

3 Generations of the Knowles Family Make Impact At 2011 US Masters Nationals

Swimming at Auburn University August 3-6th, 2011 in the 2011 US Masters National Championships were a family of five representing 3 generations of swimmers that competed across many age groups.

Representing Swift Swimming were Percy Knowles (80-84 age group), Andy Knowles (55-59 age group), Nancy Knowles (50-54 age group) Jeremy Knowles (25-29 age group), and Elliott Knowles (18-24 age group).

The Father, son, and grandsons' team of Percy, Andy, Jeremy, and Elliott swam in the 200 Free and 200 Medley Relays. Their combined ages put them at the top of the 160-199 age group category where they picked up a 10th place medal in the Free Relay. It was exciting have 3 generations of the Knowles family competing on the same relay in the same pool that Jeremy had trained in, to help Auburn University win two NCAA National Championship titles. The walls bear Jeremy's picture and name as National Champions and an Olympic swimmer. Auburn has a tradition of swimming excellence having won 13 NCAA National Championships and 22 SEC Championships.

The Knowles family from the Bahamas has quite a history of swimming and sailing success. Percy represented The Bahamas in sailing at the 1956, 1960, 1964, 1968 Olympics and as a swim coach in 1976. At the 1976 Games, Andy and his brother, Bruce, were the first swimmers from The Bahamas to compete in swimming. Andy has been to the 1984, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 Olympics as a swim coach for The Bahamas. Jeremy continued the legacy by competing in the 2000, 2004, and 2008 Games. Aside from swimming, Percy's brother, Sir Durward Knowles, won two Olympic medals in sailing, gold in 1964 and bronze in 1956. The Knowles family has been involved in every Olympic Games as either an athlete or a coach since 1948 to present. (excluding the Olympic boycott in 1980).

The group of 5 swimmers picked up 12 medals at the Masters Nationals, produced many best times, which allowed Swift to beat many of the teams at the meet. Percy Knowles won 6 medals, a 2nd in the 50 Breast, 2nd in the 100 Breast, 2nd in the 200 Breast, 3rd in the 200 Free, 4th in the 50 Free, and a 10th in the relay. Andy Knowles won 6 medals, a 4th in the 1500 Free, 4th in the 200 Free, 6th in the 400 Free, 6th in the 100 Free, 8th in the 50 Free, and a 10th in the relay, Nancy Knowles won a 6th in the 50 Butterfly, and Jeremy

Knowles and Elliott Knowles who swam only the relays both got a 10th place medal in the 200 Free relay.

Swift has been competing in Masters meets since the US SC Masters Nationals of 2006 and has been to two World Masters Championships, 2006 and 2010.

Plans for next year include competing at the 2012 US Spring Nationals in North Carolina in April and the World Masters Championships in Italy in June.

Masters swimming has done much to keep us close as a family and to keep us healthy as a family. We love being able to train and compete together.