

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S SWIMMING

Bob Greenwald started the SHS swim program back in the early 1960's and coached both the boys and girls squads. However, before Bob began coaching, Ed Dederer was the 1st state Champion at Summit in 1953 in the 150 IM, an event no longer contested. By the early 1970's Summit was a perennial "B" Division (small school) power.

During a three year period from 1971 to 1973, Summit finished 2nd three times to Moorestown at the High School States. In 1972 the meet came down the last relay and Moorestown touched out Summit to win the title. Back then team scoring was kept at the Meet of Champions. The best swimmer to come out of Summit in the early 1970's was Roger Schwanhauser. Roger was county and state Champion in the 100 backstroke and would go on to win that event at YMCA Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida for the Summit YMCA Seals. Roger was the 1st of four swimmers to accomplish that feat. The others were: Steve Korbel , 50 free; the legendary Billy Specht, 100 fly and 100 back; and, John Closs, 100 breast.

Summit continued to challenge for the state Championship during the mid-70's. In 1976, under new boy's coach Tom Stokes, Summit won its 1st state Championship behind the best swimmer Summit has ever produced - Billy Specht. Billy won 4 individual county titles and 3 individual state titles during his career. Bill's county record in the 100 fly was broken in 2008 (by Chris Delafuente from Westfield). Bill still competes in masters swimming and in December 1998 set 5 World Records for his age group (40-45), including the 200 Butterfly. At present he swims for the St. Petersburg Masters and holds 18 records.

By the late 1970's Summit High Swimming was at a crossroads, interest had dropped enough to seriously consider ending the program. In 1981, Dave Pease took over as boy's coach. Coach Pease was a SHS graduate and brought the team back to respectability. Pease's career record through 1991, was 100-51-2. In 1986, Summit tied Westfield for the county Championship. Westfield won the diving title that year (diving points counted for the overall title) to tie Summit. It was only the 2nd time in 40 years Westfield had been tied. The Westfield streak was finally broken in 1999 by Scotch Plains. Westfield won 42 consecutive county titles, a national record.

During the 1980's, Summit produced 3 outstanding swimmers (and 2 future coaches) in brothers Al and Sumner Anderson, and Ed Wagner. Al was the 1986 state champion in the 50 free. Al holds the school record in the 50 free and the 100 back. Sumner won 3 individual county titles and holds 1 Summit High record, the 200 free. Ed Wagner won two titles at the county Meet but is more notable for being a late bloomer. Ed continued to compete into his late 20's and was at one point ranked in the top 25 in the world in the 50 Meter Freestyle. Chris McGiffin, Class of 1984, coached the Westfield HS team to a county championship and state championship, defeating St. Joseph's of Metuchen in 2000. In 1991, David Closs took over as coach. Closs swam for Coach Pease and captained the 1985 squad. The squad finished 2nd three times to Westfield at the county meet in 1995, 1996 and 2001.

Summit ended its 7-year drought for individual titles at the county meet in 1996, when Jeff Kendellen won the 200 free. Behind Kendellen, Summit also won the 200 & 400 free relays. That same year Summit won its only Watchung Conference title. In 1997 Summit switched to the Iron Hills Conference and maintained its reputation as a tough opponent. 1998 was the best year for Summit Swimming since 1976. Ian Bowman won 2 individual county titles and the Hilltopper's returned to state recognition with a #13 ranking and a state Sectional title.

1999 and 2000 were more of the same. The Hilltoppers claimed county diving titles in '99 and '00. They made it back to the sectional final in 1999 and won their 2nd sectional championship in 3 years in 2000, defeating local rival Millburn.

2001 had some of the highest highs and lowest lows in recent memory. The Hilltopper's had terrific conference and county meets, finishing second at both. The low point came in the last dual meet, a bitter loss to Northern Highlands to keep them out of the sectional final for the first time in four years. However, Nick Nagel took 3rd place in the 100 breaststroke at the Meet of Champions in a school record 58.83, earning Honorable Mention All-America in the process. Nagel teamed with Brandon Shea, Ryan Clark, and Spencer Matthews to a 9th place in the medley relay and 7th in the 200 free relay, coming within a few tenths of a second of setting school records in each event.

