

## **2008 Colorado Swimming Athlete of the Year**

Listed below are the candidates for the 2008 Colorado Swimming Athlete of the Year. You have until Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to register your vote. Any currently registered athlete member of Colorado Swimming may vote for one female and one male athlete. You must enter your USA Swimming Athlete Registration number to vote. You can vote here:

<http://www.csi.org/AthleteVoting.aspx>

### **2008 Colorado Swimming Female Athlete of the Year**

#### **Ellie Freeman- TOPS**

Ellie completed her freshman year at the University of Virginia with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the 200 Breast, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 100 Breast at the ACC Championships. She returned home in early May to train and compete with the Hilltoppers. At Olympic Trials, she finished 25<sup>th</sup> in the 200 Breast with a CO State Record, and 52<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 Breast. At the US Open, she improved on both performances breaking the CO State Records for Open Women in both events, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> 200 Breast (2:32.04), and 18<sup>th</sup> in the 100 (1:10.93) and the 200 Breast (2:32.05). In finishing 6<sup>th</sup> overall at the US Open (second among collegiate athletes) she is first alternate in the 200 Breast for the 2009 World University Games.

#### **Jenna Gregoire- FLFN**

Jenna won the 100 free and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 free (1/100<sup>th</sup> from first) at the Girls HS State meet. At the LC Sectional meet in March she got second swims in every freestyle event from the 50 to the 400, placing 11<sup>th</sup> in the 50 free and 12<sup>th</sup> in the 100 free. She attended the NCSA Junior National meet in March, where she did all best times, placing 22<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 free, and earning a second swim in that event. At Summer Sectionals, she placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the 50, 14<sup>th</sup> in the 400, and 19<sup>th</sup> in the 100. At the Speedo Junior National Championships in August she went lifetime bests in the 50 and 200 free in a very competitive meet. While she didn't place at that meet, she swam very well.

#### **Bonnie Brandon- MACS.**

Bonnie had a phenomenal year. At January's Midwestern All Star meet she won the High Point award, and she broke 3 meet records. She finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200 back at the Spring and Summer Speedo Western Sectional meets. She finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back and 9<sup>th</sup> in the 1500 at this summer's Junior National meet. She finished 13<sup>th</sup> at US Olympic Trials, the highest finish of any Colorado swimmer. She was selected to represent the United States as a member of the National Junior Team at the Junior Pan-Pacific meet. She is currently a freshman at Cherry Creek High School.

#### **Katie Johnson- NJ.**

Katie Johnson completed her Junior year on NJST with a best time and 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at Junior Nationals in the 200 Breast. Her time of 2:33.26 was a National Junior team qualifying swim. Katie also placed in the top 24 in the 400 IM at Juniors and was a member of the 400 Medley Relay that broke both the 15-18 and Open Colorado state records at the meet with a time of 4:19.38 (6<sup>th</sup> place.) Katie competed in the 200 Breaststroke at this year's Olympic Trials in Omaha and despite training thru the meet had a great performance in that event. Following Olympic Trials she traveled to the Western Sectional meet in Oregon where she had an outstanding meet with all best times. At

Sectionals she finished 2nd in the 200 Breast with 2:34.85, 3rd in the 400 IM with a 4:55.42 and 6th in the 200 IM with 2:23.21. Katie is known as a goal oriented, hard working, and very positive athlete and is an outstanding leader on her team.

### **Missy Franklin- STARS**

Missy had an amazing 2007-08 short course and long course year. Missy concluded the Short Course season with four 11-12 Short Course National Age Group Records in 100 free, 200 free, 200 back and 200 IM. At Spring Juniors, Missy placed 2nd in the 200 IM, 3rd in the 200 free, 3rd in the 100 free, 6th in the 50 free, and 6th in the 200 back. Missy qualified for the 2008 Olympic Trials, as the second youngest swimmer, in 3 events, the 50 free, 100 free and 200 IM placing 39th, 37th and 40th respectfully. Missy had all lifetime best times at Trials and broke the 13-14 National Age Group Record in the 100 free. Missy qualified and will represent the USA as a member of the USA National Junior Team in 2009 with her swims in the 100 and 50 free. In 2008 Missy broke and currently holds twelve 11-12 State Short Course Records, seven 11-12 State Long Course Records and five 13-14 State Long Course records.

