

2010 YMCA Short Course National Championship Athletes Welcome



Two time US Olympian **Ryan Lochte**, will represent SPEEDO at the 2010 YMCA Nationals. Ryan is the 2008 Beijing Olympic champion in the 200 back and in the 800 free relay. Last summer in Rome at the FINA World Championships Ryan earned 4 Gold Medals and set the World Record in the 200 IM. He was a part of the 800 free relay team that also established a new world record.

USA Swimming named him the Athlete of the Year at the 2009 US Aquatic Sports Convention last September. At the 2009 Golden Goggles in November 2009 Ryan was named the Male Athlete of the Year. Ryan's USA Swimming biography is

found at this link:

<http://www.usaswimming.org/USASWeb/DesktopModules/BioViewManaged.aspx?personid=ef40c7a1-7499-4931-8027-f8a7f1c4175d&TabId=388&Mid=597>

Ryan might be the most recognizable Olympian at the YMCA Athletes Welcome Party on Tuesday, April 6th, but he certainly won't be the only one there. The Master of Ceremonies will be **Mel Stewart**, former YMCA National Champion and USA Olympic Gold Medalist from the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

SwimNetwork will be filming the YMCA Athletes Welcome Party and Mel's role will be to introduce Ryan and two special guests. At the 2010 YMCA National Championships, the YMCA of the USA will be honoring former YMCA National Champions **Kim Linehan and Dave Sims**. Both Kim and Dave were selected to represent the USA at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow but due to the US boycott the USA and many other nations did not send an Olympic team. Our recognition is a fitting tribute to these legends of our sport that are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their YMCA accomplishments and of their selection to the 1980 US Olympic team.

During the YMCA Athletes Welcome Party other US Olympians including **Craig Beardsley, Glenn Mills, Janel Jorgensen, Jesse Vasallo, and Dave Burgering** will be introduced. Also being recognized for years of outstanding service to the YMCA are **Jim Stocker and Paul Atkinson**. Jim and Paul were past meet directors and chairmen of the YMCA Swimming & Diving Advisory Committee.

Ryan Lochte will be available to sign autographs for YMCA competitors prior to the Athletes Welcome Party beginning at 3:30.

At 6:45 pm in the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Mel Stewart will serve as the MC for ISHOF's "Night at the Museum". This event is designed for the parents of the athletes and will feature all of the US Olympians who are guests of the Hall of Fame. SwimNetwork will be video taping Mel interviewing the 1980 Olympians.

ISHOF has created an exhibit to remember the only US Olympic team that was selected but unable to compete at an Olympic Games. The exhibit is being launched during the YMCA Nationals and every YMCA athlete will be given a ticket for free admission to the exhibit and to the ISHOF Museum from April 7 to 10th.