

# Potomac Valley Swimming Webmaster's/Technology Report

April 12, 2010

**USA-S SWIMS & Sanctioning Workshop** - Terri Marlin & I attended this workshop in Austin TX on March 12-14, 2010. It was an opportunity to learn the latest about SWIMS, talk to the USA-S SWIMS staff, meet members of the Times & Recognition Committee and mingle with our counterparts from other LSCs. There was an informal get-together on Friday evening, a full-day session on Saturday and a Q&A session on Sunday morning.

Some of the topics covered were:

- **Sanctioning** - The differences between sanctioned, approved, and observed meets was discussed. The process for sanctioning observed meets was reviewed. We were reminded that a sanction for an approved meet cannot be used by USA-S teams for the purpose of circumventing USA-S registration requirements.
- **Loading Observed Meets in SWIMS** - There was discussion about how different LSCs approach this task. The most difficult thing is to get accurate information (name, DOB, ID#) from the high school coaches.
- **NCAA Meets** - It was announced that next season, the Division II and Division III meets will be loaded into the database, much like Division I meets were loaded this year.
- **Meet Manager 3.0** - Bob Matlack (Head of Hy-Tek Support) gave a brief demonstration of some of the new features in MM 3.0
- **SWIMS Reports** - We were shown how to generate some of the available reports. PVS already makes use of the Top Times Report. A new one they showed is the Meet Qualifiers Report. This report shows the number of swimmers in the LSC, by age group, that have achieved the various standards (e.g. A, AA,...Jr Natl, etc.).
- **One-Line Meet Entry (OME)** - We were given an overview of the OME and a discussion of how it being used in various LCSs followed. The benefits, as I found at the recent Sectional Meet, are that most of the registration and proof-of-time issues are filtered out by the system and the meet database that it produces is very clean.
- **Getting Times to the Live Database** - Although USA-S staff has been really good about approving times from the upload holding tank to the live database, they recently gave us the capability to do it ourselves. So, now we can upload a meet and immediately move it to the live database.
- **New USA Swimming Website** - We were given a look at the design for the new USA Swimming website. It should go live some time this summer.
- **Miscellaneous** - There were several other panel discussions and lots of interaction among the attendees about how different LSCs operate.

Overall, it was a very positive experience.

**PVS Website Statistics** - The website was very well used during the March championship meet season. Real-Time Results were used for Senior Championships and Junior Olympics. The statistics from host pvsweb2.org (where the real-time results are loaded) are given below:

	<u>Page Views</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	
Thr, 3/11	3,967	599	Senior Championships
Fri, 3/12	26,374	1,966	
Sat, 3/13	36,289	2,139	
Sun, 3/14	45,596	2,462	
Mon, 3/15	7,792	1,043	
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Thr, 3/11	5,771	883	Junior Olympics
Fri, 3/12	36,994	2,756	
Sat, 3/13	39,430	3,026	
Sun, 3/14	41,809	3,399	
Mon, 3/15	15,494	2,036	

When the preliminaries of the Sectional Meet got split into two sections, the Hy-Tek Real-Time Results wouldn't work well for posting the on-going results. I was able to create a web page on the PVS website for interim results by flight, combined results, and heat sheets that kept everyone at the meet informed. Without the use of the PVS website, it would have been nearly impossible to run that meet. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the Sectional Meet, the web site had nearly 10,000 visitors per day. And, on Saturday alone, there were 85,250 page views.

Due to the three large championship meets in PVS in March, and the other meets going on in PVS, pvsweb.org had nearly a million page views for the month.

**Broadband Modem** - The broadband modem was put to good use in March. It allowed us to have internet access and real-time results for Junior Olympics. It also allowed me to create and easily update the website for Sectionals that I described above. The cost of service to support these two meets was \$20.

**SWIMS Statistics** - Through the end of March, 82 meets (sanctioned, observed, and approved) had been loaded into SWIMS from PVS for the 2009-2010 season. This includes 153,044 individual swims and 3,560 relay swims. Last year at this point, the numbers were 79 meets/142,024 individual swims/3,239 relay swims.

**Records** - John Hirschmann completed the conversion of the PVS Records to the PVS Portal on the USA-S website. The ease with which the records can be updated was demonstrated by John after each of the March Championship Meets, where multiple records were broken. The capability now exists for Meet Directors to download an up-to-date Hy-Tek records file for use in their meet databases.

**PVS Radios** - I purchased some additional headsets for the new radios, and they seemed to work pretty well at our March meets (Sr Champs, JOs, and Sectionals).

**PVS Equipment** - Three PVS computers were networked for JOs and worked flawlessly. The refurbished CTS-6 timing consoles were also used with no problems. The 8-line scoreboard was also a benefit to the meet.