

The Gulf Shores Dolphin Swim Team recently attended the Gulf Coast Area Aquatics League City Championship meet. The city of Fairhope and the Fairhope Area Swim Team hosted the league championship meet on July 17 and 18. Ten area swim teams participated in the meet and the teams were divided into three divisions. Gulf Shores, Belforest Bluewave and the Jackson Waverunners were the teams in the second division.

For the first time in recent memory, Gulf Shores won their division and finished 4th overall among the ten teams. Gulf Shores outscored Belforest and Jackson 1215.5 to 1155 to 833.5, respectively. The Dolphins trailed Bluewave until event 106 of 136 events when Joseph Calloway's 5th place finish in the 11 year old 50 yard Butterfly put the Dolphins ahead of Bluewave for the first time in the meet. Gulf Shores expanded their lead to 61.5 points by the end of competition on Saturday afternoon.

Four Gulf Shores' swimmers earned high point awards: Danielle Albert 2nd place in the 15-18 year old girls, Margaret Lloyd 2nd place in the 12 year old girls, Nathan McGee 2nd place in the 10 year old boys, and Holly Blair 3rd place in the 11 year old girls division. The team had 6 other swimmers place in the top 5 in their age divisions. Overall Gulf Shores had 47 swimmers attend the meet for the team.

Head Coach Brook Monroe was voted league coach of the year by her peers. Coach Monroe said, "This personal award was the icing on the cake of a great victory and wonderful season for our team. We have been second to Bluewave for the past two seasons. I am so proud of our children and the effort they put forth all season."

On Monday evening the team celebrated at their end of the season party and award ceremony. Ribbons and awards were distributed to the team members. Assistant Coach David Lloyd reviewed the championship meet results and attributed the victory to the 19 relay teams that Gulf Shores entered at the meet. Lloyd said, "There were 24 relay race events at the meet and we had entrants in 15 of the events. In previous years we could enter 6-10 relay teams. We just never had enough swimmers to participate in many relays. So the 306 points earned in the relay races was the key for us."

Team leader Taylor Shannon, age 16, mentioned the 12 and Under Boys Medley relay as a prime example of Gulf Shores relay prowess, "Our team finished last in the water, but

4 other teams were disqualified to move us up to second place and get 26 points.” Taylor Shannon was also proud of his younger brother Jon who swam best times in all five of his races and scored 48 points for the team.

Coach Monroe commented at the awards cookout, “It was a combination of hard work and luck. We had children swim their best times in 50% of their races at the championship meet. Some kids were faster by more than 10 seconds in some events.”

On Labor Day the Gulf Shores Swim Team will host the Phin Man triathlon at the Bodenhamer Recreation Center. The triathlon is for children ages 5 to 14. The race includes the elements of swimming, biking and running. For information about this event, contact David Lloyd via email, microlloyd@hotmail.com.

For further information about all the aquatics programs offered by the City of Gulf Shores, contact Brook Monroe at 251-968-1427.