



First column: **STU MARVIN** (top), 52, set a new record in the 100 free; and **BARRY FASBENDER** (bottom), 70, winner of the 2008 Ransom J. Arthur Award. Second column: **LAURA VAL** (top), 56, *Swimming World's* Masters Swimmer of the Year; and Olympic gold medalist **AARON PIERSOL** (bottom). Third column: **KATIE MCCLELLAND** (top), 31, the fastest female breaststroke sprinter in USMS history; **KAREN ANDRUS-HUGHES** (center), 50, set a pair of backstroke records; and **WILLIAM LISCINSKY** (bottom), 26, clocked a jaw-dropping 48.82 in the 100 IM. Fourth column: **TIM SHEAD** (top), 55, set six USMS records; and **JURGEN SCHMIDT** (bottom), 85, surpassed three USMS marks.

SHORT COURSE NATIONALS

More Than 1,800 Competitors – Plus a Reunion of Collegiate and Olympic Alumni

by Raena Alexis Latina >>> photos by Kirk Tuck



returned to – our sport. The Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center, which opened in 1977, was the perfect host site for what is

typically the largest meet annually for USMS. The UT racing pool is considered one of the fastest in the world, and has served as the collegiate home to more than 30 Olympic medalists. For some Longhorn alumni, USMS Short Course Nationals was an opportunity to race – and play – together once again.

Like Shaun Jordan, who won two Olympic gold medals as part of the U.S. relay teams in the 1988 (Seoul) and 1992 (Barcelona) Olympics. Jordan swam for UT from 1988 to 1991. Now 40, he swims locally with Austin's Weiss & Weiss Aquatics (WAWA) and spends his days as director of business development for Abraham Trading Company, a Texas-based hedge fund and futures trading firm.

A Dallas native, Jordan originally

came to Austin as a collegian to swim with Coach Eddie Reese. "It's a great place, and I never left," he notes. Jordan had taken a break from swimming, but did participate in USA Nationals in 1999. Since then, he has spent time in the pool, but was not training to the extent he had as a collegian and Olympic athlete.

"Now, when I get to the pool, sometimes I just sunbathe," he muses. "I've got nothing tied to competition. I like to let my mind wander in the pool, where there are no phones, no computers. If I get in for 20 minutes, great. If it's an hour, amazing! But this year, I just couldn't pass up a hometown meet. We all have our competitive streaks. It was a great meet. There is so much swimming history there. And everyone knows the nightlife is great."

Jordan's participation at USMS Nationals was limited to one event: the 50 fly. He placed sixth with a time of 23.28. He laughs about scratching the 50 free: "I had a tee time on an excellent golf course. Plus, the competition in the 50 free is way harder." Yet, Jordan admits he was pleased to come back to his collegiate pool, and he is quick to give accolades to all the Masters participants.

"I can't believe how fast some of the swimming is," he said, "and I had a lot of fun at this meet. They did a great job. With two pools, short course can move along so quickly. I was happy just to participate. I hadn't climbed on the blocks in a while, and it was a blast."

The idea of a reunion with teammates was a huge draw for Jordan.

"I can't compare this Nationals to other years when I didn't swim," he notes, "and, honestly, I probably wouldn't have traveled otherwise. But now I'm inclined to travel for another meet. It was that fun. And Austin is great because you're right downtown. It was great for turnout."

Another swimmer with ties to the Longhorns is Sewanee, Tenn., resident, Dan O. Thompson, 61, a physician who received his medical degree at UT. Thompson's had an incredible swimming career, setting world records in the 50 fly for the 40-44, 45-49, and 50-54 age groups. Thompson is humble about his achievements.

"I've been out of the water since 1996, and have begun only a modest comeback," he says. "My first comeback to swimming was after Harvard and medical training at UT. I had been out

The Beijing Olympic Games virtually ensure that 2008 will be a year for elite swimming. But it's not just the Olympics that will offer pool-quaking performances for people who keep track of swimming around the world. USMS had its own version of the Olympics this May at the SC National Championships. This four-day competition at the University of

Texas at Austin showcased some of the best races in Masters swimming. The location also attracted its share of UT alumni and Olympians who have stayed involved in – or who once left and have

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The Many Faces of Nationals

Male alumni from the UT Longhorns weren't the only competitors at the USMS Short Course National Championships. This premier event featured swimmers from almost 200 clubs.

The oldest female participant was Betty Christiansen, 86, of Missouri Valley Masters, who collected five first-place finishes. Ole Larson, 87, of North Carolina Masters, was the oldest male. He swam for three firsts, one second and one third-place finish.

