

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Nancy Zellmer

Seminole Pool

271-9601

nzellmer@virtualproperties.com

www.allcityswim.org

No Generation Gap with All-City Swimming Families

Fitchburg, July 17, 2004:

Dinny Binger holds the video camera and proudly cheers on her 5-year-old daughter Kali who strives to finish her lap of freestyle. "Go Kali" she shouts, clearly relishing watching Kali kick energetically into the wall. Beside her is her mother Sally Messner who attends most of her grandchildren's swimming meets.

The Binger children Kole, age 8, Kellen, age 6, and Kali all swim for the Seminole Swim Team. Their little brother Kade, age 3 is almost ready for his turn on the blocks.

Seminole, located in Fitchburg is the host pool for the 2004 All City Swim Meet. The Meet is a tradition the Binger kids share with their Mother who swam for both West Side and later Nakoma in the 1970s. Grandma Sally has fond memories of participating in All-City too having swam in the meet in the late 1940s.

"Back then All-City was held in a variety of different lake locales." Messner said, "I remember swimming at BB Clarke Beach on Lake Monona. The meet was coed and there were two piers separated by a walkway. The All City Dive Meet was held on the same day and there was a hemp covered diving board."

Messner swam for the Willows Beach Swim Club on University Bay Drive, the current site of the UW Lakeshore dorms. "I have wonderful memories of the All-City Swim Meet", Messner enthuses "I started swimming at the age of 10 years old and even though they didn't have competitive girls swimming in high school; I was a swim instructor for the years I was at West High and the UW Madison."

Messner regularly competes in Masters swimming and won the 70-74 year old 200 Freestyle in the 2004 Badger State Games. Messner and her daughters regularly swim relays together at the Badger State Games. "Swimming is part of our lifestyle. It is so healthy and I am thrilled to watch my grandchildren enjoy the sport".

Dinny Binger shares her mother's fond memories of All-City. As a 'swim mom' she now gets to see and socialize with many of her childhood friends. Former team mates Aileen Moran Seymour and Sue Horinek Romens also have children who swim for Seminole.

The three "40 something" friends all swam competitively as children. Seymour and Romens went on to swim together at Memorial High School and Binger swam for Madison West.

Romens a mother of five, was an extremely accomplished swimmer who swam for the UW-Madison and became an All-American. In the summers Romens swam for Ridgewood and in 1972 won the 8 & Under Breaststroke in a record breaking time that was only recently surpassed.

Romens' daughter Rachel, age 8 is a breaststroke specialist like her Mom. Her son Paul, age 11 is on the Seminole Dive Team for his second year. Paul was 2nd in his age group last year in the All-City Dive Meet.

“I have absolutely great memories of All-City. We did swimming as a neighborhood activity. I loved the camaraderie; the traditions of tie dying t-shirts, carbo-loading at the Spaghetti Dinners the night before preliminaries and the post meet banquets. I participate in Masters Swimming now.”

Seymour echoes the fact that swimming was just an integral part of her childhood. She swam for Parkcrest. Her husband Dan was a standout swimmer at Madison West High and was later an All American at the UW Madison. The Seymours have three children who swim for Seminole; Kory age 12, and 7 year old twins Samantha and Garrett.

“Growing up, most of my friends swam.” Seymour says. She is now the President of the Seminole Swim Team Parent Board. “It is so much fun to watch my children experience All-City. I get to see old friends and experience the fun all over again, but this time as a parent “

The All-City Swim Dive Meet will be held August 5-7th at the Seminole Pool located at the corner of Seminole Highway and Schumann Drive, just south of County Highway PD (McKee Road). Admission to the event is free, although donation of a canned food item is requested as part of the League's Food Drive initiative for the Allied Drive Food Pantry. For more information please visit www.allcityswim.org
####

Labeled photos of the people mentioned in this article may be viewed here:
<http://www.zmetro.com/allcity>