



SPORTS

Piranhas honor top swimmers at banquet

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The Piranhas, Wayne County's recreation swim team, honored its top swimmers at its year-end banquet last week at Cracker Williams Recreation Center.

"This was a great summer of swimming," said coach Vanessa Boyles. "We had 92 swimmers start the season, which is the most we have had in three or four years. We had 32 go to state and many finished in the top eight. We don't practice year-round, and so this shows how hard these young swimmers worked in a short amount of time."

Chase Rogers received the coach's award, which is given to the swimmer who displayed the greatest sportsmanship, dedication and work ethic on the team.

Also at the banquet, the Wayne County Swim Boosters Club presented awards in two other categories. The high-point trophy awards were given to the top boys and girls swimmers in each age group who earned the highest total of points for the team during the season.

High-point award winners were William McArthur (U-6), Mercer Morgan (U-6), Alyssa DeLoach (U-10), Madeline Dukes (U-8) and Brittny Friese (U-14), Asher Kenerly (U-12), Chase Rogers (U-14), Darria DeLoach (U-12), Hattie Rogers (U-18), Amanda Sharp (U-18) and Don Westberry (U-18).

For the most-improved awards, each swimmer was judged based upon his or her time improvements during the year.

Most-improved award winners were Madison Mosby (U-8), Ray Lantrip (U-8), Camryn Brooks (U-6), Benjamin Thomas (U-6), Malcolm McArthur (U-10), Gloria Blaylock (U-10), Bailey McArthur (U-12), Anthony Yoder (U-12), Madison Thompson (U-14), Brooke Rogers (U-18), Nick Beaver (U-14) and Steven Boyles (U-18).

"This year's banquet, with trophies presented to every swimmer, was made possible by a late-season raffle with the winner enjoying a night's stay at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island," said Ray Stephens of the Booster Club. "This raffle, coupled with the Piranhas' faithful sponsors of D&E Pools, Doug Sharp at Plum Creek, Joey Williams with Captain Joe's, Jimbo Boykin at Boykin Crane and Steel, Dewey and Sissy Barber at Barber and Company, Dr. Eddie Thomas, and The Press-Sentinel, made this banquet and season possible. Also, I want to recognize the never-ending support of the Wayne County Commissioners, recreation director Steve Card and coach Vanessa Boyles."

The Booster Club is already making plans for next year and recruiting swimmers. More information may be gathered by contacting the Wayne County Recreation Department or emailing the team at wcswimteam@bellsouth.net.

Middle school

swimming



High point award winners include, front row, from left, William McArthur (U-6), Mercer Morgan (U-6), Alyssa DeLoach (U-10), Madeline Dukes (U-8) and Brittny Friese (U-14); back row, from left, Asher Kenerly (U-12), coach Vanessa Boyles, Chase Rogers (U-14), Darria DeLoach (U-12), Hattie Rogers (U-18), Amanda Sharp (U-18) and Don Westberry (U-18).

Boyles said that now that recreation season is over, she is gearing up for the inaugural season of the Arthur Williams and Martha Puckett middle school swim teams. She will coach both teams, and they will practice together but will compete separately.

"This will give the older kids more swimming opportunities," she said. "Hopefully, we will be able to build on the recreation season that many of these kids have had."

With the season being held in the fall, the team will be able to still practice at Cracker Williams Recreation Center. Complete details are still being ironed out, but most of the meets will be held at the YMCA pool in Brunswick.

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