There were many personal stories attached to this year's meet. Arlene Delmage, 45, from Oregon Masters, had the meet of her life, achieving her own personal best in the 100 fly and winning that event (59.39). Earlier in the week, her father passed away. Teammate Bill Volckening noted, "I think she was planning to go see him after the meet. She mentioned that during the competition, she had the uncanny feeling that he was right there with her."

Victoria Chidester, 51, of Colorado Masters, is another fantastic tale of triumph. Although she didn't bring home any medals – finishing 14th, 18th, and 21st in her age group for the 50, 100 and 200 backstroke, respectively, Chidester is truly a champion. She competed while being actively treated for stage-four colon cancer. Her amazing tale can be found at www.usmswimmer.com.

There are also webcasts of events from nationals and interviews of a number of participants available at Floswimming.com. A photo archive of the event may be found at www.USMS.org. <<<

The Man Behind So Many Champions

Coach Eddie Reese assumed the reins of the University of Texas at Austin swimming program in 1978. Several of the USMS Nationals participants couldn't say enough about this man, an eight-time NCAA coach of the year, a three-time Olympic assistant coach: 1998 (Seoul), 1996 (Atlanta) and 2000 (Sydney), and the head Olympic coach for the games in 1992 (Barcelona), 1994 (Los Angeles) and this year in Beijing.

Yet, despite his busy collegiate and Olympic schedule, Reese made the effort to show up at USMS Nationals. "I was so surprised to see him on-deck the whole time," notes Meet Director Ann Nellis, "and he was still coaching the swimmers, giving them tips. It just goes to show the life-long effect swimming can have."

John C. Smith, who swam for Reese from 1981 to 1984, describes his former coach as "one of the most personable, honorable and caring coaches at the national level, if not in the world. There is no one on deck like him. How many coaches like him would show up for several hours at a Masters meet just to socialize? When he leaves swimming one day, there will be a huge hole. I don't know any coach like him who has stayed in touch with his swimmers the way he has, 15 and 20 years down the road."

Another of Reese's former swimmers noted the coach's sense of humor: "Coach Eddie's a wimp to dodge (not swim) the meet," laughs Shaun Jordan, who swam for UT from 1988 to 1991. "I am very skeptical of the excuses he gave. I think he was ducking me ... well, he won't have 'the Olympic excuse' next year. I can't wait to see him at the next Nationals." <<<

of the water for 17 years, the last nine of which had involved serious marathon running."

With a busy medical practice, much of it spent on the graveyard shift in an emergency clinic, running was much easier for Thompson to squeeze into his daily routine. "I could even run around the clinic parking lot at 3 a.m. if the waiting room was empty," he recalls. "[But] my wide and floppy feet were really born for swimming, not for running."

So back to the water Thompson went. "I had been away so long that I had forgotten how to swim," he says. Thompson became so enamored with technique that he began coaching and then dropped out of medicine for six years to be head age-group coach of Texas Aquatics at the Texas Swimming Center. "I actually found [it] more fascinating than medicine," he says.

After a while, Thompson says, "the swimming and coaching challenges eventually began to dissipate," so he moved to a new sport, cycling, which he pursued with his typically intensity until after the birth of his daughter in 2001. Calling it his "second life," Thompson gave up cycling and began his latest comeback to swimming.

"I've been serious for about 18 months," he says. At Nationals, he swam unattached, and scratched five of his six events, choosing to swim only the 50

fly, where he earned a third place with 26.40. "Though I set four South Central Zone records in March, only my butterfly was worthy of Nationals," he says, "but the other strokes are coming along, and my goal is to be tough again nationally in all of them, and to stay with swimming for the duration. If I never again reach the status of national champion, I will always have fun working with my strokes, which is 99 percent of swimming anyway."

