



Published by the Lake Erie LMSC of U.S. Masters Swimming

Fall 2024

## Message from the Chair—

*Ann Marshfield*

We are halfway through September. That means students have begun their new school year, fall sports are in full swing, nighttime temperatures bring the need for an extra blanket and the leaves turn vibrant colors of orange, red and yellow. Those changes in nature signal a change in our swimming location. Now practices are in short course yards though we still have opportunities to swim long course meters at the Avon Aquatics Center (an effort to stretch out summer style practices) and for the hardy few, Lake Erie continues to beckon them to swim. With each new season consider setting a new challenge or goal, be it in the water or simply getting to the pool. Big or small, at the pool or on the deck make it something you genuinely want to achieve, then Just Do It!

On September 8, Avon Aquatics Center was the location for Lake Erie LMSC annual meeting. The meeting was held in the pool pavilion immediately after swimming practice. Bright sunny skies, delicious food selections and hot coffee set the tone for the meeting. Elections for Treasurer and Membership Coordinator were held, a recap of LMSC accomplishments was provided, ideas were exchanged about what the members desire and attendees were challenged with a quiz and trivia questions. Five USMS memberships (\$75 value) were given away as well as 10 Swimoutlet.com gift cards.

If you enjoyed the steel-cut oats at the LMSC meeting, here's the recipe to the right.

Later in this newsletter more information is available about the meeting and what is on deck for 2025.

## Upcoming Events

### **O\*H\*I\*O Masters Clambake & 50th Anniversary Celebration**

Bay Village, September 28

(<https://ohiomasters.com/2024-clam-bake/>)

### **Pentathlon Meet (SCY)**

Stow, November 3

### **Hudson Meet (SCM)**

Hudson, December 7 & 8

### **Pieter Cath Memorial Meet (SCY)**

Lakewood, January 26

## Cranberry-Maple Oatmeal with Pears

*Prep: 15 minutes Cook: 6 to 7 hours (low)*

Non-stick cooking spray

4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup water

1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup steel-cut oats

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup pure maple syrup

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup golden raisins

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup dried cranberries

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup chopped dried pears

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon or 5-spice powder

1 teaspoon vanilla

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon salt

Milk (optional)

1. Lightly coat the inside of a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>- or 4-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. In the prepared slow cooker combine the water, oats, maple syrup, raisins, cranberries, pears, cinnamon, vanilla, and salt.
2. Cover and cook on low-setting for 6 to 7 hours. If desired, serve with milk.

# LELMSC Annual Meeting Recap

Immediately after the outdoor practice at Avon Aquatics Center, the Lake Erie LMSC provided breakfast to very hungry swimmers and others in attendance. The meeting commenced with the elections for treasurer and membership coordinator. Laura Wright will serve as treasurer and Ashley Braniecki will continue as membership coordinator. Thank you both for your willingness to serve on the board of directors.

2024 was a good year for our LMSC. Among the successes achieved were new and different opportunities for our swimmers, such as the social after the Lakewood Meet in January at Buckeye Beer Engine. The LMSC also provided USMS recognition to the Viking Masters Swim meet and the Pan Am Masters Games—which permitted the swim times from those events to be eligible for USMS records and Top 10 times.

We held a very successful Level 2 Coach Certification weekend and partnered with the Ohio LMSC for bringing back the All-Ohio Masters State Championship meet held at OSU. The Busbey Natatorium at CSU will be the site of the 2025 All-Ohio Masters State Championship meet on

everything we do has to be in the water. Among the suggestions. 1) an outing on the Goodtime III Harbor Cruise and 2) attend a Cavs game on one of their upcoming swimmer nights (modeled after



the Guardians swimmer night held in early August). Surely there are other things we can consider so email [LEChair@usms.org](mailto:LEChair@usms.org) with your ideas. And let the fun begin!

Finishing out the year, our outgoing treasurer, Mark Marshfield, reported the LMSC has more than \$37,000.00 in the bank. Our sincere thanks to Mark for his many years of stewardship in keeping the financial records in such good shape.



Sunday, March 23, (more details to follow). And closing out the year are the outdoor September practices at Avon Aquatics Center, a program which has become quite popular and well attended.

Members of the board are very interested in hearing from you and what social or community events you would like us to entertain. Not

And a huge thank you to our Newsletter Editor, Chuck Beatty for rolling out these amazing newsletters!

We look forward to 2025 and hope you do too!

**Ann Marshfield**  
*Chair*

# SWIMMERS' NEW DRY LAND "WORKOUT"

What do swimmers do when they are not in the water? Several of them tried out a new dry land "workout" as they attended the inaugural Swimmers Night at Progressive Field. Upon entering the stadium, each received a special edition Guardians logo swim cap. We were all treated to a great game (yes, the Guardians beat the Orioles that night, 8 - 4!) and a few stayed for a fantastic fireworks show. It was a fun way to socialize with teammates where the only sendoff is when one chooses to leave the stadium. Many made it to practice the next morning and put the caps to good use.

