



Bear-a-cuda's open season with easy win

By Nona Ballard

Opening the European Forces Swim League season Sunday at the Andrew's pool, the Berlin Bear-A-Cudas rolled over the Hahn Sea Hawks by a score of 306-106. The strong Berlin Squad took 38 individual victories out of 48 races.

Coach Ted Colquhoun praised his entire team for outstanding efforts at every level. Numerous swimmers 'earned valuable points for the Bear-A-Cudas.' In the 10 and under age group, Samara Ballard, Tristan Gruett and Graham Salt earned second and third places. As 11-12 swimmers, Iwalani Pecqueur, Alicia Grudzinski, Laura Doucette, Peter Rigney, Casey Bunton, Jay Tydlaska and Jeff Milton took places for team points.

In the 13-14 age group, Robin Hewitt and Mary Coyle placed. As 15-19's Sara Finch, Laura Jacoby, Monica Madero, Jennifer Hewitt, Chris Fortune and Steve Ne-zuch were sources of depth for the team.

Taking home triple first places were swimmers Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson in the 11-12 age category, Bethany Ballard in the 13-14 age group and Nona Ballard and Todd Walsh in 15-19's.

Double first place winners were Max Milton and Knut Asmis. Earning single blue ribbons in individual competition were Erika Ligas, Melissa Madero, John Hatten, Troy Lavender, Brian McComak, Alicia Freitag, Kirstin Walsh, Kristi Schake, Chris Minderman, Eddie Wucher, Mike Snell, Jimmy Wucher, Kirk Slobody, Kelle Smith and Bonnie Eschrich.

Up and coming seven-year-old John Rigney, though not placing in his 50-meter freestyle race, finished fourth with an impressive time of 41.08 seconds.

The Berlin Squad has a two week interval before their next competition with invading teams from Würzburg and Mainz.



Bear-a-cuda Troy Lavender encourages a teammate on in the meet against Hahn Oct. 21.

Cudas strong as season approaches

By Paul White

When the Youth Activities Berlin Bear-a-cudas head coach Ted Colquhoun looks at his 1984 swimming team, he likes what he sees. And if Colquhoun is pleased, then that can only mean trouble for the opposition.

"We started practicing in mid-August," Colquhoun said, "and after four weeks I felt that this team looked better than our championship team back in '82." Last year the Bear-a-cudas slipped to third place, but the addition of some fresh talent and a new league format has Colquhoun smiling again.

Under the new format, the team champion will be determined by the results of the league championship tournament. Previously, the championship was decided in dual match competition. Colquhoun, entering his fourth year as the head coach, feels that the new rule gives Berlin a strong chance against some of the teams from the larger commands.

Colquhoun will be aided by Jessie White, Susan Eichner and Paul Gerry, three assistant coaches whose presence will allow the head coach, a six gold medal winner in the USAB championships, to work with the older, more experienced athletes on the team.

The Bear-a-cudas open their season Oct. 21, and once again the team will be backed by the hard working and extremely efficient parent's booster club. From raising funds to providing transportation to actually putting on the home meets, the booster club makes it easier for the swimmers to concentrate on just cutting seconds off their times.

Colquhoun has top-notch swimmers in each of the four age categories, and the team is especially strong in the 15-19 age group. "Our girls are all good," the coach said of his senior swimmers. "They should all finish in the top 10." Todd Walsh, Kurt Azonis and Chris Fortune provide solid depth for the older boy's team.



photo by Paul White

Swimming laps is one of the many drills the Youth Activities Berlin Bear-a-cudas practice as they prepare

for the upcoming season. The Bear-a-cudas will open their season Oct. 21.

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The team's strongest age division, however, is the 11-12 group, where both the boys and girls could wind up dominating. The girls are led by Aryn Ballard, winner of five gold medals in the 10 and under championships last year. This year she moves up in age division but, according to Colquhoun, she should encounter no problem at all. "Troy Johnson and Peter Rigney, two of the most versatile swimmers on the team, should star in the boys 11-12 division.

Coming up in the 10 and unders will be another Ballard, Samara, who along with Emily Bunton, should ensure that this age group will again be a team strong point. Graham Salt and Brian McComak head the list in the boy's 10 and unders.

Mike Snell and Chris Minderman are the top swimmers in the boy's 13-14 group, and the girls team is led by Kirstin Walsh and Bethany Ballard. In addition, Colquhoun feels that in Mary Coyle, Kirk Slobody and Karl Bentley, he has quality performers who could surprise in the perennially tough age bracket.

There are over 80 kids who swim with the Bear-a-cudas, but the coach is still interested in anyone who'd like to participate in this year's competition. "I know there are some good swimmers out there who aren't on the team, because I've seen them," Colquhoun said. "I've even met them. They're just not out here at the pool." Interested swimmers between the ages of 6 and 19 should see Colquhoun at one of the practices, which are held Monday through Fridays from 4-6 p.m. at Andrews Pool and Saturday mornings from 8-10 a.m. at the Berlin Brigade Sports Center Pool.