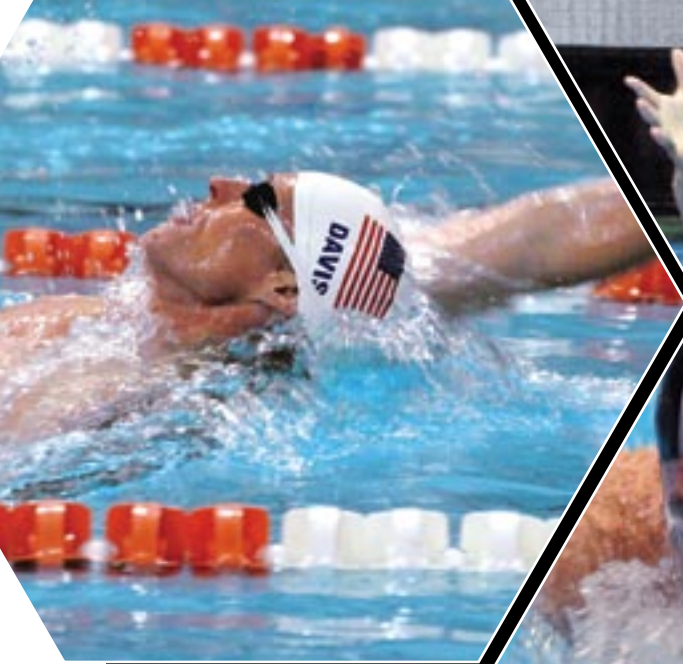
Noting that the Austin meet was his first Nationals in 12 years, Thompson says, "I really enjoyed coming home again to the pool where I had put my soul into coaching the Texas Aquatic kids, and where I had set a number of records myself. It was also fun to see old friends and to see the swimming center filled to the brim with nice people who just enjoy swimming for the sake of swimming. I liked watching the old workhorses, too, slowed a little by time but still endowed with grit and keen competitive spirit. And what a sight were the younger studs coming up, especially the former Texas swimmers having their reunion with Eddie Reese and reliving the freedom of their youth under the Longhorn banner."

John C. Smith, 46, of Arizona Masters, is yet another Longhorn alumnus. Now living in Colorado, Smith swam for UT from 1981 to 1984. His freshman year, the Longhorns won the NCAA Championships. "We hosted that event ... it was a great meet," Smith said.

Smith swam Masters from 1989 to 1991, then took off for a few years when he got married (to

Nationals by the Numbers

- 1,846 swimmers
- 197 clubs represented
- 7,163 individual event splashes
- 96 new records
- 56 individual men's records
- 29 individual women's records
- 11 relay records
- 94 DQs
- 1,182 scratches
- 22 relays



First column (from left to right): **JOSH DAVIS** (top), 35, broke six USMS records; **SUSAN VON DER LIPPE** (center), 42, is preparing for the Olympic Trials in Omaha; and Olympic bronze medalist **RICK COLELLA** (bottom), 56, broke the USMS record for the 400 IM. Second column: Olympian **ROQUE SANTOS** (top), 40, set two new USMS records in the IMs; Maine's **MIKE ROSS** (center), 40, set six USMS records; and Olympic gold medalist **SHAUN JORDAN** (bottom), 40, swam a quick 50 fly and then played golf. Third column: Texan **CAROLYN BOAK** (top), 63, broke two USMS records; another Texan Olympic gold medalist **WHITNEY HEDGEPETH** (center), 37, coached and swam relays; and Olympian **GLENN MILLS** (bottom), 46, broke the USMS record in the 200 breaststroke.



fellow UT alumni Tori Trees, who earned a fifth in the 200 backstroke at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles), had children, and focused on “other life things.” He returned to the sport in 2000, and has swum Nationals every year since then.

“My wife ... she comes back to our sport every five years or so, with competition in mind,” Smith says. “I’m more laid back about it. You have to be able to laugh at your declining physical performance. I’m 11 to 12 seconds off my 200 free ... I don’t even race it anymore.”

Regardless, Smith earned three gold and two silver medals in the men’s 45-49 age group for his homecoming at this USMS event. He also set a USMS age-group record with his time of 21.10 in the 50 free. But although his times are fast by almost any standard, Smith is humble.

Unlike his collegiate years, when he worked out virtually non-stop, Smith now trains three to four days a week, for about an hour each time.

“Masters is all about fun,” he says. “It’s something for yourself, something to keep a smile on your face. Guys like me, ex-NCAA athletes; we’re not trying to make (Olympic) trial cuts. We swim 10 to 15 percent of our former workouts. This is for fun. It’s fun to still race now and to talk smack, but Masters for me is all about friends and fighting cholesterol. And besides, it’s in a fantastic city. After the meet, we can go out and have great Tex-Mex and great margaritas. And the UT pool is a great location, one of the best.”

Smith is not alone in bestowing superlatives on the meet. The event elicited comments like: “It knocked my socks off”; “The swimming was of the highest quality”; “The event management was superb, the facility was excellent, the people were wonderful”; and “Even the souvenirs were great.”

Participants and spectators

U.S. Masters National Record Setters: Men

At press time, these records were still being verified. For updates and complete results—including swimmers who surpassed a previous record but did not establish a new record—visit www.usms.org.