### **Jordan Mattern- STARS**

Jordan had a breakout year this year in Short Course as well as Long Course. As a freshman in High School, Jordan finished 4th in the 100 free and 3rd in the 200 free. Jordan qualified for Spring Juniors in the 100 free 200 free and 200 IM. At Long Course Sectionals Jordan qualified for Long Course Junior Nationals in the 100 free, 200 free, 400 free and 400 IM. At Junior Nationals Jordan bettered her time in the 400 free placing 19th just missing the US Open standard by 2 tenths.

## **2008 Colorado Swimming Male Athlete of the Year**

### **Nick Koerner- RACE**

Nick had a breakout season during the 2007-08 competition year. Nick was the 4A State champion in the 50 and 100 free setting a state record in the 100 free in the process. Nick placed in the top 8 in the 100 free at both the Spring and Summer Sectional meets as well as top 8 in the 50 at the Spring meet. Nick capped off a stellar season with a tremendous Junior National meet by placing 5th in the 100 free, with a time under the old trials cut, and 22nd in the 50 free. Nick will be attending Stanford in the Fall.

### **Rob Newell- TOPS**

At the Summer Junior National meet, Rob finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200 Back (2:03.91), and 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100 Fly (55.35) both times that surpassed the 2008 Olympic Trial qualifying standard. In addition, he contributed to Hilltopper Relays in breaking 4 out of 5 Open Men's Relay state records. At the Summer Western Sectional Meet, Rob contributed to 200 Free, 400 Free, and 200 Medley Relays, and at the US Open he lead-off the 400 Medley Relay which broke the Open Men's Colorado Sate Record by over 5 seconds and finished 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, he was the high school state champion in the 100 Back, and a Speedo Scholastic All American. Rob will be attending Harvard University.

### **Blake Worsley- TOPS**

Blake is from Steamboat Colorado, and is entering his senior year at the University of Denver. During his collegiate season Blake qualified for NCAA's and finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 500 Free (4:17.95), and was

the first All American for DU since 1998. Shortly after he competed in the Canadian Olympic Trials recording several top 8 finishes, the highest being 4<sup>th</sup> in the 400 Free. At the Summer Western Sectional Meet, Blake won the 200, 400, and 800 Free en route to claiming the Individual High Point for Men. At the U.S. Open, Blake finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 800 Free (8:16.30), 10<sup>th</sup> in the 400 Free (3:54.86), and 18th in the 200 Free (1:50.84). He currently holds five records at DU, and he will be named a Division I Academic All American.

#### **Ryan Arata- FLFN**

Ryan was injured at the 14 & Under State SC Championships, and still managed to swim best times in 5 out of his 7 events, placing 3rd in the high point tally in a very fast, competitive meet. Swimming in his first Sectional meet in July, he did all best times, displaying no fear, and managing to get second swims in the 200 back (24th) and 200 fly (22nd). Saving his best for last, he won all 7 of his races and the 13-14 year old high point trophy at the CSI State LC championships, which doubled as the State Games of the West this year. He achieved a number of National Age Group top 16 times, and did best times in all of his events, beating times he had just set 2 weeks earlier at sea level. All of his swims would have placed in the top 8 of the senior boys division, even as high as 2nd in the 200's of back and fly. His performance at the State Games earned him the distinction of being named the Games' Colorado Male Athlete of the Year, an honor that stood him apart from every other male athlete at the Games regardless of age or field of competition.

#### **Steve Schmul- BLDR.**

Steve had a breakout year in 2007-2008. He began his rewriting of the Colorado State Record books in the 13-14 boys division where he broke existing records in the LC 100 free and 100 back and the SC 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, and 100 back. He attained #1 national rankings in 4 events in 2007 as a 13-14 year old. After winning the individual high point award at SC JO's, Steve then turned his sights to the 15-16 age group and to High School Swimming. He broke the Colorado State 15-16 Records in the LC 50 free and 100 free, and in the SC 100 free and 200 free. While maintaining a 4.0 grade point average as a freshman at Legacy High School, he won two individual titles at the Colorado 5A High School State Championships. His winning times at High School State eclipsed the existing 5A records in the 100 and 200 free, resulting in his selection to the CHSAA All State Team, and All-American status in four events. Steve was the highest ranked Freshman in the country, with a ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> in the 200 freestyle. Steve also qualified for the Omaha Swimvitational Grand Prix, The Long Course Junior Nationals, and the Short Course Nationals. Steve is a quality individual and a team leader on the Boulder Swim Team. At the LC State meet in August Steve won the Senior Men's individual high point award, but more importantly took the time to stand behind the Boulder 10 and Under relay teams lanes and cheer them on.

#### **Tyler Bush- LOVE. No biography available.**