

## **AGE GROUP COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**

### **DEVIN LESSARD**

Club: Cape Fear Aquatic Club

Nominator: Alyson Arrington

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Lawson Brown (50 back 5th, 100 IM 5th, 50 Free 21st, 50 Fly 9th, 100 Free 14th, 50 Breast 39th, 100 Fly 8th, 100 back 4th 200 IM 4th)

Clem Camacho (50 Back 1st, 100 IM 1st, 50 Free 3rd, 100 breast 1st, 50 fly 1st, 100 free 1st, 50 breast 1st, 100 fly 1st, 200 IM 1st)

Abigail Forbes 100 fly 56th

Caroline Furbay 100 Breast 39th

Will House 100 Breast 37th

Nathan Neu (50 back 20th, 100 IM 30th, 50 Free 22nd, 100 Breast 30th, 50 fly 22nd, 50 Breast 40th, 100 fly 21st, 100 back 42nd)

Elizabeth Teeters (100 Free 21st, 50 free 47th, 100 back 64th, 500 free 27th, 200 back 47th)

Jace Edwards (100 fly 15th, 50 free 12th, 100 back 33rd, 100 Free 13th)

Patrick Furbay (200 Free 16th, 100 fly 14th 50 Free 11th, 100 Back 8th, 200 back 5th 100 free 15th)

#### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

In addition to her many duties for the Cape Fear Aquatic Club Devin has also been an active part in the Wilmington Swim Community. She has been the head coach of the Wilmington YMCA's Summer Swim Team, the YMCA Narwhals for the last two years. She has also run several week-long swim camps for age group swimmers to experience what swim team is like before making the summer or year-long commitment to the sport. Devin works closely with the director of swim lessons through the Y to make sure that swimmers have the prerequisite skills required to transition successfully to swim team. There is currently a swimmer on the CFAC team whose mother is battling an extremely rare form of breast cancer. The family has recently been chosen to be the recipient of a local fundraiser. Devin is working with the CFAC's parent board to coordinate his teammates being there, fundraising and showing their support by participating in the fundraiser. Devin has promoted swimming through the connections she has made with swim families both on the team she coaches as well as the other teams in the Wilmington area. She is always willing to reach out and talk to both swimmers and parents. She uses the connections she has made through her own swim career as a YMCA national swimmer as well as an NCAA All-American to improve the swimming career of others. She is always willing to reach out to teams if a swimmer is moving, or she needs assistance. Devin is also able to bring the joy of swim to our local area through the use of social media. The Cape Fear Aquatic Club's Instagram page has over 200 followers. This page is used to celebrate the team success as well as individual swimmers success on and off the pool deck (<https://www.instagram.com/cfacswim/>)

## **CLUB LEADERSHIP**

As a parent from a different team told me recently, "Devin is the best thing to happen to Wilmington swimming in 15 years." Devin makes a day to day difference with her swimmers by forming meaningful relationships with her swimmers and their parents. Her goal is for every swimmer to get better and this will happen by making swimming fun. Devin is a hands-on coach. She will get in the water with each group of swimmers at least once a week. She works one on one with the swimmers on technique. She also teaches swimmers strategies that will make them better races. Devin supports her swimmers in and outside the pool. She believes that swim is only one aspect of their lives. She goes to their other activities, she celebrates their triumphs and she helps them to develop plans to move on when they have setbacks. When the head coach of CFAC unexpectedly resigned in May, Devin stepped forward and single-handedly ran all aspects of the team. Devin took on full coaching duties including the organization of schedule, parent communication, team bonding and continuation of swimmer development. In addition, she also coached the YMCA summer swim team to its best season in the 6-year history of the team.