50 Free

35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....20.14
45-49.....John Smith, 46, ARIZ.....21.10 (split)
70-74.....Jeff Farrell, 71, SBM.....24.13

100 Free

40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....45.35
45-49.....Paul Smith, 48, ARIZ.....46.89 (split)
50-54.....Stu Marvin, 52, 1776.....48.05
70-74.....Jeff Farrell, 71, SBM.....56.05

200 Free

35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....1:36.56
40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....1:38.94
45-49.....Paul Smith, 48, ARIZ.....1:43.79
50-54.....Bob Bugg, 50, GAJA.....1:46.25

1000 Free

85-89.....Jurgen Schmidt, 85, LOST.....17:19.08 (split)

1650 Free

85-89.....Jurgen Schmidt, 85, LOST.....28:39.15

50 Back

25-29.....William Liscinsky, 26, CUBU.....22.89
35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....22.70 (split)
40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....23.19 (split)
45-49.....Clay Britt, 47, ANCM.....24.31
55-59.....Geoff Mykleby, 55, WMAC.....26.51
60-64.....Hugh Wilder, 60, SMRT.....26.82
65-69.....Vinus Van Baalen, 65, SDSM.....29.48

100 Back

35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....49.12
40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....49.40
45-49.....Clay Britt, 47, ANCM.....52.33
55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....57.61
60-64.....Hugh Wilder, 60, SMRT.....59.29

200 Back

35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....1:47.72
40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....1:50.09
45-49.....Rip Esselstyn, 45, WAWA.....1:56.55
50-54.....Tom Barton, 52, SMU.....2:04.42
60-64.....Hugh Wilder, 60, SMRT.....2:15.36

50 Breast

25-29.....William Liscinsky, 26, CUBU.....24.40
30-34.....Jeff Commings, 34, ARIZ.....25.69
45-49.....Chris Weissman, 45, ANCM.....27.14
50-54.....Jay McDonald, 50, WAWA.....27.39
55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....27.81
65-59.....Louis Kronfeld, 65, NEM.....31.76

100 Breast

55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....1:01.42

200 Breast

45-49.....Glenn Mills, 46, ARIZ.....2:10.64
55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....2:17.00

50 Fly

25-29.....William Liscinsky, 26, CUBU.....21.52
40-44.....Steve Hiltabiddle, 41, JAM.....22.82
45-49.....Paul Smith, 48, ARIZ.....22.67

100 Fly

40-44.....Michael Ross, 40, MESC.....49.27
45-49.....Paul Smith, 48, ARIZ.....51.37
55-59.....Greg Shaw, 56, NEM.....54.37

100 IM

25-29.....William Liscinsky, 26, CUBU.....48.82
35-39.....Josh Davis, 35, MOST.....50.06
45-49.....John Smith, 46, ARIZ.....52.84
55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....56.20
60-64.....Robert Strand, 62, TOC.....1:00.10
70-74.....Jeff Farrell, 71, SBM.....1:06.94
85-89.....Jurgen Schmidt, 85, LOST.....1:41.67

200 IM

40-44.....Roque Santos, 40, WCM.....1:55.82
55-59.....Timothy Shead, 55, GOLD.....2:04.09

400 IM

40-44.....Roque Santos, 40 WCM.....4:05.98
55-59.....Rick Colella, 56, PNA.....4:30.18

Total: 56 individual men's records

give much of the credit to Meet Director Ann Nellis. As assistant director of programs and facilities operations at UT-Austin, Nellis has seen more than her fair share of top-notch swim meets. She swam in high school before heading to the University of North Iowa. Graduate school took her to Texas, and she's been there ever since. Although she doesn't swim any more, her life is immersed in aquatics.

"We hold meets every weekend," Nellis says, "but we don't usually take on being the whole meet." As meet director for Nationals, Nellis was the point person for everything from shuttles, to food for volunteers and competitors, to registration. But she's quick to note that running the event was not a one-person job.

"We had about 500 volunteers," she says.

Nellis credits meet liaison Carolyn Boak, who just came off her own hosting duties at the 2007 Long Course National Championships this past August, with giving her some heartfelt advice (See September-October 2007 *SWIMMER* for details on that event).

"Carolyn said that you can train and train, but there's nothing so gratifying as putting on a meet like this. And she's right."

Nellis also gives credit to Ed Cotes, meet committee chairman.

"He was instrumental in putting on this event," she says. "He touched all aspects; he was my liaison to our Masters swimmers who volunteered for the sponsor committees, who organized our hospitality, et cetera. I couldn't have done it without him."

A meet with more than 1,800 high-caliber participants can be fraught with mishaps. But Nellis is pleased to report that everything seemed to go off without a hitch.

"Oh, there was one thing," she laughs. "We got a call that one of our hospitality vendors did not have a food license and that they wouldn't be allowed to serve. That threw me for a big loop ... but only for about 10 minutes. It was untrue, simply some misplaced paperwork. Nothing else went wrong, so that is good news."

