

10 local coaches attend World Swim Clinic

The American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) World Clinic 2009 was held in beautiful Ft. Lauderdale from September 7-13th, 2009. It hosted over 1,000 American and International swim coaches from around the world. Several top coaches from the US and Australia were speakers at the clinic. The local coaches who attended the clinic were Andy and Nancy Knowles, Geoff Eneas, Mike Stewart, Travano McPhee, Iva Russell, Chikako Christoffersen, Mancer Roberts, Sara Knowles, and Ashley Sands. This year was unique in that they honored the 9 US Olympic swim coaches who are still alive. The coaches showed videos and shared experiences from different Olympic Games over the last 50 years.

As John Leonard the executive director for ASCA put it “ This year’s clinic comes on the heels of the “Roman Circus” that was the World championships a few weeks ago, and we are all eagerly looking forward to resolution from FINA on the issues relating to the high-tech swimsuits”. There was much discussion on the swim suits including comments from the top Australian Swim Coach Allan Thompson who compared the problem with the suits to the drug problem with the German doping system in the 70’s.

This years clinic was also different in that Andy and Nancy Knowles were speakers at the clinic. They spoke on the pilot programme of teaching government school children how to swim by using the swimming pools from private schools. There was positive feed back and much interest from the other coaches.

ASCA is an independent professional association based on a Central Theme of Leadership in American Swimming through Education, Certification and Cooperation. The swim coaches association plays a leadership role in evaluating past efforts, present concerns and future planning and in proposing solutions in both the coaching and swimming communities. The leadership function is provided by synthesizing ideas and information from throughout the swimming community into a coherent direction for action.