

## 2008 YMCA Long Course National Swimming Championship

# Fun Facts

### FAMOUS YMCA PEOPLE



Lindsay Benko won three medals in '00 and '04 Olympics and was a member of Elkhart Y swim team.

Ian Crocker learned to swim at Portland YMCA in Maine and has won 4 medals in '00 and '04 Olympics.

One of the most decorated Olympic swimmers, Jenny Thompson, has earned 12 medals in the '92, '96, '00, and '04 Olympics and was a Y kid at the Merrimack Valley Y.



Janet Evans, who won three gold medals in the '88 Olympics, was an amateur athlete of the year for '89.

Mark Spitz learned to swim at the Sacramento YMCA in 1958.



Greg Louganis learned at the Y.

Ronald Reagan learned lifesaving and played the drum in the band at the Dixon (Ill.) YMCA.

Wilt Chamberlain, when he was 16, was on the national YMCA champion men's team.

When bad weather forced him off the baseball diamond, Frank Robinson was in the YMCA playing basketball.



George Bush played basketball at the YMCA as a young man and later helped start the YMCA in Midland, Texas.

Christian Laettner of Duke, the Dream Team, and the Atlanta Hawks, and Cliff Robinson of the Portland Trailblazers were on the same YMCA basketball team.



Curly Neal of Harlem Globetrotter fame learned to play basketball at the YMCA.

Aaron Spelling, TV producer, said the YMCA was his one escape from the streets; the chance to be part of something—the family of the Y.

Bob Newhart said the YMCA was a "very important part of my childhood."

Senator Bob Kerrey's Y youth program leader said Kerrey was a "YMCA rat" growing up.



Vic Mitchell, world-class bridge player, was taken to the Brooklyn YMCA by a policeman.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said that the San Francisco YMCA's Youth and Government program was an important influence in his life.

Darryl Stingly, NFL player was a "self-described 'product of the YMCA system'"

Award-winning author, Frederick Exley's autobiographical novels include the Y

Anthony Hopkins played one of his first parts in "Othello" at his local YMCA