—Judi Norton



*Jamie Ryan wanted to be ready for practice the next day so he donned his cap early. Ashley Braniecki and Kristi Tabaj decided to wait until the next morning.*



*Despite the late night before, including \$2 drafts and \$1 dogs, most made it to the 7:30 AM practice the next day.*

## How Well Do You Know Your LMSC?

1. What do the letters LMSC mean?
  - a. Local Membership Standing Counsel
  - b. Local Membership Swimming Committee
  - c. Local Masters Swim Committee
2. Which LMSC do you belong to?
  - a. O\*H\*I\*O
  - b. Great Lakes
  - c. Lake Erie
3. How many clubs are in this LMSC?
4. How many Olympians are registered in this LMSC? *Bonus point if you provide name(s).*
5. Name the LMSC Membership Coordinator.
6. Name the Chair of this LMSC.
7. How much does the 2025 basic 1- year USMS membership cost?
8. Which positions are up for election today?
9. What is the LMSC website address?

## Olympic Trivia

1. In what year did swimming first become an Olympic event?
2. When were women first allowed to participate in Olympic swimming competitions?
3. What is the nickname for swimmer Eric Moussambani from Equatorial Guinea? He swam in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
4. What is the longest swimming event in the Olympics?

# End of Summer Spectacular: *A Thrilling Finish to the Summer Swim Season*

On August 24, 2024, the masters swim community gathered for the highly anticipated O\*H\*I\*O Masters End of Summer Spectacular at the Avon Aquatic Facility. The event marked a vibrant conclusion to the summer swim season, attracting 108 swimmers!



Swimmers of all ages and skill levels converged at the Avon facility, representing 26 different teams from in and out of Ohio. The competition was fun, showcasing a range of impressive performances - including a national age group record attempt!—and created many fond memories for competitors and spectators alike. The meet was a testament to the passion of the masters swimming community, with each participant bringing their best to the pool.



JCC workout group rocked the meet!



The End of Summer Spectacular not only celebrated individual achievements but also fostered great camaraderie among swimmers. With the summer season winding down, this event provided a perfect opportunity for all to compete, connect, and enjoy the sport they love.



Big shout-outs and thank yous to all who contributed to a successful event: from swimmers, to the meet officials, to the timers from Avon High School Swim and Dive team, and to the many volunteers who helped plan and coordinate the day.

We look forward to seeing y'all again next year.

—Jamie Ryan

# Cleveland Hosts the 2024 Pan-American Masters Games



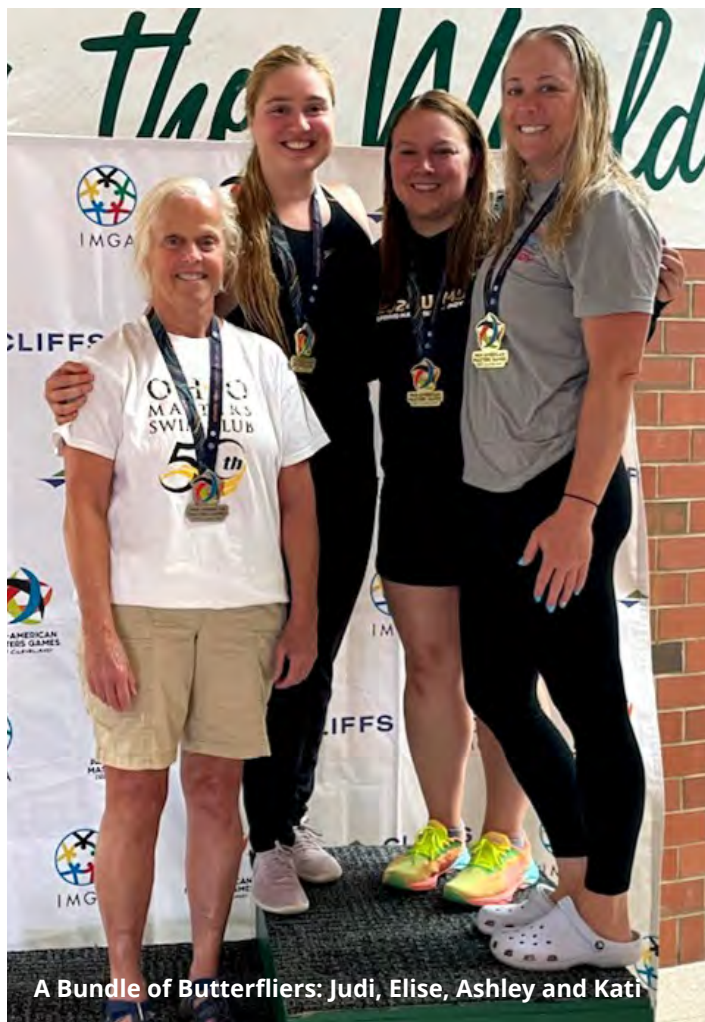
Cleveland hosted the 2024 Pan-American Masters Games (PAMG) July 12-21, 2024. This multisport competition welcomed thousands of athletes from around the world in a celebration of health, vitality, friendship and active lifestyle.

