

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT: Nancy Zellmer
Contact Person: Nancy Zellmer
Seminole Pool and Tennis Club
www.allcityswim.org
271-9601
zellmer@mac.com
Web site address: allcityswim.org

BY ANY MEASURE ALL CITY SWIM MEET WILL BE BIG

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Seminole Pool and Tennis Club, located at 5948 Schumann Drive will be the site of the 2004 All City Swim Meet. Swimmers from twelve Madison area swim teams will participate. The event will take place on August 5th through 7th. There will be almost 2000 young participants making All-City one of the largest out door swim meets in the nation.

This is the first time that the Seminole Pool has had the honor of hosting this event. The host rotates among the pools in the Madison All-City Swim and Dive League. Last year Seminole hosted the All-City Dive Meet.

In the swimming world, pool size matters. An 'Olympic Swimming Pool' like the Long Beach Pool Michael Phelps just cruised through at the Olympic Trials is 50 meters in length and is known as 'long course'. Shorewood Hills has a long course pool.

25-meter pools have become popular and events hosted in those pool are known as 'short course'. Most YMCA swimming events are held in pools that are 25 yards. The shorter the pool, the faster the time for the same distance as the swimmer gains speed from pushing off the wall after each turn at the end of the pool.

Seminole is a unique site as it is the only pool in the All-City League with a 27.5-meter length pool. The pool length was the result of a construction error when the pool was built. The pool is actually 25 meters in width but too shallow for competition. The 27.5-meter distance guarantees there will be a new All City Swim record set in every event.

The Seminole All City Committee spent a lot of time deliberating about the practicality and expense of installing a bulkhead for the 3-day event. They instead decided to embrace the difference and have used the 27 1/2 length as part of their distinctive marketing campaign. Seminole swimmers at the 2003 All-City Meet proudly sported hot pink swim caps with 27 1/2 emblazoned on the side. The team shirts this year proudly display 27 1/2 on their backs.

You can learn more about the event by visiting the website: www.allcityswim.org.

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