Bear-a-Cudas breeze in meet

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas swim team won its second victory of the season in a tri-meet Sunday with an impressive 417 points over Wuerzburg-148 and Mainz-82. Individual swimmers won 33 out of 40 races and Berlin relay teams took all eight of the mixed medley and mixed freestyle relay races.

Earning blue ribbons in three events were 10 and under Troy Lavender, who won the 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter breaststroke and 50-meter butterfly; 11-12 Aryn Ballard in the 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter butterfly; and 13-14 Mike Snell, who took the 200-meter individual medley, 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter breaststroke.

Double first place victories were brought home by Troy Johnson, Tanja Haber, Chris Minderman, Todd Walsh and Knut Asmis.

Single winners include 10-unders Samara Ballard, Melissa Madero, John Hatten, Brian McComak; 11-12's Alison Klukas, Anne Doucette, Peter Rigney, Max Milton, Jeff Milton; 13-14 Bethany Ballard; and 15-19's Laura Jacoby, Bonnie Eschrich, Nona Ballard and Jimmy Wucher.

Additional swimmers adding points to the team efforts by placing second or third in their races or swimming a relay leg were 10-unders Erika Ligas, Emily Bunton, Angela Lauer, Tristan Gruett, Eric Virgin and Graham Salt; 11-12's Alicia Gurdzinski, Krista Lavender, Marla Minderman, Casey Bunton and Yan Steffan Vogt; 13-14's Alicia Freitag, Jackie Porter, Kirstin Walsh, Robin

Hewitt, Chris Ligas, Gilbert Barrera and in the 15-19's age group Kristi Schake, Kelle Smith, Monica Madero, Kathy Brooks, Steve Nezach, Karl Bentley and Eddie Wucher.

Coach Ted Colquhoun was pleasantly surprised by his swimmers' showings across the board. Individual times were dropped in nearly every race. Highlighting a particularly outstanding effort he noted the performance of new swimmer Alicia Freitag in the 100-meter breaststroke.

Last year's runner up for the European Forces Swim League title, Kaiserslautern, will invade Berlin this weekend for Berlin's most difficult competition to date.

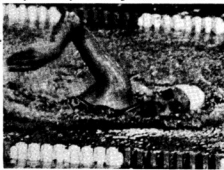


Members of the Bear-a-Cudas get set for another victorious swim.

Bear-a-cudas defeat K-town

By Nona Ballard

European Forces Swim League competition at its best was the order of the day Sunday at Andrews Pool as the Berlin Bear-A-Cudas defeated the powerful Kaiserslautern Kingfish by a score of 228 to 188. The eight relay races were split evenly at four apiece in the duel meet so the individual events weighed heavily in the Berlin victory. The lead changed hands several times during the meet until 11-12 Troy Johnson defeated the EFSL champion of two years standing with a heroic effort in the



Bear-A-Cuda Monica Madero reaches down for a little extra as she strokes toward the finish line.

50-meter freestyle race. Johnson shattered the EFSL record in the process with his time of 29.98 seconds. From that point on, according to Coach Ted Colquhoun, the Berlin squad rallied to take the lead for the rest of the day.

Records continued to be slashed as Troy Johnson also set a team record in the 100-meter individual medley. Bethany Ballard broke team records in both the 13-14 girls' 200-meter individual medley and the 100-meter breaststroke while swimmer Aryn Ballard cut the 11-12 girls' 50-meter backstroke record. Max Milton set a new standard in the 11-12 boys 50-meter backstroke and Kristi Schake did likewise in the 15-19 girls' 100-meter breaststroke.

The 11-12 medley relay surprised the strong K-town entry when they established a new team record through the efforts of Max Milton, Alicia Freitag, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson. Later in the meet found the 13-14 freestyle relay of Chris Minderman, Kristi Schake, Bethany Ballard and Kirk Slobody setting a new team record.

Winning three individual events during the closely contested races were 11-12 Aryn Ballard and 15-19 Todd Walsh. Double victories were earned by Max Milton, Kristi Schake and Nona Ballard.

Bear-a-cudas notch road win

By Nona Ballard

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas swim team sank the American Embassy Blue Marlins 292 to 108 Nov. 18 in Bonn. Berlin overpowered the new Rhein River squad of the European Forces Swim League by winning 33 of 40 individual events and placing second in 26 races.

Eight team records fell in the process. Troy Johnson established a new record in the 50 meter freestyle and Max Milton in the 50 meter backstroke. Bethany Ballard set two new team standards, first in the 100 meter breaststroke and then again in the 100 meter butterfly. Swimmer Mike Snell turned in a record 100 meter backstroke while Todd Walsh raced an impressive 100 meter breaststroke for a new record.

