

Animals are on the Loose

On Sunday, January 26, the Oshkosh Masters group hosted the annual "Animal" event. Out of 42 registered swimmers, there were 24 that earned the right to be called Animals. There was even a family of 4 animals, namely the Perez-Schneider clan. To earn the award, a swimmer must either swim the 400 IM and four out of five 200 events of 200 Free, 200 Back, 200 Fly, 200 Breast, and 200 IM, or swim the 1000 Free, and pick four of the 200 events. Why would anyone be crazy enough to do this contest, you ask? Well, if you've ever seen a really nice, thick towel with the Oshkosh Masters logo on it, and Animal Award embroidered above it, that is the reason why. That's not an ordinary towel, because every one of them had to be earned. This is also the only meet where there are only 1 or 2 heats of the 50s and 100s, but 4 to 5 heats of the 200 events.

Animals who swam the 400 IM option were: **Linda Bacelis-Bush, Candy Christenson, Leslie Hanshew, Skyler Lipscomb, Jerry Lourigan, Amelia Osterud, Esmeralda Perez, Sarah Perez, Erin Schneider, and Janet Schultz.** Those selecting the 1000 Free option were: **Peiter DeHart, Scott Dillon, Angela Hansen, Margaret Keller, Melinda Mann, Jennifer May, Karen Nixon, Jason Perry, Timothy Potter, Mary Schneider, Clark Searle, Julie Van Cleave, Nichole Webster, and Jenny Youngwerth.**

One of the non-animals who had a successful meet was Cindy Maltry. She broke 4 state records in the Women's 65-69 age group. The new records are 50 yd Free, 31.07, 100 yd Free, 1:08.05, 50 yd Back, 36.25, and 100 yd IM, 1:17.98.

As a reward for all that hard work, swimmers gathered at Red Robin afterwards to refuel, which was a necessity after burning a gazillion calories. Thanks to the meet director, Melinda Mann, for organizing the meet, providing timers, and procuring the excellent towels. Next year, perhaps you will become an "Animal".