Participants competed in 24 medal contending sports, one of which was swimming held from July 17 to July 20 at Cleveland State University. Among the 287 swimmers entered were approximately 35 O\*H\*I\*O Masters swimmers and of those, 15 earned gold medal honors!

It was fun to see swimmers from all over the world come to Cleveland to swim in one of “our” pools. Some were seasoned swimmers; others entered

their first meet ever. Some traded swim caps with our global competitors.

One of the coolest events for O\*H\*I\*O Masters was the second heat of the women’s 100 butterfly where O\*H\*I\*O Masters swimmers Kati Pederson, Ashley Braniecki, and Elise Pichola finished 1-2-3 in the heat, but because they were in different age groups, they were 1-1-1 on the podium! Judi Norton, who swam in the heat previous, finished second in her age group (lower left).

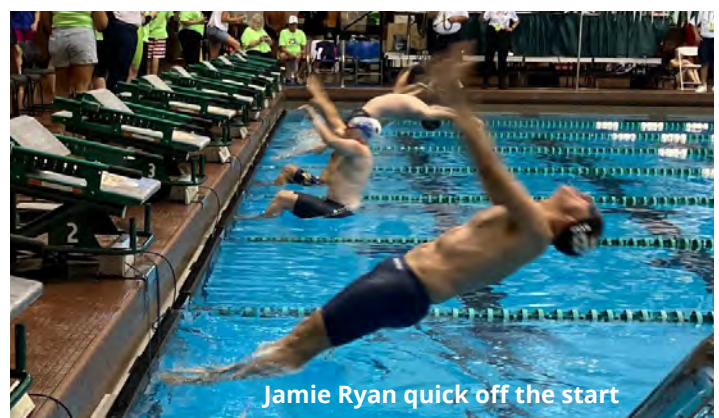


A Bundle of Butterfliers: Judi, Elise, Ashley and Kati



Team MAJK: Angela, Jennifer, Kristi and Maureen

As a recognized meet, swimmers were able to enter relay teams with anyone at the meet. Maureen Andree, Angela Sedivy, Jennifer Savage, and Kristi Tabaj joined together to swim for Team MAJK (above) did just that, and when the waves had settled, they came away with a silver medal.



Jamie Ryan quick off the start

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Two of our senior swimmers, Luise Easton and Susan Paris, (below) represented Ohio Masters well by collecting nine medals between them, and with Pam Beck and Judi Norton, added two more silver as official O\*H\*I\*O relays.



Darlings of Distance: Luise Easton and Susan Paris

Several members also volunteered hours of time in 4 hour shifts over two weeks. They are the real stars as this event could not have been possible without volunteers. THANK YOU to all of the unsung heroes of the meet and other events for all your efforts to make PAMG an event to remember!

O\*H\*I\*O Masters member Mark Marshfield (below) served as one of the officials at the meet. As we all know, without officials, there is no meet! Thank you, Mark, and all of the officials and timers who gave up a great deal of their free time so that we could compete.



Mark Marshfield, one set of legal-eagle eyes at the meet.

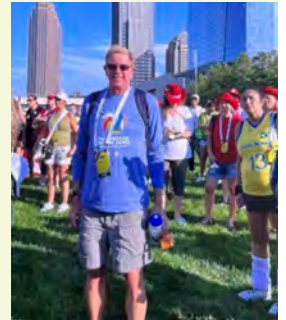
—by Judi Norton

# My Pan-American Games Experience

—Steve Wargo

The 2024 Pan-American Masters Games began with a welcome celebration in Public Square where a rousing crowd of family and spectators greeted us.

I was a little emotional as it occurred to me that people from all over the world were gathering for a common purpose—and right here in my hometown. Like me, my fellow athletes cared about family, friends, living in peace, and excelling in a sport. I couldn't help thinking, "I wish we could all get along." I met people from Mongolia, South Africa, Poland, India, Russia, Mexico, Canada, and all over the USA.



My goal was to win at least one medal. I swam in the 800- 400-, 200- and 100-meter freestyle and the 50-meter butterfly events. I also swam on a USA 200-meter relay team.



I was happy with how I swam. I won a bronze medal in the 800-meter and 400-meter freestyle and the 50-meter

butterfly. I won a silver medal in the 200-meter freestyle and the relay. I was especially happy with the silver medal in the 200-meter freestyle as I swam at top speed for the entire distance, one second behind the gold medal winner.

