

Age Group Swimmer of the Year – Girls (Tie)

Beatrice Stewart

Bea is the true definition of a swimmer – she can swim the 50 all the way through the 1650 and do it all well. She is constantly trying to improve any weakness, and is willing to do in practice whatever it takes to improve those weaker points. Not only can she swim the 50 through the 1650 free, she can do any distance in any stroke. In my mind that's the definition of a true swimmer. Bea loves to swim and is truly a complete swimmer.

But above all; she loves to compete. She loves to compete at swim meets and even more importantly she loves to compete in practice, where she often swims with older swimmers who are faster than her. But she is constantly trying to stay with them and make herself faster through that extra effort in practice each and every day.

These are the traits that will carry her very far in her swim career.

--Coach Adam Katz

Alex Taylor

Alex Taylor is a tremendous multi-sport athlete who pairs her physical talent with a relentless work ethic. Despite a heavy workload, she maintains a positive attitude and leads by example. She's coachable, fun-loving, and a passionate teammate. Alex is the type of swimmer every coach would want to work with. Congratulations, Alex!

--Coach Josh Forsythe

Age Group Swimmer of the Year - Boys

Ian Kimak

Ian Kimak is very consistent with attending practices and meets. He likes to ask what he can do to get better daily. Ian loves to compete and earn personal records at swim meets.

Ian earned AAA cuts in most stroke events and AAAA in longer freestyle and backstroke events this year. He finished the Short Course season with his 500 Free ranked 2nd and his 200 Free ranked 5th in the US for 10 & Under Boys. Ian transitioned from 10 & Under to 11-12 for Junior Olympics this year. Ian was very competitive at the older age group. He scored 113 team points and earned first in the 11-12 200 Butterfly.

--Coach Kirtis Huelsman

Senior Swimmer of the Year - Girls

Crile Hart

Crile is an extraordinary swimmer. It's very difficult to decide what her main stroke is, as she literally excels in fly, back, breast and free. She can also swim the 50, 100, or 200 of all of these strokes, as well as a 400 IM or free.

Her desire to be good at all strokes comes from her amazing desire to be able to help her team in any fashion. Crile is literally able to fill in any relay spot, for any stroke, for any distance. Her desire to be able to help her team in any manner is a coach's dream. Crile's ability to do these events really shows how much she believes that swimming is a team sport and the individual is secondary, this is what makes an extraordinary teammate and a wonderful person for the team to look up to.

--Coach Adam Katz

Senior Swimmer of the Year - Boys

Tyler Hong

Tyler was the 2020-21 St. Ignatius High School team captain, where he led the team by example, advocated good sportsmanship and encouraged the whole team of various swim levels to work together to represent the school and to strive to improve.

Tyler is the Lake Erie swimmer and event record holder for multiple events over the years and attended the USA Swimming National Select Swim Camp in September and October 2020, representing Lake Erie and learning about leadership and how to be the ambassador for the community. Tyler has a world 100 rank in 2020 in the 200 IM and holds 20 swim times still within the top all-time 100. Tyler was recently awarded the 2021 Greater Cleveland High School Male Athlete of the Year Award by the Cleveland Sports Commission.

Tyler loves to work with and encourage younger swimmers who have approached him to help them improve their self-confidence or stroke improvement and share what being part of the swimming community is about from his past experience. Over the past summer when community pool swim lessons were not available, he organized a group of up to 6-7 young swimmers ages 4-11 on a weekly basis to teach them according to their swim level from basic learn to swim to stroke techniques for those who wanted to challenge themselves.

--Coach Cindy Virdo

Athletes' Award

Zach Toothman

To be nominated for the Athletes' Award, an athlete must have a minimum of a 3.75 unweighted cumulative GPA, be actively involved in service in and out of the LSC, and embody the values and qualities of what a Lake Erie athlete should possess. A nominee for the Athletes' Award must also make a lasting impact in the Lake Erie Swimming LSC. We think it's safe to say that this year has been different from most thanks to COVID. However, despite the many challenges that this past year brought us, this person was able to persevere through it all and change the role of the athletes in Lake Erie Swimming forever. We are so proud to announce that the 2021 Athletes' Award Winner is Zach Toothman from CSI.

Zach is more than deserving of this award. He is someone who is exceptional in the classroom, the pool, and in all of the service he does for the Lake Erie LSC and beyond, as he is now the Central Zone Junior Representative. His dedication to Lake Erie and to the athletes of the LSC throughout his years of service is so inspiring. From leading at the LSC level to the zone and national level, Zach has done it all, and has continued to grow in each leadership position he has been in.

He has made incredible strides for the athletes and the entire LSC during his time in leadership. He has created legislation for the athletes and the LSC, ran some amazing meetings, and recognized countless athletes for their accomplishments. Because of this, along with his numerous other accolades, we feel as though this is his time for recognition. Zach, we are so honored to have served with you and present you this award.

*--Athletes' Committee Representatives
Mia Nagle and Megan Maholic*