

PRESS RELEASE:

**BLAST SWIM TEAM Finishes Fourth in Hattiesburg Hub Fins IMX Challenge**

The Blast Swim Team, led by a trio of individual high point winners, plus a swimmer who won nine of 10 events over two days, finished fourth in the Hattiesburg Hub Fins IMX Challenge. The meet was held November 16 –

18 at the MC Johnson Natatorium at the University of Southern Mississippi

The meet was won by the Mississippi Makos Swim Team with 876.50

points. The host Hattiesburg YMCA Hub Fins was second with 513.5

points, Baldwin Mobile Aquatic Club tallied third with 412 points, then

Blast with 396 points. Rounding out the top teams were Swim Columbus,

262 points, Delta Aquatic Club 205 points, Sunkist Swim Team, 141 points,

Biloxi Elite Swim Team, 99.5 points, Meridian Swimming Association, 96.5

points, Mississippi Piranhas Aquatics, 67 points, Franco's Fins finished 13<sup>th</sup>

with 51 points and Ocean Springs rounded out the scoring with nine points.

The IMX Challenge is a motivational program whereby swimmers will be scored and ranked nationally on their performance in a combination of five

or six events. The purpose of the program is to promote versatility in age group swimming while advocating greater participation and development

across a range of events that are integral to long term success in swimming.

The Blast's IMX Challenge individual winners were: Grace Tucker, Griffin

Guzan and Will Warwick. Tucker won the 10 & under girls 200 yard individual medley and 50 yard back. [All distances are in yards.] She was second in the 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, 100 back and 100 butterfly. She was third in the 100 individual medley and sixth in the 50 and 100 breaststroke.

Guzan captured the 10 & under boys 200 free, 50 and 100 butterflies and the 100 individual medley. He placed second in the 200 IM, the 500 free, 100 back and 100 breast.

Warwick was second in the 200 fly, third in the 100 fly, fourth in the 500 free and 1650 free, fifth in the 100 back, 50 breaststroke and 200 IM and sixth in the 50 back.

Leading the team with nine first place finishes was Claire Rasmus, who topped the 10 & under girls 50, 100 and 200 freestyles, the 100 back, 50 and 100 breaststrokes, 50 and 100 butterflies and the 100 IM.

In the 11-12 girls age group, Kristen Jennings and Brooke Vinturella triumphed in four events each. Jennings won the 100 free, 50 back, 100 back and 200 back. Vinturella paced the field in the 200 butterfly, 500 free and the 200 and 400 IM.

The Blast's 10 & under boys 200 freestyle relay of Matthew Stegen, Harrison Prieto, Jackson Scott and Griffin Guzan also won and place second

in the medley relay.

Blast swimmers scoring in the top six were: 11-12 girl's Emily Prieto, 3<sup>rd</sup> 50 back, 4<sup>th</sup> 200 back, and fifth in the 1650. Vinturella was second in the 100 free and 200 breast, Jennings was second in the 1650 free and 200 fly, third in the 200 IM and 100 fly.

Callie Tucker swam third in the 13-14 girls 50 back, fourth in the 500 free, fifth in the 200 free and 50 fly and sixth in the 100 breast.

Katie Fearn placed fourth in the 13-14 girls 1650 free and sixth in the 200 back. Rachel Strain scored third in the 13-14 girls 1650 free.

The 10 & under girls relays placed third in the 200 medley relay and fifth in the 200 free relay. Swimming on both relays was: Grace Tucker, Mattie Napier, Gabrielle Napier and Rasmus.

The 11 & over girls' free relay of Jennings, Fearn, Vinturella and Prieto placed sixth and the medley with Callie Tucker in place of Vinturella placed fifth.

For the boys, Harrison Prieto placed second in the 50 back, third in the 100 back, fourth in the 50 and 100 frees and the 100 IM, fifth in the 200 IM, 200 and 500 frees, and the 50 and 100 butterflies. Trey James scored fourth in the 200 free and 50 back, fifth in the 100 breast and 100 IM, and sixth in the 100 fly and the 50 and 100 freestyles. Matthew Stegen place sixth in the

200 and 500 freestyles.

For the 13-14 boys Robert Klazynski led the age group with a third in the 200 fly, fourth in the 50 back and sixth in the 1650 free.

New Blast team records were set by Griffin Guzan in the 100 fly [1:09.26] and Claire Rasmus in the 50 free [29.35].

Swimming 100% best times were achieved by: Gabrielle Napier, Mattie Napier, Rachel Strain, Callie Tucker, and Brooke Vinturella. Overall, 66% of the team's swims were best times.

Complete results are posted at [www.blastswimteam.com](http://www.blastswimteam.com).

The Blast's next meet is December 7 – 9, at LSU in Baton Rouge.