2014 SUMMER NATIONALS

THE 2014 SUMMER NATIONALS HAD 16 ARIZONA SWIMMERS REGISTERED TO SWIM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BUT, DUE TO A VARIETY OF REASONS, ONLY 12 WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE. OF THOSE 12, ONLY 2 SWAM JUST ONE EVENT. THEREFORE, WE ONLY HAD ONE WOMENS AND ONE MENS RELAY TEAM . EVEN WITH THESE SETBACKS, WE WERE ABLE, BECAUSE OF SOME GREAT INDIVIDUAL SWIMS, TO PLACE THIRD OVERALL IN THE REGIONAL TEAM CATEGORY.

IN THE WOMEN’S SECTION CAROL HEMAUER PLACED 4TH IN THE 800 FREE, IMPROVING ON HER SEED TIME. THIS WAS HER ONLY EVENT. THE DICKSON SISTERS DID VERY WELL, PLACING IN 10 EVENTS BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM. BRENNA WON THE 400 FREE, SECOND IN THE 200 FREE AND THE 200 FLY, THIRD IN THE 100 FREE, FOURTH IN THE 100 FLY AND 5TH IN THE 50 FREE. KELSEY PLACED THIRD IN THE 200 FREE, FIFTH IN THE 100 FREE AND THE 50 BACK AND NINTH IN THE 50 BREAST. CATHERINE VORRASI IMPROVED ON HE WORLD SWIM TIMES AND FINISHED FIRST IN THE 50 FREE AND THE 100 FREE, AND SECOND IN THE 200 FREE. KATHY GALLAGHER WAS THE HEAVY WEIGHT FOR THE WOMEN BY SCORING IN ALL SIX EVENTS THAT SHE SWAM. SHE TOOK FIRST IN THE 100 FREE, 200 FREE AND 200 IM, SECOND IN THE 50 FREE AND THE 50 BREAST, AND THIRD IN THE 1500.

THE WOMENS’ RELAY EFFORTS WERE OUTSTANDING. BRENNA, KELSEY, CATHERINE AND KATHY WON BOTH THE 200 FREE RELAY AND THE 200 MEDLEY RELAY IN VERY CLOSE RACES. KATHY AND CATHERINE ALSO ADDED TWO SECOND PLACE RELAY FINISHES IN THE MIXED FREE AND MEDLEY RELAYS. BRENNA AND KELSEY JOINED THEIR DAD, KURT, AND BRUCE PHILIPS IN THE MIXED RELAYS. THE FAMILY AFFAIR, PLUS ONE, PLACED FOURTH IN THE FREE RELAY AND EIGHT IN THE MEDLEY RELAY.

ON THE MENS SIDE, LEW HAMBURGER SWAM ONLY ONE EVENT AND PLACED THIRD IN THE 50 BREAST. LEW RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE DEGREE FROM THE UofM AND WAS NOW VISITING FAMILY IN THE AREA. KURT DICKSON WAS THE POWER HOUSE SWIMMER FOR THE MEN. SWIMMING IN SIX EVENTS, HE WON THE 200 FREE, 400 FREE, 200 BACK, AND 200 FLY, SECOND IN THE 1500 FREE, AND THIRD IN THE 50 BACK. MARK MODJESKA PLACED SECOND IN THE 1500 FREE, FOURTH IN THE 400 FREE, AND SEVENTH IN THE 200 FREE.

THE LAST FOUR SWIMMERS ALL GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND IN THE 60’S AND JOINED OUR ARIZONA TEAM SO THEY COULD SWIM RELAYS TOGETHER. JOE REID, FROM GEORGIA, WON THE 200 BACK, PLACED SECOND IN THE 100 BACK, THIRD IN THE 50 BACK, AND SEVENTH IN THE 100 BREAST. NEIL SALKIND, FROM KANSAS, PLACED THIRD IN THE 1500 FREE AND EIGHT IN THE 400 FREE. DOUG SPRINGER, FROM ARIZONA, WON THE 200 BREAST, PLACED SECOND IN THE 50 BREAST, THE 100 BREAST AND THE 200 FLY, AND 4TH IN THE 400 IM. BRUCE PHILLIPS, FROM MARYLAND, PLACED FOURTH IN THE 100 BACK AND THE 200 BACK, AND FIFTH IN THE 50 BACK.

THE FOUR MARYLAND SWIMMERS JOINED TOGETHER TO SWIM BOTH THE FREE RELAY AND THE MEDLEY RELAY. WHILE AT THE HIGH END OF THEIR AGE GROUP, THEY MANAGED TO FINISH SEVENTH IN THE MEDLEY, AND EIGHT IN THE FREE. MARK AND DOUG JOINED CATHERINE AND KATHY FOR A SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE FREE RELAY. JOE AND DOUG JOINED CATHERINE AND KATHY FOR A SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE MEDLEY RELAY.

THIS WAS A GREAT GROUP OF SWIMMERS TO WORK WITH. SINCE THE MEET WAS SMALL, WE HAD TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND SPEND SOME SOCIAL TIME WITH OLD FRIENDS. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT NATIONALS IN SAN ANTONIO, AND HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE A LARGE ARIZONA TEAM SO WE CAN PLACE FIRST AS WE DID AT MESA.

FROM ARIZONA MASTERS ACTING HEAD COACH DOUG SPRINGER

