

VSI Disability Committee Report

Dec. 30, 2015 0700 a.m.

Our updates include the accomplishments of Samantha Tubbs, who swam in the Dec. 11th – 13th United States Paralympic Swimming Open and Can-Am Open in Bismarck, North Dakota. Samantha received a first place medal for 100 breaststroke and for 200 breaststroke and she scored with a second place medal in the 50 breaststroke. These achievements moved Samantha to the top United States breaststroker in the SB9 classification. She continues to swim with the Rappahannock Raiders in Virginia.

Athlete Emilia Scovel competed in the Mako Fall invitational and in the Mako Holiday Invitational. Both meets were held in the natatorium at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Emilia set personal best times in the 50 breaststroke, the 25 breaststroke, the 25 backstroke, and the 25 freestyle events. One of Emilia's goals for the coming year is to swim again in the Cincinnati Para Swimming Open in May, 2016.

Athlete Sean Harrington has been working at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center for a program called "Project Search." Sean still swims an average of 4,200 yards per day and also cross-trains on the elliptical. He no longer swims competitively.

One of our VSI Disability Committee members, Jessica Simons, served as an official at the recent Special Olympics Swimming Championship meet in Richmond, Virginia,, in June, 2015. Throughout this last year of 2015 other VSI officials have also volunteered to serve at state, and regional disability swimming championship meets. Pat Donohue, Michael Downs, and Kim Downs attended the Disability Swimming workshop for officials in September, 2015, in Colorado Springs at the Olympic Training Center.

This year two of our highly motivated disability swimmers, Joseph Peppersack and Samantha Tubbs, were invited to the Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a week of specialized coaching. Of note, Joseph Peppersack made the Emergent Team while competing at the 2015 Toronto Can-Am Championships.

Current members of the VSI Disability Committee include Coach Art Anthony, Coach Ray Tubbs, Dr. John Harrington (parent), Sandy Peppersack (parent), Joseph Peppersack (athlete), Sean Harrington (athlete), Pat Donohue (official), Jessica Simons (official), Kim Downs (official), Lee Gibbs (official), and David Strider (Chair of Disability Committee).

Respectfully submitted,

David Strider, RN, CCRN, MSN, ACNP. DNP

Chairperson – VSI Disability Committee