There were events around town to show off the city. I attended a Guardians game where an entire section of the stands was set aside for Pan American athletes. There was also a sold out night at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

I am grateful that I was able to participate in the Pan American Games. I will treasure the lifelong memories of camaraderie with my fellow athletes, the thrill of doing well in the events, and the positive impression Cleveland made on the world.



# LELMSC Success at Spring Nationals!



—Ashley Braniecki

Held simultaneously with the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, USMS hosted its 2024 Spring Nationals down the street at the IU Natatorium, June 20-24, 2024. Forty events were held over five competition days, with 2,320 swimmers across the country entered. Locally, we had three swimmers from NCLE, 40 from O\*H\*I\*O Masters, and two registered as unattached, participate in the event.



Ann, Kristen, Diane, Tom

The Lake Erie LMSC produced a number of All-Americans. Arlene Polen, 90, won the women's 90-94 50 free, dropping over 35 seconds from her time earlier this year at the Lakewood meet.

This was only Arlene's second swim meet—way to go, Arlene! Bill Learmonth, 89, was victorious in the men's 85-89 200 breaststroke, exceeding the second-place time by over three minutes. Luise Easton, 85, won the 500 free and the 200 free, and was first runner up in the 50 breast and 50 back, in the women's 85-89 age group. Tom Spence, who recently aged up to the 80-84 age group, won the mile in his age group, dropping over three and a half minutes from his seed time. The other half of this distance duo, Diane Spence, claimed first place in the women's 70-74 age group, and also earned second place finishes in the 500 free, 200 free, and 200 breast. Kristen Troyer, 31, took just under 30 seconds off her mile



Arlene Polen

time to win the women's 30-34 age group, yielding a very impressive time of 18:33.18.

With our large turnout, O\*H\*I\*O Masters was able to give every swimmer who wanted to swim on a relay a chance to do so. This was no easy feat, especially when an out of pool injury jeopardized this goal. Thank you to all swimmers for being flexible! While competition was fierce, several relays placed Top 10 in their age group:

Men's 25+ 200 Medley Relay, 10th: John Scalli, AJ Quinn, Justin Hill, and Nazar Tanovskiy

Men's 75+ 200 Medley Relay, 4th: Sid Hall, Bill Learmonth, Bob Williams, Tom Spence



Ashley, Kati, Kristen and Amy

Women's 35+ 200 Free Relay, 7th: Ashley Braniecki, Kristen Bergmann, Amy Hodgekins, Kati Pederson

Women's 55+ 200 Free Relay, 8th: Luise Easton, Colleen Feldkircher, Ann Marshfield, Diane Spence

While fast swims and big wins should be recognized and celebrated, long meets result in LOTS of deck time, yielding great conversations, lots of laughs, and new friendships. I personally enjoyed getting to know swimmers outside of my normal lane. A special shout out to Hilary Byrne and Lisa Porter who brightened my spirits throughout the meet.

After hours at the competition pool, many Lake Erie LMSC swimmers took advantage of the proximity

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# Ohio Senior Olympics!

Sunday, June 9 in Westerville, Ohio several members of Lake Erie LMSC participated in the Ohio Senior Olympics. This is a multisport event for athletes 50 years old and over. Pictured here are Bob McDonald and his sister, Anne Hegnauer. For complete results and more information about the Ohio Senior Olympics go to: [ohioseniorolympics.com](http://ohioseniorolympics.com)

—Anne Hegnauer



**See you at the Pentathlon  
on November 3 in  
Stow. Register today at  
[ohiomasters.com/events/](http://ohiomasters.com/events/)**



of 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials and Aqua Zone, and cheered on team USA hopefuls at night. Surrounded by ~20,000 fellow swim fans, this was truly an electrifying and emotional experience. If you were lucky enough, you may have witnessed Gretchen Walsh breaking the 100 butterfly world record in the semi finals or Regan Smith breaking the world record in the 100 backstroke at finals.



Lastly, a big shout out to first-time USMS Nationals participants:

- NCLE: Krista Rownd, Scott Rownd
- O\*H\*I\*O Masters: Reece Benedict, Emily Bergmann, Lauren Brandon, Eleanor Chambers, Maddie Dolce, Tom Freeman, Justin Hill, Michael Kramer, Chris Lewis, Dan McLaughlin, Kati Pederson, Elise Pichola, A.J. Quinn, Marissa Stadler

Unattached: Arlene Polen, Malcolm Trier

We hope you join us for 2025 USMS Spring Nationals in San Antonio, Texas, on April 24-27, 2025, or the 2025 USMS Summer Nationals in Federal Way, Washington, on August 6-10, 2025.



## Membership Coordinator's Report

As of September 15, 2024, Lake Erie LMSC has 500 swimmers and 7 clubs registered for the 2024 season.