In addition, both 11-12 relays set team records with the 200 meter mixed medley team of Max Milton, Laura Doucette, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson scoring Berlin's first points. Towards the end of the competition the 200 meter mixed freestyle team of Casey Bunton, Alicia Grudzinski, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson sailed to another team standard.

Shining through triple first place victories were swimmers Aryn Ballard, Troy Johnson, Bethany Ballard, Kirk Slobody and Todd Walsh.

Earning double blue ribbons were Troy Lavender, Max Milton and Nona Ballard.

The SHAPE Seals invade Berlin this weekend for EFSL swimming at its best Sunday at Andrews pool.



John Hatten, Jr. of the Berlin Bear-a-Cudas checks his time during a recent swim meet.

Bear-a-cudas outswim SHAPE Seals

by Nona Ballard

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas swim team defeated archrival S.H.A.P.E. Seals by a score of 217 to 198 Sunday at Andrews pool. The Berlin squad rolled its season victories to five and remains undefeated after this closely contested European Forces Swim League competition.

Bear-A-Cudas outswam S.H.A.P.E. early in the meet by winning three out of four relays. The 11-12 mixed medley team of Max Milton, Alicia Freitag, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson set the pace for the day with their record time of 2:24.78. They maintained a solid lead through the freestyle and individual medley events. Midway through the backstroke competition, S.H.A.P.E. pulled ahead by one point. Swimmer Mike Snell evened the score when he won the 13-14 100-meter backstroke and in the next race Laura Jacoby took the same event for 15-19 girls to recapture the lead. After sweeping all but one breaststroke event and scoring solidly in the butterfly races Berlin led by four points.

Berlin capped the important league victory by taking three of the final four relays. The 11-12 year old mixed freestyle team established another team record in the process as Peter Rigney, Alicia Grudzinski, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson sailed to a 2:08.37 record pace.

Individual team records fell in the team effort against S.H.A.P.E. when Bethany Ballard shattered the 13-14 200-meter individual medley record with her 2:46.93 swim. Todd Walsh pared the 100-meter breaststroke team record down to 1:14.73.

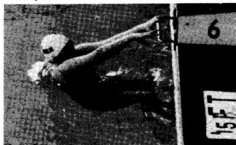
In such grueling competition multiple individual victories came sparsely, making them all the more impressive. Troy Lavender shone as Berlin's only triple winner by capturing the 10-under 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter breaststroke and 50-meter butterfly races.

Bringing home two blue ribbons were Aryn Ballard in the 50-meter freestyle and 100-meter individual medley; Troy Johnson in the 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter breaststroke; and Bethany Ballard in the individual medley and 100-meter breaststroke.

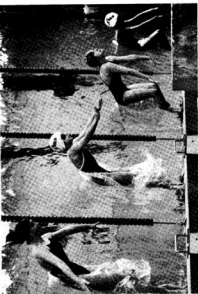
Earning single first place honors were Erika Ligas, breaststroke; Tristan Gruett, freestyle; Brian McComak, backstroke; Alicia Freitag, breaststroke; Alicia Grudzinski, butterfly; Mike Snell, backstroke; Laura Jacoby, backstroke; Kristi Schake, breaststroke; and Todd Walsh, breaststroke.

Other swimmers contributing valuable points in the big victory included 10-under: John Hatten, Melissa Madero, Samara Ballard; 11-12's: Peter Rigney, Casey Bunton, Max Milton, Anne Doucette; 13-14's: Chris Minderman, Tanja Haber; and 15-19's Nona Ballard, Chris Fortune, Knut Asmis and Kelle Smith.

As the Berlin team rejoices over being the first "S.H.A.P.E. busters" to beat the Belgium team in two years they prepare seriously for the challenge this weekend of the Lahr Beavers at the Canadian base in West Germany.



A Bear-a-Cuda swimmer pushes off the wall as he starts the backstroke competition.



Aryn Ballard (third from top) rips through the water in recent backstroke competition

Bear-a-cudas zap Patch, Lahr

By Nona Ballard

In a tri-meet Sunday in Stuttgart, Bear-A-Cuda swimmers won every freestyle event except 10-under girls in a impressive show of power to emerge victorious by a lopsided score of Berlin 330, Patch 200 and Hahn 196. Berlin remains undefeated in seven meets this season in European Forces Swim League competition.

In the 11-12 freestyle relay swimmers Peter Rigney, Alicia Grudzinski, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson set a new team record of 2:09.91.

Seven-year-old Samara Ballard qualified for championship competition when she dropped nearly 7 seconds from her 50-meter butterfly in the 10-under age group, according to Head Coach Ted Colquhoun. Also highlighted is 11-12 Marla Minderman who added strength to the team when she shaved significant time from all her events to include backstroke and breaststroke, while qualifying for championships in the 100-meter individual medley.

