

New Draft: 11/4/2010

History National YMCA Swimming and Diving Championships.

“A Long Course Championship Program!”

In the mid-1980's The National YMCA “Short Course Senior” Swimming and Diving Championship Meet was flourishing and Masters Short Course Meet which started in 1980 under the leadership of John de Barbadillo was growing. The YMCA's place in United States Competitive Aquatic Community along with the United States Olympic Swimming and Diving Committee were well established. It was once again time for our National YMCA Swimming and Diving Committee. to think about expansion. The time was right, but what type of meet, when and where would it be held, and finally who would be the meet director!

The vision for this new National YMCA Championship Meet came about in a strange way. It was near the end of the Short Course National Meet held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in April of 1985. Ed Henn, a member of the National YMCA Swimming and Diving Council/Committee, approached the then president of our committee, Gene Keltner, with a suggested concept for a combined National YMCA Long Course Age Group Championship and a National YMCA Long Course Masters and making it a “Timed Finals” Meet.

Gene thought the idea had merit and told Ed that he would take his proposal to the winter meeting of the National Executive Committee meeting and would let him know the outcome. At that meeting of the executive committee (**Gene Keltner Chairman, Gloria Summers Vice-Chairman/ Administration, Peggy Kelso Vice-Chairman/ Program & Standing Committees, Paul Atkinson Vice-Chairman/Field Representatives, Jim Stocker Secretary, Lynn Rickert Treasurer, Joe Rogers Chairman Emeritus, Archie Harris, Bill Daisley, Bob Mowerson, Clyde Truttmann Members at Large**), there was much discussion, both pro and con. The final decision was made to host a National YMCA Long Course Senior Championship Meet in 1986 with preliminaries and finals. It would be held at the Countryside YMCA in Lebanon, Ohio, with Ed Henn, as its Meet Director. The Countryside YMCA had an 8 lane outdoor pool and an indoor pool for diving which was located just north of Cincinnati, Ohio. Ed was quite honored to be selected as the meet director for the 1st National YMCA Long Course Championship Meet. However, he was disappointed that it was not the combined meet that he had suggested as he felt there was a real need for the YMCA to establish an Age Group Championship Program and a Long Course Masters Championship to this day it has not happened.

Ed and the officials chairman, Al Dahl, began working on the newly established meet immediately upon his return from Florida. In checking the dimensions of the outdoor pool facility at the Countryside YMCA, it was discovered that they were incorrect and the meet had to be moved to a new location.

National YMCA Long Course Swimming and Diving Championships

The first YMCA National Long Course Swimming Meet was held on August 6-9, 1986 at the Keating Natatorium on the campus of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Keating Pool had no diving facilities and as a result the diving was conducted at the Countryside YMCA on August 6 & 7th in Lebanon, Ohio. Team registrations were due by June 15th and the entry deadline was July 25, 1986. The Championship headquarters was at the Radisson Inn, 11440 Chester Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246. Team registrations were held August 5-6, 1986.

There were 453 athletes from 55 YMCA's that attended this 1st Long Course National YMCA Championship Meet. Teams came from as far away as California, Maine, and Florida to participate in this event.

1986 National YMCA Long Course Championship Committee

Chairman: Ed Henn

Paul Atkinson
Toby Boedeker
Jim Byrne
Alan Dahl
Dottie Henn

Archie Harris
Lynn Rickert
Dave Saunders
Gloria Summers
Clyde Truttmann

Key Officials for the meet:

Meet Director/Manager: Ed Henn
Officials Chairman: Alan & Barbara Dahl
Computer Chairman: Jim & Mary Lynn Byrne
Auto-Timing Chairman: Claudia Multer
Scoring Chairman: Dottie Henn
Admissions Chairman: Paul & Jan Atkinson
Meet Referees: Archie Harris & Alan Dahl
Diving Chairman: Don Leas
Starter: Sandy Wilson

Top 3 Teams: Men and Women & Combined team Champion:

Women's Teams:

1. Collier County Br. Naples, FL
2. Blue Ash Br, Cincinnati, OH
3. Scottsdale Br. Pittsburgh, PA

1st Combined Team Champion: Collier Co. Naples, FL---1089 Points

Men's Teams:

1. Collier County Br. Naples, FL
2. Blue Ash Br. Cincinnati, OH
3. Rochester Br. Detroit, MI

Notes of interest concerning this 1st Long Course meet :

1. The 1986 Long Course Meet was the 1st National YMCA Championship Meet to have the auto-timing system directly connected to the computer. It was a Colorado Timing System which was owned by the Southwest Ohio Cluster YMCA Swimming League.
2. An 8 lane Colorado scoreboard used in the meet was borrowed from the Beavercreek YMCA, thanks to Director Paul Atkinson, and was mounted by Al Dahl, a lay volunteer from the Blue Ash YMCA.
3. To have triple lane lines for the meet, extra lines were borrowed from YMCA's in the Southwest Ohio Cluster YMCA Swim League.
4. All deck officials used in the meet were YMCA certified officials from the Southwest Ohio District YMCA Swim League.