Lake Erie LMSC	9/15/2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Amherst Aquatic Club	7	4	15	14	2	8
Cleveland Aquatic Team	20	24	25	18	19	21
Copley Aquatics Masters	15	25	NR	NR	NR	NR
Hamachi Swim Warriors	NR	NR	NR	NR	1	NR
Kraken Masters	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	5
LifeTime Swim Lake Erie	NR	NR	NR	NR	1	3
Liquid N' Durance	3	9	11	13	25	22
Mandel JCC**	NR	2	NR	NR	NR	NR
Massillon YMCA Stingrays	NR	NR	NR	NR	2	9
Medina Masters	NR	NR	16	16	20	24
North Coast Aquatic Team*	42	32	48	54	54	66
O*H*I*O Masters	339	332	339	324	296	308
Rec2Connect Razorsharks	NR	3	8	NR	NR	NR
Towpath Masters	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	3
Viking Masters	12	9	NR	NR	NR	NR
WHMS	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	4
Unattached	62	62	46	54	54	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>544</b>

*\*Shaker Sharks became North Coast Aquatic Team in 2023.*

*\*\* Mandel JCC became a workout group under O\*H\*I\*O Masters in 2024.*



*Pink Suit and Cap Day at Foster Pool!*

# Congratulations, Sid Hall!

## 2024 O\*H\*I\*O Masters Lifetime Achievement Award

Sid Hall has been a lifelong swimmer from his high school days to his most recent swims for USMS. He has excelled in every level of completion over his 74 years of competition, except for his "37 year taper" between high school and Masters swimming stints. He once quipped, "There's three things that keep me going. I want to keep my body going as best I can, I want to keep inspiring and improving, and I want to compete." And as you will read below, he does!

Sid was a multi-sport athlete at Grandview Heights High School in Columbus where he was a three-time swimming state meet qualifier and two-time state champion winning the 100 free as a junior and the 50 free as a senior. His times ranked him as a two-time high school All-American (top 20 in the USA) before graduating in 1953.

Sid's Masters career started when he saw an article in the newspaper about senior games and thought that might be something he could do. Unfortunately, he had to wait 4 years to compete as he was only 51 at the time. He kept the article as motivation, and entered the National Senior Games when he turned 55, and has been swimming ever since, competing in all of the NSGA swimming championships since 1993 except for the 1995. Last summer, at age 87, he won 4 medals in Pittsburgh NSGA meet, including gold

in the 500 free (and ranked him third in USMS top 10 as well.) At the Minneapolis NSGA he won gold in all 5 of his events. In national senior games competitions, Sid has won so many medals and set several NSGA records, that in recognition of these achievements, the Ohio Senior Olympics inducted Sid as a member of the Ohio Senior Olympics Hall of Fame in 2012.



Sid also competes in Masters YMCA National meets where he often medals, many of them gold. In 2018 Hall took first in the 500 yard freestyle (8:25.78), second in the 200 and 100 free and third in the 50 free. That same year, he swam USMS Nationals at Indy he was first in the 200 free and third in the 500, 100 and

50 free. These accomplishments occurred just one year after two major surgeries (shoulder surgery and then very delicate spinal decompression surgery.)

In USMS competitions spanning 33 years, he has amassed 175 Top 10 individual and 63 relay swims, including one All American ( #1 individual ranking) and 18 All- American relay rankings. Three of those relays were USMS National Records. Most recently, three of his relay teams were ranked in the top 10 World Swimming (previously FINA) tabulations. Sid has placed in the top 10 every year but one since 1991.