Bethany Ballard won three events in 13-14 age group: 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter individual medley and 100-meter breaststroke while 15-19 Kristi Schake took first in 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter breaststroke and 100-meter butterfly. Todd Walsh tripled in 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter IM and 100-meter breaststroke.

11-12 Aryn Ballard brought home blue ribbons for 50-

m freestyle and 50-m butterfly; Troy Johnson in 50-m freestyle and 100-m IM. Knut Asmis doubled in 100-m backstroke and 100-m butterfly.

10-under Brian McComak won 50-m backstroke, Tristan Gruett won 50-m freestyle. Alicia Grudzinski took the 11-12 100-m IM and Alicia Freitag in a tight race won the 50-m breaststroke. In 13-14s Kirk Slobody earned first place in 100-m freestyle and for 15-19s Laura Jacoby won 100-m backstroke.

Other Berlin swimmers scoring second and third place points include: Melissa Madero, Emily Bunton, John Hatten, Troy Lavender, Graham Salt, Lee Anderson, Krista Lavender, Alison Klukas, Peter Rigney, Kristin Walsh, Chris Minderman, Kelle Smith, Bonnie Eschrich, Fina Perez, Chris Fortune, Jimmy Wucher and Steve Nezuch.

After an exhausting but triumphant series of road trips the Bear-A-Cudas will remain at home for a month. A Christmas holiday swimming "training camp" will be run for two weeks by Coach Ted Colquhoun and his assistant coaches Jesse White, Susan Eichner and Henry Bradshaw. Morning sessions at BB pool will consist entirely of stroke work while afternoon practice at Andrews pool will emphasize some stroke techniques but primarily concentrate on high intensity training.

Bear-a-cudas topple Lahr

By Nona Ballard

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas swim team fielded a skeleton team against the strong Lahr Beavers and posted their sixth win of the season by a score of 225-188 Sunday. Because of school commitments many of Berlin's stronger swimmers were unable to travel to the distant Canadian Air Force Base. Team members often held in reserve were called upon to produce points against a disciplined Lahr crew and they rose to the occasion.

Five swimmers were praised by Coach Ted Colquhoun for noteworthy performances. Jennifer Porter scored her first points for the Bear-A-Cudas as a 10-under while Angela Lauer improved her times immensely, narrowly missing qualifying times for the important end of season championship meet. Anne Doucette reduced her breaststroke time notably. Mary Coyle drove down her butterfly time markedly. Steve Nezuch contributed greatly to the overall team effort.

The relay teams showed a determination to defeat their Canadian counterparts by smashing team records at every opportunity. The 11-12 mixed medley shattered the record with a time of 2:25.74 through the efforts of Peter Rigney, Alicia Freitag, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson. The mixed medley in 13-14s of Mike Snell, Bethany Ballard, Kristi Schake and Kirk Slobody turned in a 2:17.74 for a new team record. The freestyle relay teams in both 11-12s (Peter Rigney, Alicia Grudzinski, Aryn

Ballard, and Troy Johnson) and 13-14s (Chris Minderman, Bethany Ballard, Kristi Schake, and Kirk Slobody) created team records with 2:12.04 and 2:03.57 times respectively.

Aryn broke the 11-12 girls backstroke record by her 37.39 win over a previously unbeaten Lahr swimmer. Bethany Ballard established a new standard in the 13-14 girls individual medley of 2:46.99, while Kristi Schake did the same in the 15-19 girls breaststroke with her posting of 1:27.85.

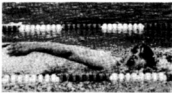
Triple winners surfaced only in the 11-12 age group with Aryn Ballard winning the 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter backstroke and Troy Johnson in the 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter breaststroke.

A photo finish in the 10-under boys freestyle proved Brian McComak the winner. Combined with his win in the 50-meter backstroke, McComak earned double first place honors. Mike Snell brought home two blue ribbons in individual medley and backstroke while Kristi Schake doubled in the freestyle and breaststroke events. Kirk Slobody won first places in freestyle and butterfly. Chris Fortune brought home his season firsts in both freestyle and individual medley.

In 10-unders Erika Ligas won breaststroke, Troy Lavender won butterfly; for the 11-12s Alicia Freitag won breaststroke, Alicia Grudzinski and Peter Rigney won their respective butterfly races; 13-14s Bethany Ballard won breaststroke; and 15-19s Steve Nezuch won his first blue ribbon of the season in backstroke.

Contributing points to ensure the victory were Angela Lauer, Samara Ballard, Jennifer Porter, Tristan Gruett, Graham Salt, Maxie McFarland, Anne Doucette, Marla Minderman, Alison Klukas, Casey Buntton, Jackie Porter, Tanja Haber, Mary Coyle, Chris Minderman, Kelle Smith, Kathy Brooks, Laura Jacoby and Bonnie Eschrich.