There is certainly a lot of paperwork in orchestrating a meet of this scale. But Nellis

"Masters is all about fun. It's something for yourself, something to keep a smile on your face. Guys like me, ex-NCAA athletes; we're not trying to make (Olympic) trial cuts. We swim 10 to 15 percent of our former workouts. This is for fun. It's fun to still race now and to talk smack, but Masters for me is all about friends and fighting cholesterol." – John C. Smith

remarked that Masters differs from other meets she had run. "It's unlike a kid's meet, where, once the meet starts, that's

where the real work begins," she notes. "Masters swimmers pretty much just take care of themselves. It's great." <<<

U.S. Masters National Record Setters: Women

At press time, these records were still being verified. For updates and complete results—including swimmers who surpassed a previous record but did not establish a new record—visit www.usms.org.

50 Free

30-34.....	Dominique Diezi, 30, SMU	22.75
45-49	Susan Walsh, 46, NCMS	24.00
50-54.....	Traci Granger, LAPS	24.92
55-59.....	Laura Val, 56, TAM.....	25.30
60-64.....	Carolyn Boak, 63, WMST	28.03

100 Free

30-34.....	Dominique Diezi, 30, SMU	50.43
55-59.....	Laura Val, 56, TAM.....	54.72
60-64.....	Francine Williamson, 60, GAJA.....	1:02.74

200 Free

60-64.....	Francine Williamson, 60, GAJA.....	2:18.52
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50 Back

40-44.....	Valerie Jenkins, 44, OREG	27.12
60-64.....	Ruth Shaps, 60, MAM	33.95

100 Back

50-54.....	Karen Andrus-Hughes, 50, OREG	1:02.67
60-64.....	Ruth Shaps, 60, MAM	1:14.73

200 Back

50-54.....	Karen Andrus-Hughes, 50, OREG	2:19.01
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50 Breast

25-29.....	Laura Holt, 27, SMU	29.46
30-34.....	Katie McClelland, 31, SMU	28.48

100 Breast

30-34.....	Katie McClelland, 31, SMU	1:02.08
40-44	Susan von der Lippe, 42, CMS	1:03.00
60-64.....	Ginger Pierson, 62, OREG.....	1:19.98

200 Breast

55-59.....	Andra Jaunzeme, 55, PNA	2:50.32
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50 Fly

40-44.....	Susan von der Lippe, 42, CMS	25.18
45-49.....	Barbara Scouler, 45, MTKA	26.24
50-54.....	Traci Granger, 50, LAPS.....	27.19
55-59.....	Laura Val, 56, TAM.....	28.35

200 Fly

40-44.....	Susan von der Lippe, 42, CMS	2:03.13
55-59.....	Laura Val, 56, TAM.....	2:20.35
60-64.....	Carolyn Boak, 63, WMST	2:51.58

200 IM

40-44.....	Susan von der Lippe, 42, CMS	2:04.85
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400 IM

40-44.....	Susan von der Lippe, 42, CMS	4:28.43
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Total: 29 Individual Women's Records

U.S. Masters National Record Setters: Relays

At press time, these records were still being verified. For updates and complete results—including relays that surpassed a previous record but did not establish a new record—visit www.usms.org.

Women 200 Medley Relay

25+	L. Oberstar-Brown, K. McClelland, L. Holt, D. Diezi, SMU... 1:45.01
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Women 200 Free Relay

25+	D. Diezi, L. Holt, M. Chow, K. McClelland, SMU	1:35.40
45+	K. Crouch, E. Campbell, E. Jones, K. Garnier, CMS.....	1:43.32
		(tied record)

Men 200 Medley Relay

45+	J. Smith, G. Mills, B. Hering, P. Smith, ARIZ	1:35.54
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Men 200 Free Relay

45+	J. Smith, A. Jaegers, P. Hafner, P. Smith, ARIZ.....	1:27.70
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Mixed 200 Medley Relay

25+	S. Peterson, J. Betts, W. Liscinsky, L. Lauwaert, CUBU ..	1:38.22
35+	D. Robinson, A. Bartleson, S. von der Lippe, C. Sappey, CMS	1:40.09
45+	J. Smith, G. Mills, S. Rollins, M. Bailey, ARIZ.....	1:44.02
55+	D. Bright, B. Hummel, G. Shaw, C. Sasser, NEM.....	2:02.63

Mixed 200 Free Relay

45+	J. Smith, M. Bailey, S. Rollins, P. Smith, ARIZ.....	1:34.48
55+	B. Bateman, P. Dodson, G. Mc Daniel, C. Jones	1:45.74

Total: 11 New Relay Records