JCC End-of-Summer Swim and Picnic at Fairport Harbor



# USMS 2024 SCY Individual Top 10

Place	Event	Name	Age	Club	Place	Event	Name	Age	Club
<b>Women 30-34 SCY</b>					<b>Men 30-34 SCY</b>				
6	500 Free	Kristen Troyer	31	O*H*	8	50 Free	Justin Hill	33	O*H*
5	1000 Free	Kristen Troyer	31	O*H*	10	1000 Free	Andrew McCollister	31	O*H*
3	1650 Free	Kristen Troyer	31	O*H*	4	1650 Free	Andrew McCollister	31	O*H*
10	50 Back	Marissa C Stadler	30	O*H*	<b>Men 40-44 SCY</b>				
4	100 Back	Marissa C Stadler	30	O*H*	7	200 Back	Malcolm S Trier	42	UC18*
8	200 Fly	Marissa C Stadler	30	O*H*	<b>Men 70-74 SCY</b>				
4	200 IM	Marissa C Stadler	30	O*H*	1	200 Free	Edward J Borsuk	70	O*H*
<b>Women 70-74 SCY</b>					2	500 Free	Edward J Borsuk	70	O*H*
5	200 Free	Diane F Spence	71	O*H*	5	1000 Free	Edward J Borsuk	71	O*H*
5	500 Free	Diane F Spence	71	O*H*	2	1650 Free	Edward J Borsuk	71	O*H*
5	1000 Free	Diane F Spence	71	O*H*	<b>Men 75-79 SCY</b>				
4	1650 Free	Diane F Spence	71	O*H*	5	50 Free	Lawrence A Terkel	75	O*H*
9	100 Breast	Diane F Spence	70	O*H*	5	100 Free	Lawrence A Terkel	76	O*H*
4	200 Breast	Diane F Spence	71	O*H*	6	50 Breast	Lawrence A Terkel	75	O*H*
5	200 Fly	Melinda J Smith	71	O*H*	6	100 Breast	Lawrence A Terkel	75	O*H*
<b>Women 85-89 SCY</b>					7	100 Breast	Levente G Batizy	76	O*H*
9	50 Free	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	7	50 Fly	Lawrence A Terkel	76	O*H*
8	100 Free	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	6	100 Fly	Lawrence A Terkel	76	O*H*
6	200 Free	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	<b>Men 80-84 SCM</b>				
5	500 Free	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	2	1000 Free	Thomas E Spence	80	O*H*
6	50 Breast	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	4	1650 Free	Thomas E Spence	80	O*H*
4	100 Breast	Luise E Easton	85	O*H*	<b>Men 85-89 SCM</b>				
<b>Women 90-94 SCY</b>					10	200 Free	Sid Hall	88	O*H*
3	50 Free	Arlene D Polen	90	O*H*	3	500 Free	Sid Hall	87	O*H*



Don't we all?

6	500 Free	Robert B Williams	85	O*H*
5	200 Back	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
10	100 Breast	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
5	200 Breast	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
4	50 Fly	Robert B Williams	85	O*H*
5	50 Fly	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
10	100 IM	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
4	200 IM	William R Learmonth	85	O*H*
5	200 IM	Robert B Williams	85	O*H*
<b>Men 90-94 SCM</b>				
2	50 Free	Yoshi Oyakawa	90	O*H*
1	50 Back	Yoshi Oyakawa	90	O*H*

—Relay Top 10 on following page

# USMS 2024 SCY Relay Top 10

Place	Event	Club	Name (Age)	Place	Event	Club	Name (Age)
<b>Women 35+ SCY</b>							
9	400 Free	O*H*	Ashley Braniecki (38) Kristi N Tabaj (50) Kristen Bergmann (51) Kati Pederson (42)	4	400 Free	O*H*	Alex Machovina (28) Thomas M Dinh (30) Marissa C Stadler (30) Kristen Troyer (30)
<b>Men 25+ SCY</b>							
3	400 Free	O*H*	Nazar Tanovskiy (26) Alexander J Quinn (26) John C Scalli (28) Ethan Chase (32)	8	400 Free	O*H*	Ann Marshfield (65) Melinda J Smith (71) Robert G McDonald (74) Stephen Dillenburg (72)
<b>Men 75+ SCY</b>							
8	200 Free	O*H*	Sid Hall (88) Lawrence A Terkel (76) Robert B Williams (85) Thomas E Spence (80)	5	400 Medley	O*H*	Judith H Norton (66) Robert G McDonald (74) Duane V Grassell (66) Luise E Easton (84)
10	200 Medley	O*H*	Sid Hall (88) William Learmonth (85) Robert B Williams (85) Thomas E Spence (80)				

Congratulations to everyone who came out and swam in the **2024 Brogan Open Water Classic**. After four years of disappointment, Mother Nature cut us a break and gave us a 2-hour window between thunderstorms to complete our abbreviated race. Thank you for sticking with us and trusting that we'd make it happen this year. Your support makes all the work worthwhile.

Huge thanks to our hard working crew of volunteers who made the event run smoothly and safely. You all did a great job of adapting to the rapidly-changing weather and rose to the occasion every time you were needed. Special badge of merit to those of you who held down the tents when the nasty line of storms blew through at 5:00 a.m.

We appreciate the support of the Cleveland Metroparks and their amazing lifeguards, Cleveland EMS, the U.S. Coast Guard and Runner's High Timing.