For the third consecutive weekend, the 'Cudas will challenge a European Forces Swim League team; this time it will be the Patch Piranhas at Stumgart.



The Bear-a-cudas may have been shorthanded, but there was no lack of intensity as this swimmer demonstrates.

Bear-a-cudas hope extra practice makes them perfect



photo by Chris Fortune

Anne Doucette gets in some shore work during the Bear-a-cudas swimming clinic. The team is gearing up for their

The Berlin Bear-a-cudas have made the waters plenty dangerous for their European Forces Swim League opponents so far this season. Through eight league meets, head coach Ted Colquhoun's talented charges have gone undefeated, including victories over perennial league powers SHAPE and Kaiserslautern.

But while the Bear-a-cudas have emerged as the team to beat in the

next meet, which will be against Heidelberg Jan. 20 at Andrews Pool.

EPSL, the coaching staff isn't taking any chances. During the season's month-long holiday break, a swimming clinic kept the team busy working on their strokes. Colquhoun cashed in 30 days of his leave time, and, along with assistants Jesse White, Susan Eichner and Henry Bradshaw, attempted to work the few kinks out of what's been a near perfect Bear-a-cuda machine.

"The clinic was geared toward stroke

correction," Colquhoun said. "We set up drills and analyzed stroke technique. It's up to the kids now. They've got to remember what we've taught them."

If the rest of the season follows the same pattern as the first half, Colquhoun has little to worry about. "So far the team has performed well above expectations," the coach said. "The times have been a lot better than I thought they'd be." Aryn Ballard has dominated the girls' 11-12 age group, winning all but two of her races, and Todd Walsh is but whiskers away from shattering two league records in the 15-19 age group.

In addition, Colquhoun has been pleasantly surprised by the performances of 10 and under boys Tristan Gruett and Graham Salt, 11-12 boy Casey Bunton, and 13-14 competitors Mike Snell and Mary Coyle.

According to Colquhoun, the Bear-a-cudas literally mapped out a successful season before anyone ever hit the water. "We had a team meeting before the season started and set four goals for ourselves," he said. "We wanted to beat K-town and SHAPE, which we've done, and also to beat SHAPE in SHAPE and win the championships in Munich."

The rematch with SHAPE looms as a particularly tough test, Colquhoun said, because the Seals have been unbeatable in their own pool. "They haven't lost at home in 10 years," he said. However the Bear-a-cudas are looking forward to bringing that streak to a halt. "We're 'SHAPE-busters,'" said Bethany Ballard, another one of the flying Ballard sisters.

Another potential obstacle on Berlin's yellow brick road to the title is the natural attrition rate of the command, coupled with some swimmers having to move up in age category, Colquhoun said. "But this happens to the other teams too," he said. "And we have a lot of depth. In most of the age groups we're at least two-deep, and more often than not we're three or four-deep." Adds 11-12 performer Che' Coleman Scurry, "We'll just have to work better with what we have."

The team's next meet will be Jan. 20 against Heidelberg at Andrews Pool, and it's still not too late for interested youths to climb aboard the Bear-a-cuda's victory train. "We're always looking for swimmers to come out for the team," Colquhoun said. "And there are some good ones out there, particularly a bunch that just came in from Augsburg."



Bear-a-cudas Anne Douchette (top) and Aryn Ballard get ready for swimming action.

Bear-a-cudas notch eighth straight

by Nona Ballard

The powerful Berlin Bear-a-cuda machine proved overwhelming for the Heidelberg Sea Lions Sunday as they crashed the visiting team 278-136 in European Forces Swim League competition at Andrews Pool. The depth of the Berlin squad was the secret of success in racking up points against the huge group from West Germany. The Cudas ensured their eighth straight dual meet victory by sweeping all four mixed relays and all four mixed freestyle relays in addition to pulling in two or more places in nearly every individual event.

The benefits of the intensive Christmas stroke clinics conducted by the coaching staff during the holidays surfaced as several swimmers improved their personal best times. Head coach Ted Colquhoun highlighted Eric Stewart and John McFarland for turning in outstanding performances. Eleven swimmers qualified for the end of season EPSL Championships in March.

Four Cudas swam to victory in their three individual events. In the 11-12 age category, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson won their respective races in the 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke and 50 meter butterfly. Bethany Ballard emerged victorious in the 13-14 girls 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke and 100 meter breaststroke. And 15-19 Kristi Schake cashed in first places in 200-meter individual medley, 100-meter

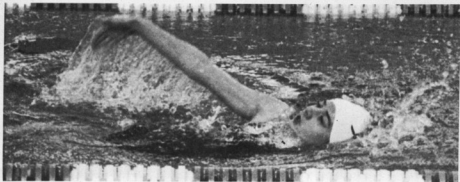
breaststroke and 100-meter butterfly.

