

LESS PAPERWORK, MORE TIME TO FOCUS ON COACHING

Save hours of paperwork and driving time with ACTIVE's swim software.

Glenbrook South dives into success with swim software

There is no way around it. Swim meets create loads of information. With the use of ACTIVE Network's swim software, Keith MacDonald, head coach of Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, IL, is able to effectively manage all of his swimmers' times and statistics. Less paperwork frees up time to focus on coaching.

Q&A with Keith MacDonald, Head Coach

WHAT ACTIVE PRODUCTS DO YOU USE AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN USING THEM?

I use Meet Manager and Team Manager. I've used this software since I started my coaching career in 1991. The products just started emerging as I began to coach.

WHAT SWIM SOFTWARE FEATURES DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?

For our team, the ability to manage all of our information is the most important part. We use Team Manager to assemble and review all of our swimmers' information. It would be a huge undertaking if I didn't have the ability to do that.

In the beginning of the week, we start thinking about our lineups for the next weekend's meet. I get all of the times from the past meets and input them into Team Manager. We then put them into Meet Manager for the weekend. I create a PDF of the results and post them online after the meet so parents, teammates and fans can view and print them.

I also enjoy the reporting features. We break down all of the times by level. **In Meet Manager, I create a Top 50 Times list and post it on our web page.** We keep track throughout the years.

“ I have saved hours of paperwork and driving time. ”

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WHAT'S YOUR ACTIVE?

HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU SAVED USING SWIM SOFTWARE?

I have saved hours of paperwork and driving time. For organizational purposes, it makes a big difference to be able to input entries for the meet. When I first started coaching, you had to fill out paper forms and drive them over to the meet. If you weren't one of the first five cars in the parking lot, you wouldn't be able to compete. Now, it is all done online. I email the entries. It makes the process so much easier. With a click of a button, a five-day meet is right in your computer.

HAS THE EXTRA TIME ENHANCED YOUR COACHING IN OTHER WAYS?

The extra time has made it easier to spend more time analyzing my swimmers. We are able to pull a report on one swimmer that shows their whole background. I can evaluate the swimmers and figure out who will swim in each race. It really helps me make my lineups.

“ The extra time has made it easier to spend more time analyzing my swimmers. ”

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ACTIVE AND WHAT KEEPS YOU WORKING WITH ACTIVE?

No other company has dented this market. I don't believe there is any real competition out there. The software is valuable to all of the coaches.

Everyone in the state uses it.

HAVE YOU USED ANY PRODUCTS IN WAYS YOU DIDN'T ANTICIPATE?

I've actually started to help our track and field coach with their meets. They have a similar system for track and field. I taught the coach how to use Meet Manager and Team Manager.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING USING ACTIVE PRODUCTS?

You have to use these products. It is a must. Something as small as country club swim meets could benefit from this product. It makes everything so much easier. If you are starting a team, or joining a team that doesn't have this, it is the first thing you have to do to start a team.

WHAT ARE SOME BIG ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOUR SWIMMERS HAVE ACHIEVED?

We set a national record at a state meet three years ago. Being able to go through best times to figure out our line-ups helped us put together that winning team.

WHAT'S YOUR ACTIVE?

My eight-year-old son, who is a constant whirlwind of activity and wants. We are always playing catch, football, running in the yard, and jumping on the trampoline. He never stops moving.

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