious cow that was waiting for me behind the counter. WHERE WAS IT!!!! I couldn't take it much longer. I was on the edge of my seat nearly about to pounce onto the other kids prey when suddenly that glorious microphone clicked on. As the hairs on my neck began to rise, the lady announced number sixty-seven! Hooray!!! I ran to the counter, showed 'em my ticket, sat down and dug in! Nothing's stoppin' me now, 'Good thing I'm hungry 'cause I only have 30 minutes. This one pound burger will be a cinch,' I thought. Well, my jaw began to get sore half way through and I only had five minutes left! No way am I given up now! I have to carry on the tradition. Cram! Cram! Cram!

'Time to go!' announces Coach. Noooo!!! Only a quarter more! Everyone else had been finished and not in the mood to wait around. Most of them gave up on me, thinking, 'this kid will never finish.' I don't think so; I had to prove them wrong. I walked out with it and arduously tried to englut that last chunk. While trying to catch the bus someone came out of no where and flanked me from the right. BOOM! SLAM! CRASH! One of the guys decided to give me a bit of a tackle, but worst of all I made a fumble. The last bit of cow was laying belly up on the dark, dirty, rocky asphalt. Ohhhh no siry I wasn't about to quit the game right then and there. I recovered the fumble and made a touchdown. That's right; as soon as that thing fell on the ground it was popped back in my mouth and on its way to being digested in my hot acidic stomach; never to see the light of day again, well...kind of.

The point of the story is that traditions never end no matter what obstructions or difficulties it faces. Because at the end of all the agony it is a piece of cake...I mean cow.”

The Girls



Sisters' Acts

From left: Laurel Sieber, Justine Sieber, Kristin Bertram, Erin Bertram

Erin Bertram, 19, will be a sophomore at the University of Arizona this fall. Erin does a whole lot, including running swim lessons, but she coaches mainly the 6-U and 7-8 children. Being most industrious, Erin likes swimming the 500-free. She had a ball with her swim team mates at Naperville North after a meet at New Trier when they all went out to eat at the Rainforest Café. "It was great to hang out with the girls and the coaches that went to the meet." Erin's favorite movie is *Centerstage* because "it has a lot of music and dancing in the movie". Erin favors the summer because it's hot - "in reality winter temps in Arizona", she writes, but also because "that is when I get to coach at the Racquet Club."

Kristin Bertram, 17 (and Erin's little sister), will be a senior (and a captain of both the Swim/Dive team and the Water Polo team) at Naperville North this fall. Kristin coaches the 9-10 year-olds and the 6-U. She "probably" likes swimming the 50-fly. Kristin's favorite movie is *Pirates of the Caribbean* though she also loved *National Treasure*. Like Mike Deely, Kristin enjoys murder mysteries and suspense thrillers, especially those by author Mary Higgins Clark. Kristin describes an experience that happened at the Racquet Club last summer as follows:

"Last year when I was coaching, Tina Remec came up to me during a meet. After about two minutes of 'ums', Tina finally said, 'I have a question.' I thought to myself, find, how hard could this be? So I said, 'Ok Tina, what is it?' Then, after about two more minutes of 'ums', Tina asked, 'Are you a midget?' Awesome! I get no respect I thought, but then replied, 'No, no, Tina, I am not.' After that I had to answer many questions as to why I was so short!"

Justine Sieber will be a 16-year-old junior at Waubonsie Valley this fall. Justine coaches the 6-U and 7-8 children and likes swimming the 50-free. In reading Justine's answers, you get the distinct notion that Justine just isn't particularly happy to spend her days in the classroom. Her memory was: "Probably swimming in a relay at the Junior Olympics a few years ago, because it was really fun and I even got to skip school for a day." A rabid Harry Potter reader, her favorite season is the summer, "because schools out, it's warm, and it's time for Racquet Club."

Laurel Sieber, Justine's twin, will also be a junior at Waubonsie Valley this fall. And since she's Justine's twin, she's 16 also, oddly enough. Like her sister, Laurel coaches the 6-U and 7-8 children, but unlike Justine, Laurel prefers to swim the 100-free and the 100-breaststroke. Laurel has great memories of being on the Sectional team for Waubonsie both her freshman and sophomore years. She is a big Harry Potter fan and likes the spring because that's when her birthday falls.