

# Okaloosa County News Release

8/12/2009

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

## **Emerald Coast Junior Lifeguards Demonstrate Skills**

Over 50 Junior Lifeguards from the Okaloosa, Destin, and South Walton Beach Safety Junior Lifeguard Programs traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, August 7 through 16, to represent the Emerald Coast in the 2009 **United States Lifesaving Association's** National Junior Lifeguard Championships.

The high levels of fitness required in lifesaving was evident as they competed with the best in the nation in their events and took **4 national championships** and an impressive **64 top 10 finishes**. To put these accomplishments in perspective, there were approximately 1,000 of the nation's top junior surf athletes present at the event from well decorated and established programs dating back to the 1920's. This was a first time experience for all but a few of the competitors; however, they all performed as if they had been there before.

The Okaloosa and Destin programs are only into their third season while the South Walton program has just finished its second - an intimidating environment for any first-timer. But they raced with determination, skill, and heart and demonstrated unquestionably that the youth of Florida's Emerald Coast has what it takes to win championships and finish strong in competition. And more importantly, as the **future of lifesaving**, they proved that they have what it takes to finish the most important race of all in our industry, **the daily race to rescue real victims in distress**.

The benefits to lifesaving are many – these events promote the high level of fitness required to prevent drowning; helps bring together youth and adult lifesavers to learn more about how lifesaving is conducted nationwide; helps promote interagency relationships; demonstrates the importance and value of lifesaving to the general public; and attracts the interests of sponsors who help support lifesaving.

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"We are all very proud to recognize the accomplishments of our junior lifeguards and are grateful for the tireless and dedicated effort of all the coaches and parents who participated in these programs," stated Beach Safety Division Chief Tracey Vause.

Race results are as follows:

## **AA Division (16 and 17 years)**

### **A Division (14 and 15 years)**

#### ❖ **Beach run (2K)**

- Brandon Roswell – Okaloosa – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Natalie Masone – Destin – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Chase Cox – South Walton – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Sydney Watson – Destin – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Richard Barington – Destin – 10<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Board race**

- Gabriel Harrison – Destin – **Bronze Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)**
- Sydney Watson – Destin – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Natalie Masone – Destin – 10<sup>th</sup> Place
- Chase Cox – South Walton – 16<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Run swim run**

- Cody Bryson – Okaloosa – 7<sup>th</sup> Place
- Nick Giordana – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Mary Heapy – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Surf race**

- Brooke Arrington – Okaloosa – 9<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Swim relay**

- Mary Heapy – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Nick Giordano – Okaloosa 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Valery Tucke – Okaloosa 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Meggie McCormick – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Cody Bryson – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Chase Cox – South Walton – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Matt Wise – South Walton – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Jordyn Vause – Okaloosa – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Brooke Arrington – Okaloosa – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Alex Bratton – Okaloosa – 9<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Rescue race**

- Ben Myler – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Gabriel Harrison – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place

#### ❖ **Iron guard**

- Brock Lamb – Destin – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Gabriel Harrison – Destin – 7<sup>th</sup> Place

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- Valery Tucker – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Chase Cox – South Walton – 18<sup>th</sup> Place
- more-*

❖ **Beach flags**

- Sydney Watson – Destin – **Bronze Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)**
- Josh McCree – Okaloosa – 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- Brooke Arrington – Okaloosa – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Natalie Masone – Destin – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Chase Cox – South Walton – 16<sup>th</sup> Place

## **B Division (12 and 13 years of age as of July 1 of the current year)**

❖ **Beach run**

- Richard Jones – Okaloosa – **Gold Medal (National Champion)**
- Alexandria Bikker – Okaloosa – **Bronze Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)**
- Kyle Champagne – Okaloosa – 7<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Surf race.**

- Cameron Chase – Destin – 7<sup>th</sup> Place
- Walker Lehman – South Walton – 28<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Board race**

- Matt Wise – South Walton – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Richard Jones – Okaloosa – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Carlee Michna – Okaloosa – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Walker Lehman – South Walton – 14<sup>th</sup> Place
- Grayton Scheinkman – South Walton – 14<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Iron guard**

- Matt Wise – South Walton – **Bronze Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)**
- Carlee Michna – Okaloosa – 10<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Run swim run**

- Brandon Hidalgo – Destin – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Matt Wise – South Walton – 9<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Rachel Gold – Destin – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Walker Lehman – South Walton – 26<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Beach flags**

- Kyle Champagne – Okaloosa – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Richard Jones – Okaloosa – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Brandon Hidalgo – Destin – 8<sup>th</sup> Place
- Walker Lehman – South Walton – 16<sup>th</sup> Place

## **C Division (9 to 11 years of age as of July 1 of the current year)**

❖ **Beach run**

- Lauren Hunter – Destin – **Gold Medal (National Champion)**
- Lee Cox – South Walton – 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- Chris Wise – South Walton – 9<sup>th</sup> Place

❖ **Run swim run**

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- Rachel Hidalgo – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place -more
- Lee Cox – South Walton – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Grayton Scheinkman – South Walton – 18<sup>th</sup> Place

## ❖ Beach flags

- Emily Balint – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Lauren Hunter – Destin – 7<sup>th</sup> Place
- Lee Cox – South Walton – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Chris Wise – South Walton – 12<sup>th</sup> Place
- Grayton Scheinkman – South Walton – 16<sup>th</sup> Place

## ❖ Rescue race

- Chris Wise – South Walton – 11<sup>th</sup> Place
- Lee Cox – South Walton – 11<sup>th</sup> Place

## ❖ Board race

- Chris Wise – South Walton – **Gold Medal (National Champion)**
- Rachel Hidalgo – Destin – **Gold Medal (National Champion)**
- Lauren Hunter – Destin – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Lee Cox – South Walton – **Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)**
- Emily Balint – Destin – 9<sup>th</sup> Place

## ❖ Swim relay

- Peter Masone – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Helene Masone – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Rachel Hidalgo – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Lauren Hunter – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Emily Blaint – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place

## ❖ Iron guard

- Lee Cox – South Walton – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Rachel Hidalgo – Destin – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- Peter Masone – Destin – 7<sup>th</sup> Place
- Lauren Hunter – Destin – 7<sup>th</sup> Place
- Grayton Scheinkman – South Walton – 13<sup>th</sup> Place

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