**VSI Report for Disability Committee**

**November 24, 2019**

We have received updates on five of our current or former VSI Disability athletes:

* Samantha Tubbs continues to train at the Olympic Training Center. Since Peru, she has travelled with the team to compete in regional meets such as California and in Cortland, New York. She is currently preparing to compete at the Para National Championships in Lewisville, Texas, in December. In addition to training, Samantha has continued to take classes through DeVry University and she is also employed as a swimming instructor for Safe Splash in Colorado Springs.
* Kenley (nine year old athlete with disability , on NOVA team. Her father writes:

 “ Kenley has shown unmatched potential this past year , in para swimming for a nine year old. She has set six Junior National Records at the Adaptive Sports USA Junior Nationals in

Minneapolis, Minn. She achieved qualifying times for the US Para National Championships. She will attend the event this year in Texas, making her the youngest swimmer ever to participate in the meet.

 Kenly has advanced two age groups this season on NOVA. She will swim both the short course and the long course seasons with NOVA and all eligible meets. Also, Kenly may swim the

Bill Keating , Jr. Memorial Meet in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is practicing two times a week with NOVA and participating in a running club on alternate days. “

* Joseph Peppersack won a silver medal in Peru in the Para-Pan Games, in the 100 backstroke event. Joseph is working hard with hopes of moving up to Team A for team USA para-swimming. He is travelling to Dallas in early December to compete. H continues to swim for the University of Mary Washington.

* Sean Harrington is still swimming 4 times per week with his own grueling sets, and he is doing about 7,000 to 8,000 yards at a time. Sean still works at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center as a Materials Management Technician.
* Emilia Scovel no longer swims competitively, but she is currently focused on therapeutic horseback riding.

**Upcoming schedule for U. S. Paralympic Swimming events in next six months follows:**

Dec. 6th – 8th, 2019: Paralympic Swimming National Championship- Lewisville, Texas

Jan. 10th-12th, 2020: Great Lakes Tropical Championship – Zeeland, Michigan

Jan. 18 – 19th, 2020: Jimi Flowers Para Open – Colorado Springs, Colorado

April 16th-18, 2020: Indianapolis World Series – Indianapolis, Indiana

May 9th -10th, 2020: Bill Keating, Jr. Para Open – Cincinnati, Ohio

The VSI Disability Committee will post an article on “Meningitis- a Potentially Fatal

Illness for Young People.” If you have questions on Disability Swimming in Virginia and /or suggestions for other topics that the committee should address, please contact one of our

VSI Disability Committee members, who are Sandy Peppersack, Ray Tubbs, John Harrington, Coach Dalton Harendeen, Coach Art Anthony, Coach Jon Larson, Coach Anita Dillman, Jessica Simon (official), Pat Donohue (official), Kim Downs (official), Katy Nunez (able bodied athlete),

Brieanne Romney (able bodied athlete) , Samantha Tubbs (handicapped official), and David Strider (Chair).

Respectfully submitted,

David Strider

Chairperson – VSI Disability Committee

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