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July 28, 2008

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West Side Swim Club to Host 2008 All City Swim This Week

MADISON— A 47-year-old tradition continues this week in Madison. Beginning Thursday, July 31, 2008, the West Side Swim Club (WSSC) hosts one of the largest outdoor swim meets in the nation--the All City Swim Meet.

More than 1,500 swimmers from 12 Madison area swim teams will participate in the grand finale of summer swimming. Some competitors as young as four years of age will summon the strength needed to swim 25 meters. The "oldest" swimmers, 18-years-old will enjoy a bittersweet event—their last. All City seniors will be recognized Saturday for their commitment to the sport and their years of jumping into the pool nearly every day of the summer for those early morning practices.

All City swim clubs are from Madison, Middleton, Monona, Fitchburg, and Shorewood Hills. The preliminaries begin Thursday and Friday at 8:00 a.m. Finals and relays are Saturday.

Despite being one of the oldest private pools in Madison, this is just the third time WSSC will play host to All City. However, it's only the second time the event has actually been held at the pool located at 5533 Odana Road. Because of space concerns, the club chose to hold the summer swimming finale at the UW-Natatorium in 1996. Fast forward to 2008 and neighboring businesses are donating parking lots and green space for WSSC to use for tent city as well as swimmer drop off eliminating any worries about room needed for swimmers and spectators.

Supreme Health and Fitness, and McCormick Family Dental are donating parking lots for tent city which is home to these 1,500 swimmers and their families for 3 days. M&I Bank is allowing use of its drive-through for swimmer drop off. That means tent city is just a few steps away.

A year in the making, WSSC's All City Committee, and hundreds of volunteers, mostly parents, will make this 3-day event run smoothly.

Outside the pool, the 12 clubs are competing to raise pounds of food for Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. From meals in a can, to Mac and cheese, to toilet paper, swimmers will fill their food barrels through August 2. . In addition to food donations, money donations are also requested. For every \$1 donated Second Harvest can provide the equivalent of seven meals. Last year, swimmers donated more than 22,000 items during the All City Food Drive.

New at All City this year is a raffle that will help raise money for the Shelley Glover Pool Fund. Established in 2004, the fund provides scholarships for swim passes and swim lessons for underprivileged families. Carmella Glover, Shelley's mom, will address the attendees at Saturday's finale.

Schedule: Thursday - Preliminary heats for girls and boys divisions from ages 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18 will be held from 8:00 a.m. to after 3:30 p.m. Friday - Preliminary heats for boys and girls divisions in 8-and-under and 9-10 will be held from 8:00 a.m. until approximately 2:45 p.m. Saturday - Relay events will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and finals for all individual events in all age divisions are scheduled from 11:40 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

ON THE WEB: The swim will feature live video streaming at www.allcityswim.org/AllCity2008/WestSideSwim2008