

September 11, 2007

PVS 2007 Long Course Zone Team Zone Team Coordinator Report on Apparel

Potomac Valley Swimming once again partnered with TYR and Aardvark Swim & Sport to provide the swimmers with caps, t-shirts, warm-ups, championship suits, and bags for the trip to Buffalo, NY for the 2007 Eastern Zone Long Course Championships.

To make sure the team received all of the necessary items in time for the trip, Erik Major (Aardvark's Team Sales Rep) and I had to provide TYR with projected PVS team numbers and sizes in early June. Based on prior year numbers, we figured the team would be no larger than 120 swimmers. When the Zone Team numbers were finalized at 158 athletes, our projections were off by over 30 athletes, which put a strain on the production of apparel in one week's time.

Erik and Bob York at Aardvark did a fantastic job taking care of Potomac Valley's needs in such a short window of time. Every swimmer received their t-shirts, suits, caps and bags in time for the trip. We discovered a few sizing errors at the team meeting—2 days before departure for Buffalo—and Aardvark was able to correct the problem quickly.

The one issue with outfitting that has yet to be corrected, much to the dismay of the athletes and their parents, was the lack of enough warm-up jackets for the trip. TYR was unable to produce and/or provide us with 16 Adult Small jackets, with the reason being that the company had that size "back-ordered" until mid-September 2007. Despite the efforts of Aardvark to find this jacket size at other vendors across the country, 16 swimmers traveled to New York with incomplete outfitting. The families of these athletes have been promised that they will have their team jackets mailed to them as soon as they become available. