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### **Camden County Boomers Swim Club History**

Located in Coastal Georgia, the Boomers swim club is the community's swim team and has its origins as a summer league team organized in 1984 at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga. Headed by a federal agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the team established itself as The Kings Bay Boomers Swim Team in 1991 and expanded to a year-round program to meet the increasing demands of competitive swimming in Georgia and Florida.

The Boomers attracted children of active duty military and federal employees and trained daily at the base fitness complex. The complex included an outdoors, eight-lane, 25-yard by 25-meter pool, which was perfect for the young and growing team. With the addition of two water slides to the pool the number of competitive lanes were reduced to from eight to six.

The county supported team dissolved in 1998 and Kings Bay became the sole program for this small community of 45,000 residents. In 2001, the team moved from the submarine base to its current home at the Camden County Recreation Center and changed its name to reflect the entire county and growing program. The recreation center pool is an outdoors L-shaped six-lane, 25-yard by 25-meter pool with a small area set aside for warm-ups and cool down. The majority of the team is still made up of military and federal employees children, but now it attracts children and young adults from all over the county.

### **Growth and Competition**

The Boomers hosted their first invitational swimming competition, The "Boomers Down Under," at the base fitness complex in 1994. Within three years the meet grew to capacity of 500+ swimmers who were accompanied by coaching staff, family and friends. The Boomers Down Under Invitational held over Columbus Day weekend, spans three days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and a decade later continues to attract approximately 800 out-of-town guests from Coastal Georgia, Florida and South Carolina.

There are 65 swimmers currently in the Boomers swim program and a majority of the children are members of honor rolls and societies at their respective schools. Colleges and universities from around the nation heavily recruit members of the swim team with 100 percent of graduating seniors receiving swim scholarships.

The program has come a long way since its inception as a summer league team and has consistently improved year after year. The long-term goal is to produce successful, well-rounded leaders and hopefully produce an Olympian on the side. The Boomers are the 2004 and 2005 Georgia 14-and-Under Long Course Division III State Champions and the 2005 Georgia 14-and-Under Short Course Division III State Champions. Boomer swimmers have produced Top-16 and U.S. Open times and one swimmer was a second shy of qualifying for the 2004 Olympic Trials in San Jose, Calif.

### **Team Philosophy**

The founding of the Boomers swim program was based on the ideal of using swimming as a crime prevention tool. The concept was simple: children and young adults engaged in an after-school physical program are less inclined to get in trouble or perform poorly in school. The program augments educational and family efforts by providing a supervised environment for children and young adults during those vulnerable hours between school and home.

The team's philosophy is simple: strengthen the body, improve swimming skills and teach the value of individual merit and team competition. The essence of Boomers Swimming philosophy also contributes to the quality of family life in Camden County.

The Camden County Boomers Swim Club is a member of Georgia Swimming, one of 59 Local Swimming Committees that make up USA Swimming, the governing body for US Olympic swimming. Georgia Swimming represents about 6,500 swimmers and 44 clubs located throughout Georgia.

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