Three other cudas brought home double victories: 10 and under Tristan Cruett in the 50-m freestyle and 50-m backstroke, Graham Salt in the 100-m individual medley and 50-m butterfly, and 15-19 Nona Ballard in the 100-m freestyle and 100-m backstroke.

Brian McComak won 50-m breaststroke, Alison Klukas won 50-m breaststroke, Casey Buntton the 100-m individual medley while Peter Rigney took the 50-m backstroke. Mike Snell won the 100-m breaststroke and Chris Minderman did likewise in the 100-m butterfly.

Other Bear-a-cudas contributing points to the team effort included: 10-unders Erika Lips, Angela Lauer, Melissa Madero, Samara Ballard, John Rigney Maxie McFarland and Ryan McFarland, 11-12s Lee Anderson, Debbie Ternand, Anne Doucette, Marla Minderman and Max Milton, 13-14s Alicia Freitag, Mary Coyle, Robin Hewitt, Kirstin Walsh Michelle Kuhn, Alicia Gradinski, John McFarland and Victor Comstock, and 15-19s Vicki Long, Jennifer Hewitt, Bonnie Eschrich, Sara Fisch, Monica Madero, Kirk Slobody, Eddie Wucher, Jimmy Wucher and Marcus Tingle.

Two more teams, from Augsburg and Mannheim, will challenge the powerful and unbeaten Bear-a-cudas this Sunday in the last home meet of the season at Andrews Pool.



The Bear-a-cudas . . . backstrokin' to victory again.

Cudas sink Augsburg, Mannheim

by Nona Ballard

The Bear-a-cudas swim team rolled over two more opponents Sunday by amassing 385 points to the Mannheim Marlins 164 and the Augsburg Otters 158. In European Forces Swim League dual and tri-meet competition to date the 'Cudas have now downed 11 teams.

Amidst a snowstorm the Olympic pool at Andrews Barracks witnessed 13-14 Bethany Ballard establish a new team record in the 100 meter backstroke of 1:19.04. Coach Ted Colquhoun announced "swimmer of the meet" honors went to 10-under Emily Bunton for her performance in the breaststroke and butterfly while 15-19 Robert Long shone in his freestyle and breaststroke events also.

Capturing three blue ribbons in individual events were 10-under Brian McComak in 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter breaststroke, 11-12s Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson in their 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter individual medley and 50-meter butterfly races, and 13-14 Bethany Ballard, who in addition to winning backstroke also brought home victories in the 100-meter freestyle and 100-meter breaststroke.

Earning two first place honors were 11-12 Max Milton in 50-m backstroke and breaststroke, 13-14 Mary Coyle in 200-m IM and 100-m butterfly, 15-19 Kristi Schake in 200-m IM and 100-m breaststroke, Laura Jacoby in 100-m backstroke and butterfly, with Knut Asmis winning 100-m backstroke and 100-m butterfly.

Winning single first place races for Berlin were 10-under Maxie McFarland in freestyle, 11-12s Alison Kludas in backstroke, Anne Doucette in breaststroke, 13-14s John McFarland in freestyle, Mike Snell in backstroke, and 15-19s Nona Ballard in freestyle, Kirk Slobody in freestyle, Chris Fortune in IM and Eddie Wucher in breaststroke.

Numerous 'Cudas performances contributed points to the resounding victory over the Augsburg and Mannheim swimmers. In a tri-meet, five swimmers earn places toward the final score.

The powerful Berlin team will challenge the SHAPE Seals this Saturday in Mons, Belgium. Although the 'Cudas have defeated the Seals three times in the last four years, they have yet to defeat SHAPE in their home pool. The Bear-a-cudas' "SHAPE busters" are prepared to accomplish the impossible this weekend.

SHAPE snaps 'Cudas' victory streak

by Nona Ballard

The Bear-a-cudas were sorely disappointed Saturday as they suffered their first loss this season to the SHAPE Seals. The long trip to Belgium saw many 'Cudas felled by a virus and during the meet several key swimmers were sidelined with high fevers. Those remaining healthy and even some of the ill swimmers rallied to give their best efforts. The 'Cudas came up on the short end of the score, 226-190.

Todd Walsh slashed the European Forces Swim League record for 15-19 boys 100-meter breaststroke when he sailed to a 1:10.82. At the close of the meet, the 11-12 mixed freestyle relay team also shaved nearly two seconds from the old EPSL record with their time of 2:06.70. Lee Anderson, Peter Rigney, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson pushed to claim that new standard. In the 13-14 boys backstroke, Mike Snell set a new team standard with his 1:16.10 effort.

The competition throughout the meet was keen and the Berlin squad walked away wishing they could be similarly challenged more often. Only one triple first place winner emerged. Brian McComak took victories in 10-under 100-meter individual medley, 50-meter backstroke and 50-meter breaststroke.

Melissa Madero walked off with double blue ribbons in the 10-under 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter butterfly.