Led by senior captains Bob Koerning, Jon Lijoi and Bill Santella, the Hilltoppers had a "transition year" in 2002 with a fine record of 9-4. However, the squad missed making the team tournament for the 1st time in nearly 10 years.

2002-2003 saw a return to state Tournament action, a 2nd place finish at conferences, and a 4th place at counties. Seniors Alex Lovejoy, J.R. Parker, Brian Beamer, and Ben Snieckus concluded their careers by being the “core” of the team. Matt Petersen was county champ in the 100 Breast. The seniors led the team to an impressive 12-2 record. With 4 seniors graduating 2003-04 could have been a disastrous year. Instead, with the steady leadership of Captain Brian Mulligan and fellow senior Alex Seeger the Hilltoppers were a tough opponent all year long. They ended the season with a fine 7-4-1 record and solid showing at both the county and conference meets.

Led by senior captains Jack McKenna and Matt Petersen, the Hilltoppers had a good year in 2004-05. They returned to the state tournament after a two-year absence, and lost a close meet to a tough Scotch Plains squad. The highlight of the year was at the county meet as McKenna and Petersen along with junior Gordon Pepe and freshman Jason Toffey, stunned the meet by winning the 200 medley and 200 free relays, only the 2nd time a Summit squad has won two relays at a County meet.

In 2005, Coach Closs became the Gov. Livingston swim coach after taking a history teaching job at the school. Coach Pease began his second stint as the boys swim coach after eight years as the girls’ coach. Laura Intrabartola took over the girls’ program. The 2005-06 season was a success, captained by Gordon Pepe and Chris Vance. Summit earned a 5th place finish at counties and a 6th place finish at conference. Summit kept the state Tournament streak alive and qualified, seeded 6th and a 600 power point underdog, against West Windsor Plainsboro-North. The boys gave a great effort and needed first in the last relay. The boys swam personal best times in their respective A, B, and C relays, and earned 2nd, 3rd, and 5th places. The team came up just short. Their dual meet record was 9-4.

The 2006-07 season ended with an 11-3 dual meet record. Highlights of the year were: invited to the Big Blue Invitational at Pingry School; earning a second place finish in the Hills Division at the Iron Hills Conference Championships; defeating Livingston in a home dual meet; finishing third at the Union County Championships behind Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood, and qualifying for the state Championships. Summit defeated a tough Bernards team, but came up 4 points short against Chatham in the Sectional Semifinal. The boys had lost to Chatham earlier in the year by 14 points.

With only one senior graduating, the 2007-08 season on paper looked to be one of the best in the last ten years. The team had strong leadership from the senior class. The squad was captained by Jason Pepe and Jason Toffey. The Mermen finished with an 11-1-0 Iron Hills Conference dual meet record and recorded the Hills Division Championship of the Iron Hills Conference by defeating Chatham 155-135. The dual meet of the season was against IHC rivals Chatham, with the Hilltoppers victorious, 94-76. The team qualified for the state Championships and defeated Rutherford 110-60. The next opponent was second seeded, Chatham and Summit defeated Chatham, 91-79. Next up, the defending Sectional Champion, Mountain Lakes, four time Sectional champs. The boys swam well with many personal bests: Ben Cohen in the 100 fly, Kevin Ng in the 100 breast, Kirby Voigtman in the 100 Back, and the lone winner, Doug Jones, in the 100 fly. The Mermen earned 65 points that night, not enough to stop the Mountain Lakes team in their quest for a fourth Sectional title. At the Union County Meet, Summit finished second, earning 243 points and for the first time in three years earned two Championship Event titles: the 200 medley relay team of Silas Newcomb, Kevin Ng, Doug Jones and Jason Toffey; and, Kevin Ng in the 100 breast.

The 2008-09 Team set three goals. 1. Defend the Iron Hills Conference Hills Division Title. 2. Defeat Chatham in the regular season dual meet, and 3. Win a State Sectional Title. The season was special. The team accomplished all three goals. The sectional title was even sweeter with the most power points earned by any Summit squad, 3711 power points, and defeating our cross river rival, Chatham. **Power points are based on a swimmer's time; the faster you swim the more points you earn for the team.** The sectional title was a true TEAM win. Led by captains, Jeff Beamer and Brencis Navia, the senior members were Chris Kelly, Artie Angelo, Zach Lembke, and Matt Honold. The Mermen finished with a 13-2 dual meet record. This was the final year of the Iron Hills Conference.