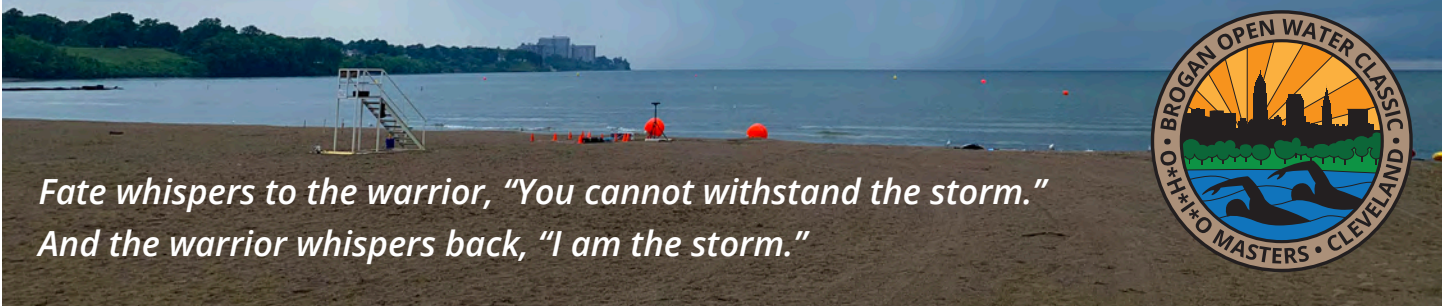
We are grateful to our friends at Argonaut who repaired and tested all of our course buoys. And to Rusty Deane who set all of the course buoys from a paddleboard!

Thank you to Patrick Wilson for so many amazing photos.

We will be back in 2025, but won't have a date until December. As soon as I know, you'll know and we can start making plans. Look forward to seeing you on the beach next summer.

—Chuck Beatty

*Fate whispers to the warrior, "You cannot withstand the storm."  
And the warrior whispers back, "I am the storm."*



## Isle swimmers had outsized presence at 1952 Olympics

REARVIEW MIRROR



BOB SIGALL

The Summer Olympics in Paris get underway in four weeks. It's something I always look forward to. Today, however, I thought I'd look back 72 years at the 1952 Helsinki Games, when three swimmers from McKinley High School helped put the United States at the top of the medal count.

Yes, you heard me right. McKinley High School, Jamaica does produce some great sprinters. Kenya is known for the best long-distance runners. But these are countries. McKinley is a high school, not even a square mile in size. How could its swimmers have that much impact? Let's see.

### Meet the swimmers

The three were Ford Konno and Evelyn Kawamoto, both of whom had just graduated from McKinley in 1951, and Bill Woolsey, a junior. Joining them in Helsinki from Hilo High School was Yoshinobu Oyakawa. Konno's father was an

auto mechanic, and he named his son for the Model T Fords he repaired.

Konno won two gold medals (in the 1,500-meter freestyle and 4x200 freestyle relay) and one silver (400 freestyle). Kawamoto won two bronze medals (400 freestyle and 4x100 relay).

Woolsey also took home a gold medal in the 4x200 relay, and Oyakawa won gold in the 100 backstroke.

One lap in Olympic-sized pools is 100 meters.

### McKinley came in 16th

"If it had sovereign country status, Honolulu's McKinley High School would have tied Denmark in 16th place for medals in the 1952 Olympic Games," Ferd Borsch wrote in The Honolulu Advertiser in 1992.

McKinley athletes garnered more medals than Canada, Poland, Netherlands, Turkey, Romania, Norway, Argentina, Brazil, India and New Zealand.

That's astounding in and of itself. But even more amazing, I think, is that the six medals won by these McKinley students moved the United States from second place behind the Soviet Union into first place in the total medal count.

The USSR had maintained a lead in the overall medal count for 12 of the 14 days of competition in Helsinki. The U.S. trailed with just two days to go. And then the swimmers from Hawaii took to the water.

### Men's 100-meter backstroke

Yoshinobu Oyakawa graduated from Hilo High School and was a freshman at Ohio State. In the NCAA championships in April, he came in third in the 100 backstroke. His Ohio State teammate Jack Taylor took first.

Coaches thought the 18-year-old had not reached his peak, and they were right. Three months later, in Helsinki, Oyakawa surprised everyone in the semifinals when he came in first. He shattered the world record, set at the 1936 Berlin Games, with a time of 1:05.7.

The next day, Aug. 1, he repeated his first-place victory in the finals. It was nothing less than sensational. He broke his own world record with an impressive time of 1:05.4. Taylor took the bronze medal.

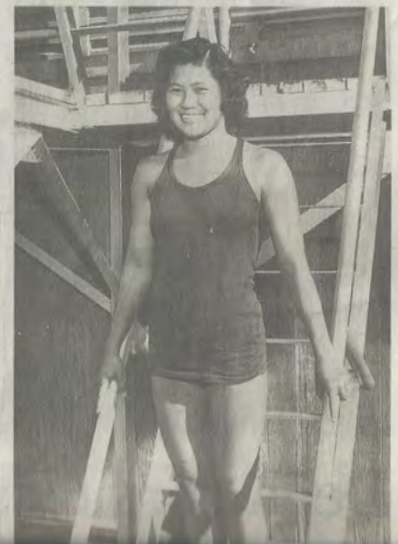
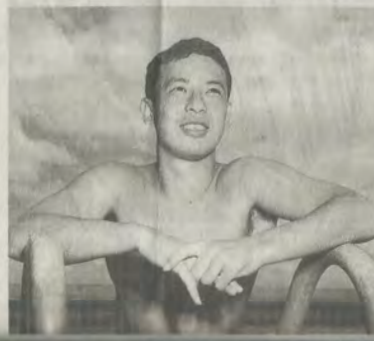
### Women's 4x100 relay

The U.S. team, composed of Jackie LaVine, Marilee Štepan, Jody Alderson and Hawaii's Evelyn Kawamoto, set a new world record in the qualifying heats of the women's 4x100 relay.