Earning single first place honors were 10-unders Erika Ligas in breaststroke, Tristan Gruett in freestyle and Maxie McFarland in butterfly; 11-12 Aryn Ballard in butterfly, Peter Rigney in freestyle and Max Milton in breaststroke; 13-14 Bethany Ballard in breaststroke and Mike Snell in backstroke; 15-19 Laura Jacoby in backstroke, Kristi Schake in breaststroke and Todd Walsh in breaststroke. Contributing to first place honors on a relay team were Anne Doucette, Lee Anderson and Troy Johnson.

Points were scored for Berlin by 10-under Emily Bunton, Angela Lauer and Graham Salt; 11-12s Marla Minderman and Casey Bunton; 13-14s Alicia Freitag, Alicia Grudzinski and Chris Minderman; and 15-19s Nona Ballard, Kelle Smith, Chris Fortune, Knut Asmis and Kirk Slobody.

"It hurts to lose when you go in as well prepared as our swimmers were," said coach Ted Colquhoun, "but there was nothing we could do about it with sick swimmers." Showing particularly strong efforts during the meet were swimmers Jessica Kerr, Pam Anderson, Graham Salt and Maxie McFarland.

Berlin swimmers win Europe title

MUNICH — Berlin won two of the last four relay races to edge SHAPE for the European Forces Swim League championship Sunday.

Led by Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson, who each won five events and broke records, Berlin amassed 1,334 points to SHAPE's 1,308½.

Kaiserslautern followed with 1,064, Patch 779 and Munich 567 as 320 swimmers from 15 teams competed in the Munich Olympic pool.

Berlin made one of its clinching relay races a record-breaker. Its 15-19-year-old team swam the 200-meter individual medley relay in 2 minutes, 8.79 seconds, which broke the old mark of 2:10.43. The four Bears who did it were Laura Jacoby, Kristi Schake, Knut Asmis and Todd Walsh.

Otherwise, Ballard and Johnson boosted Berlin to the top.

Ballard, an 11-year-old, swam the 50-meter freestyle in 30.4 seconds, breaking the old record of 30.6. She also won the 100 individual medley and 50 butterfly and anchored Berlin's winning 200 individual medley and 200 freestyle relay teams.

Johnson, a 12-year-old, won the same events as Ballard on the boys' side. His record came in the 50 butterfly, where he flew in 32.49, shattering

the old mark of 38.38.

Schake and Walsh, who sparked Berlin's record-breaking 200 IM relay victory, also helped the Bears win the 200 freestyle relay. Schake added the 15-19-year-old girls' 100 breaststroke to her trophy stand. Walsh did the same in the boys' 100 breaststroke.

Kaiserslautern's big push came from Kelly Ann Pflanz and Mike Scherwitz.

Pflanz, in the 13-14 girls, won the 100 freestyle, 200 IM and 100 backstroke.

She also anchored K-Town's record-breaking 200 freestyle relay team. Its 1:51.1 clocking bettered the old record of 2:01.4.

Scherwitz, in the 13-14 boys, won the 200 IM and 100 butterfly. He helped Kaiserslautern set that 200 freestyle record along with Mary Siefert and David Wilkins.

Riek Gritz of Patch broke individual records. He did it twice in the 11-12 boys. His 34.8 in the 50-meter backstroke bettered the old mark of 35.16. His 38.08 in the 50 breaststroke bested the old record of 38.38.

The only other record came in the 13 to 14-year-old 200 IM relay. SHAPE's team of Venessa McDonald, Jenni Wallace, Alberto Bizzato and Peter Pluim swam in 2:12.49, just better than the old 2:12.74.

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas attained their ultimate goal Sunday at Munich's Olympic Park by capturing the 1985 European Forces Swim League Championship title. 'Cudas racked up a total 1334 points during 48 events to bring home the coveted first place trophy. SHAPE finished second with 1308.5 points while Kaiserslautern took third place team honors with 1064 points.

Berlin set the pace for the 15-team all-day competition by winning two of the first four opening relay races. The 11—12 mixed medley team of Max Milton, Marla Minderman, Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson scored 40 points. They were quickly followed by the 15—19 medley team of Laura Jacoby, Todd Walsh, Knut Asmis and Kristi Schake claiming another 40 points. Not only did the older group outswim the top seeded SHAPE squad but they established a new league record in the process with their blistering pace of 2 minutes and 9.79 seconds, a whopping 4 seconds off the previous record.

Forty-six Bear-A-Cudas qualified to swim in this invitational meet. Spurred by the early relay victories the swimmers rallied to a steady winning gait over their arch rivals from SHAPE, Belgium. League records were shattered repeatedly in the process. After the initial medley relay record, Aryn Ballard claimed a new standard in the 11—12 girls 50-meter freestyle with her time of 30.44 seconds. Following shortly Troy Johnson set a new record for the same race for boys with his time of 29 seconds. Johnson claimed the record in 50-meter butterfly of 32.49 seconds. Todd Walsh added Berlin's fifth league record in the 15—19 boys 100-meter breaststroke with his blistering 1 minute 12.16 seconds.