The Hilltoppers opened up the 2009 – 2010 swim season hosting the City of Summit Swimming Championships with Oak Knoll, Oratory and Summit. Summit defeated Oratory 129-40 with all 38 boys contributing. Summit traveled to Warren to swim Chatham and earned a tough 93-77 victory, showing their team depth as they only won 4 of 11 events. At the Big Blue Invitational at Pingry, the Mermen were third behind Pingry and Hunterdon Central. The boys defeated Hillsborough. Loring Bowen joined Kevin Ng as Summit’s Big Blue Champions. Kevin in the 100 breast in 2008 and Loring in the 100 fly in 2009. The boys swam Seton Hall Prep and defeated their longtime Iron Hills Conference rival, 90-80, for the first time since 1984, when Coach John Ross was the team captain.

The Union County Championships were at Rutgers. The meet was one of the most successful meets ever by a Summit Boys Team. Every swimmer scored team points for a total of 320 to finish 3rd behind Westfield (1st) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood (2nd). The boys finished the regular dual meet season with a 9-3 record. The Hilltoppers seeded #2 in North Jersey Section 2 Group B, hosted Rutherford for the second year in a row and defeated Rutherford 100-70. Then hosted #3 Bernards in the Section Semifinals, winning 88-82, to advance to the Section Finals against Scotch Plains. This was the third year the Hilltoppers advanced to the section finals.

Scotch Plains had defeated Summit 97-73 in January. The meet started off fast and furious with the Hilltoppers just missing first place by less than a half of a second. Kirby Voigtman and Kevin Ng earned first place finishes in the 100 back and 100 breast, respectively. The Hilltoppers made up four points from their previous meet, but were defeated 75-95. The Hilltoppers ended the dual meet season with an 11 - 4 record.

The Mermaids and Mermen defeated Oak Knoll and Oratory in the 2010 City of Summit Championships. The boys earned a second place finish at the BIG BLUE Invitational at Pingry, with 371 points while the champ, Pingry, had 381. The boys started the meet winning the first three events. Against Westfield they earned 3580 Power Points. In fourteen of the 24 individual events, the boys earned personal best times. The atmosphere for the Scotch Plains meet was electric. The team earned 3582 power points towards the NJ State Championships. In comparison: Westfield 3580 and Seton Hall Prep 3586. At the Union County Championships at Rutgers the team finished third. The 200 medley relay team of Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko, and Will Beckett broke the school record finishing in third place. Loring Bowen earned two firsts: 100 fly and 100 Back- our first two event County Champion since Ian Bowman in 1998 (200 and 500 free). Loring also broke the 1986 school record in the 100 back.

Who let the Dolphins OUT? The Mermen defeated Governor Livingston in the sectional quarterfinals. Loring Bowen, Cameron Simko, Will Benn, Will Beckett, Ryan Sebastian and Tim Kostolansky qualified for the Meet Of Champions. The team swam the Cougars of Chatham and earned a 99-71 victory to advance to the North Section 2 Group B Final for the fourth year in a row. The Team's season came to an end vs. Scotch Plains. The team earned their most POWER POINTS of the season accumulating 3919 points, the highest point total in Summit history. Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko, and Will Beckett broke their own school record in the 200 Medley Relay. In comparison, we earned 3582 power points vs. Scotch Plains in the dual meet.

A **great 2011** Meet of Champs. Two school records. 200 medley relay: Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko and Will Beckett swam a season best 1:39.64 to lower their school record from the Scotch Plains State Meet. 200 free relay: Loring Bowen, Tim Kostolansky, Cameron Simko and Will Beckett swam a 1:31.37 to break the 1996 Summit HS record set by Jamie Anthony, Jeff Kendellen, Cooper Kramer, and Ian Bowman. Loring, Cameron, Will Beckett and Will Benn all returned on Sunday to swim in their respective individual events. The 200 medley relay team earned 8th in the state, the 200 free relay earned 15th place. Loring and Cameron earned 9th and 13th in the 100 fly. Will Beckett swam to a 14th place in the 50 Free. Ryan Sebastian placed 16th in the 200 IM. In the 100 back, Tim Kostolansky, Will Benn, and Loring Bowen placed 18th, 11th, and 6th in the state with Will and Loring breaking the Summit HS record.