In the finals, Hungary and Holland came in second. The U.S. came home with bronze medals, and that cut the Soviet lead. Kawamoto also brought home a bronze medal in the 400 freestyle.

### Men's 1,500 freestyle

Next on the program was the men's 1,500 freestyle.



Bill Woolsey, far left, won one gold medal at the 1952 Olympics and another in 1956. Yoshi Oyakawa, left, from Hilo won the gold medal in the 100-meter backstroke.

Ford Konno, above, from McKinley High School won three medals at the 1952 Olympics and broke several world records. Right, Evelyn Kawamoto came home with two bronze medals from the Helsinki Games. She and Konno were married in 1956.

Shiro Hashizume of Japan had set a new Olympic record of 18:34 in the qualifying heats. Konno's time was unremarkable — 18:53.

In the final, Hashizume took a small lead at the outset of the race. The Japanese "flying fish" continued to lead at the 1,000-meter mark.

A hundred meters later, Konno began asserting himself. He pulled even with Hashizume at the 1,200-meter mark. Then Konno displayed why he was a champion. He was at his best when the chips were down.

With 50 meters to go, he caught and passed Hashizume and held a 2-meter lead at the last turn. Konno then pulled away from Hashizume, beating him by 11.4 seconds — about 20 meters. His time set a new world record of 18:30. His gold medal put the U.S. ahead of the USSR for the first time at the 1952 Olympics.

Konno noted proudly that three full-blooded Japanese men placed 1-2-3 in the 1,500 freestyle. He had won. Hashizume from Japan was second, and Tetsuo Okamoto of Brazil was third.

### Men's 4x200 freestyle relay

On the final day of the Olympics, Woolsey and

Konno teamed up with Wayne Moore and Jimmy McLane to swim in the men's 4x200 freestyle relay.

Woolsey swam second for the U.S. team. When he hit the water, the favored Japanese team was leading by 10 yards, the Advertiser's Andrew Mitsukado wrote. Woolsey swam the race of his life and cut the lead to 5 yards.

Konno then took over. "Up to his start, the U.S. team was a body length and a half back of the great team from Japan," swim coach Solchi Sakamoto said. "Konno's outstanding sprint and determined fight made it possible for our 800-meter relay team to turn a deficit into victory."

"Konno showed that he was the greatest swimmer, as he turned the margin of defeat for our team to one of victory."

In the 400 freestyle, Konno broke the world record but was edged out by Jean Boiteux of France, who was even faster. Konno won a silver medal to add to the two gold medals he won in the 1,500 and 4x200 relay.

In all, the Hawaii swimmers set five world records at the Helsinki Games.

### Sports Center of the World

After the closing

ceremonies, the Advertiser wrote that the "performances of this year's crop of swimmers merely added to a long history of record-breaking Olympic swimming achievements that stretched from the days of Duke Kahanamoku, though Warren Kealoha and Buster Crabbe, to Bill Smith in the '48 Games."

"Conditions locally are near-perfect for the early development of athletes in almost every field but that of winter sports. With top flight coaching, this raw material has gone on to win world recognition. This record gives Hawaii a strong claim to the title of Sports Center of the World."

### Epilogue

Konno and Woolsey participated in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, winning the silver medal in the 4x200 meter freestyle relay. Oyakawa came in eighth in the 1956 Olympics in the 100 backstroke.

Konno and Kawamoto married in 1956 and had two daughters. All four swimmers became teachers and swim coaches. Woolsey's grandson Ikalka Woolsey was a quarterback for the

University of Hawaii in 2012-16.

"Just to be a part of the Olympic Games was very exciting," Konno recalled. "There were so many countries, and I was just a little guy from the territory of Hawaii representing the United States. And then winning two events, that was the pinnacle, the ultimate."

### Final tally

How did McKinley's six medals influence the total medal count?

On Aug. 3 the final tally was 76 medals for the United States and 71 for the Soviet Union. The U.S. would not have topped the Soviet Union and come in first place without the McKinley students. And Oyakawa's gold medal was icing on the cake.

Can you think of another situation where one high school anywhere in the world was able to make this big a difference? I can't.

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Thanks to Kristi Tabaj for bringing this article to our attention. It talks about the success of Hawaiian swimmers at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki—and features our own Olympic gold-medalist, Yoshi Oyakawa.

Yoshi recently earned All-American status in the 50 SCY backstroke (90-94 age group).