Only two swimmers at the meet swept a maximum five gold medals in the fierce competition. Aryn Ballard walked away with top honors in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter individual medley and 50-meter butterfly. Troy Johnson carried off gold medals in the same boys events while they worked together for victories in the ~~200-meter mixed medley relay and 200-meter freestyle~~ freestyle relays. They were helped by Lee Anderson and Casey Bunton in the latter.

Todd Walsh earned gold in his record-breaking breaststroke as well as his two relay teams. 15—19 Kristi Schake won the 100-meter breaststroke and assisted the two winning relays. They were joined in the free relay victory by Chris Fortune and Laura Jacoby. 13—14 Bethany Ballard captured the 100-meter breaststroke.

Silver medals were earned by Kristi Schake in the 100-meter freestyle, Laura Jacoby in 100-meter backstroke and Alicia Freitag in 100-meter breaststroke. Bronze medals were awarded to the mixed medley relay team of Mike Snell, Bethany Ballard, Alicia Grudzinski, and John McFarland as well as Anne Doucette in the 50-meter breaststroke, Peter Rigney in 50-meter backstroke, Mike Snell in 100-meter backstroke and Laura Jacoby in 200-meter individual medley.

Since the EFSL was formed in 1972, SHAPE has been an awesome opponent. They have won the championship each year except 1982 and now 1985 when Berlin emerged victorious. In years past the title was determined by dual meet results with the end of year invitational meet serving as an "all-star" meet. This

'Cudas out-duel SHAPE, win championship

The Bear-A-Cudas travelled to Munich last weekend and wrestled the ESFL title away from the defending champion Seals.

by Nona Ballard

The Berlin Bear-A-Cudas attained their ultimate goal Sunday at Munich's Olympic Park by capturing the 1985 European Forces Swim League Championship title. 'Cudas racked up a total 1334 points during 48 events to bring home the coveted first place trophy. SHAPE finished second with 1308.5 points while Kaiserslautern took third place team honors with 1064 points.

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Berlin Bear-A-Cudas . . . 1985 ESFL champions.

Paul W.

March the league title was derived from points scored in the first 16 places in any one event.

Forty-four 'Cudas earned points to contribute to their league title. High point scored for the day came from Aryn Ballard and Troy Johnson earning the maximum 80 points each. Todd Walsh amassed 70 points with Kristi Schake 69 and Laura Jacoby 68. Bethany Ballard scored 63.5 points, Casey Bunton 52, Brian McComak 51.5, Knut Azmis 50 points, Max Milton—46, Peter Rigney 45, Mike Snell 44.5, Graham Salt 43.5, Alicia Freitag 42.5, Nona Ballard 37, Lee Anderson 37 points, Tanja Haber 32, Marla Minderman 32, Kelle Smith 30 points, Chris Fortune 30, Angela Lauer 28.5, Alison Klukas 28 points, Chris Maderman 28, Emily Bunton 27.5, Alicia Grudzinski 26 points, John McFarland 24.5, Kirk Slobody 29, Jennifer Hewitt 18, Anne Doucette 16, Jackie Porter 16 points, Kirstin Walsh 13, Michelle Kihn 13, Bonnie Eschrich 9 points, Stephan Bernick 8, Steve Nezech 8, Eddie Wachter 7, Mary Coyle 7, Che Coleman 6 points, Jimmy Wachter 6, Erika Ligas 5, Robin Hewitt 5, Sarah Pich 4, Ryan McFarland 3 points, Debbie Terlund 2 and Vicky Long 2 points.

Seven-year old Samara Ballard by far the youngest and shortest competitor at the meet qualified during the season to swim in three events in Munich but fell short

of scoring points. Her highest ranking was 17th place. 13-14 Michelle Kuhn surprised everyone when she raced from her seeding in 20th place to finish 100-meter breaststroke in 6th place and bring home a medal.

The enthusiastic spirit of the entire team overflowed into every heat where a 'Cuda was entered. Even the joyous jumping up and down of head coach Ted Colquhoun as each of his swimmers drove to a best effort caught the attention of the other more reserved coaches. "It is great to see his childlike show of happiness throughout the meet," remarked the coach from SHAPE.

The first place ESFL trophy caps eight months of daily practice, a sacrificial Christmas holiday stroke clinic and a final intensive month of concentrated training and special diet. Not even the persistent Bavarian spring blizzard could distract the Bear-A-Cudas from their quest for the league championship.

Strains of the song "We are the Champions" rang throughout West Germany as the team made the tedious trek back to Berlin. "This victory was the best ever," said Head Coach Ted Colquhoun, "as it was my last meet as the Berlin coach. The team could not have given me a nicer gift!"