For the past four seasons, the teams have held a SWIMATHON at the end of the season to raise money to support a former Summit HS student who suffered a traumatic spinal cord injury. His name is Gabe Chesman. Gabe's sister was a member of the Summit HS Swim Team in the early 2000's. To date the boys and girls teams have raised over \$5,000.00. To donate or learn more, please visit this website: www.ntafund.org/

THIS SEASON'S HIGHLIGHTS

Captains Loring Bowen and Cameron Simko lead the Mermen to a successful start to the 2011-2012 season, beating Oratory, 104-66, in the City of Summit Championships. Swimmer of the Meet was Andrew Thieck. At the Pingry Big Blue Invitational, the boys finished second for the second straight year: 436 points to 495 for Pingry. Hunterdon Central and Bernards scored 306 and 44 points, respectively. Two NEW BIG BLUE RECORDS. Ryan Sebastian in the 200 IM (2:12.46) broke Bryan Wilson's record and Will Benn in the 100 Back (1:00.72) broke the record held by Pingry swimmer, Will Mango. Cameron Simko was a double individual winner (200 free in 2:01.16 and the 100 free in 56.05). The Hilltoppers started off the meet earning first and third in the 200 medley relay.

First Place: Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko, and Will Beckett

Third Place: Will Benn, Timmy Kostolansky, Kyle Lyman, and Kyle Fries.

The boys lost to WESTFIELD, 70-100, at the Westfield YMCA, even though they won 5 of 6 events. The Westfield depth was the difference. Swimmers of the Meet were Kevin Fries and Loring Bowen. The team traveled to Elizabeth and won 106-64. Swimmers of the Meet were Allyn Engle and Mike Peck. Seton Hall Prep visited the Summit YMCA and the Hilltoppers won every race and cruised to a 99-71 victory over the Pirates. Swimmers of the Meet were Matthew Stern, who jumped in to the 200 free relay and swam back to back events to help secure the victory, and Luca Guadagno, who earned a second place finish in the 200 IM. The Hilltoppers defeated the Pioneers of New Providence to start the new year. Swimmers of the Meet were Matt Casagrande and Tim Kostolansky, earning personal bests in their respective races.

The Mermen set three new school records in their loss to Scotch Plains: 1. 200 medley relay - Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko, Will Beckett; 2. 200 free relay - Tim Kostolansky, Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Will Beckett; and, 3. 400 free relay - Tim Kostolansky, Kevin Fries, Will Benn, Cameron Simko. The boys earned 4214 power points, the team's largest in the history of the swim program. Will Beckett and Will Benn were named Swimmers of the Meet.

The boys beat Governor Livingston 100-70. Jack Haberl and Andrew Thieck were Swimmers of the Meet for their personal best times in the breaststroke and freestyle, respectively.

At the Iron Hills Conference Invitational "A" Meet, the Summit boys, No. 11 in The Star-Ledger Top 20, won the team championship, 293-236, over second-place and No. 20 Morristown, by sweeping the relays and grabbing three individual golds. Leading the charge was junior Will Beckett, who won the 50 free (25.27) and swam on all three first-place relays. He split 24.55 for the 200 medley relay (1:52.89), 25.66 for the 200 free relay (1:40.92, No. 4 in the state this season and a school record), and 56.06 for the 400 free relay (3:46.33, also a school record). "I'm proud of myself, but I'm even more proud of my team," Beckett said. "We're all coming off a lot of yardage (in training). But as you can see, it's paying off in the end." Great Swims, Great Pictures, Great Friends, Great Memory.

A great afternoon at the Iron Hills Invitational "B" Meet as the TOP TWELVE SCORED POINTS. The 200 medley relay (Allyn Engle, Jack Haberl, Stu Railey, Will Anderson) earned 4th. 200 IM: Jack Schaefer(5), Tyler Macdonald (6), Owen Railey (10), Matt Casagrande (11). 50 free: Stu Railey (6), Jack Haberl (11). 100 fly: Matt Richson (1), Allyn Engle (8), Matt Celona (9). 100 free: Stu Railey (3), Peter Gangi (6). 400 free: Andrew Thieck (3). 200 free relay: Matt Casagrande, Jack Schaefer, Matt Richson, Tyler Macdonald (8). 100 back: Owen Railey (12). 100 breast: Jack Haberl (7). 400 free relay: Alex Thomson, Tom Disibio, Peter Gangi, Andrew Thieck (3) and Tom Anderson, Owen Railey, Jack Schaefer, Ben Schwartz (6).

UNION COUNTY "A" CHAMPIONSHIPS at RUTGERS. Summit swam out of their minds as every swimmer earned a personal best in every event. UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONS are: Ryan Sebastian in the 200 IM and Loring Bowen in the 100 fly and 100 back. Ryan also placed second in the 100 breast. Kyle Lyman was 10th in the 100 fly and 8th in the 500. Cameron Simko was second in the 200 free and 3rd in the 500. Tim Kostolansky went 3rd in the 200 IM and 4th in the 100 back. Luca Guadagno placed 5th in the 200 IM and 9th in the 100 breast. Will Beckett was 2nd in the 50 free and 4th in the 100 free. Kevin Fries finished 5th in the 50 free and 9th in the 100 free. Kyle Fries was 11th in the 50 free. Matt Stern was 13th in the 200 free, Matt Bauer finished 12th in the 200 free and 11th in the 500. Rob Zhang was 12th in the 100 breast. Will Benn finished 2nd in the 100 back and 3rd in the 100 free and Jimmy Currie was 11th in

the 100 fly.

The three relays: 200 medley, 200 free, and 400 free all broke Summit High School Records. Summit finished with 400 points. Westfield was first with 436 and Scotch Plains, second with 424. The Hilltoppers also competed in the Union County JV Invitational Swim Meet at Plainfield HS. Mike Peck, Matt Casagrande, Jack Haberl, Andrew Aguilera, and Alex Ingerman were the top performers.

The team was seeded first in North Jersey Section 1 Group B and started the State Tournament with a 99-71 victory over Paramus. Swimmer of the Meet was Matt Richson. The Hilltoppers then hosted Tenafly, the Bergen County Champions, in the State Sectional Semifinal and won, 99-71. The Mermen won seven of the eleven events. Ryan Sebastian was Swimmer of the Meet.

Congratulations to the North Jersey Section 1 Group B Champions! This is the second section title in four years and the 6th in the team's history. The Hilltoppers were the overall Group B Champions in 1976 when the title was determined at the Meet of Champions. The meet started with a come from behind victory in the 200 MR. Will Beckett anchored the relay. Cameron Simko, Kyle Lyman, and Matt Bauer earned 1st, 2nd, and 5th in the 200 free. Summit gained a huge point advantage with Ryan Sebastian, Tim Kostolansky, and Luca Guadagno going 1, 2, 3 in the 200 IM, and the rest was victory! The 400 freestyle relays finished 1,2, 4 to end the meet.

Loring Bowen and Cameron Simko broke Summit HS Swim Records in the State Semifinals loss to Princeton. Loring broke the 1976 record in the 100 butterfly and Cameron broke the 1986 record in the 500 freestyle. Ryan Sebastian earned two first place finishes in the 200 IM and 100 breast to lead the team. Summit ended the season with a 10-4 record.

An impressive Meet of Champions. Four school records. 200 medley relay: Loring Bowen, Ryan Sebastian, Cameron Simko and Will Beckett swam a season best 1:37.12 to lower their school record from the Union County Championships. The 200 medley relay team finished 3rd in the State, the 200 free relay (Will Beckett, Luca, Kevin Fries and Ryan) earned 5th place and the 400 free relay(Cameron, Will Benn, Tim and Loring) came in 6th.

Cameron, Loring, Ryan, Tim Kostolansky, Will Beckett and Will Benn all returned on Sunday to swim in their individual events. Cameron finished 10th in the 200 free breaking Sumner Anderson's 1988 school record. Ryan finished 3rd and Tim, 11th, in the 200 IM. Loring was 4th in the 100 fly. Will Benn finished 12th and Will Beckett, 14th in the 100 free. Cameron broke Dave Stevenson's 1986 school record in the 500, finishing in 4:48.04. In the 100 back, Will Benn swam :52.15, finishing 5th and breaking Loring's 2011 school record. Loring was 8th and Tim was 12th. Ryan finished 6th in the 100 breast.

In all, the 2011-2012 boys swim team broke 9 of 11 school records.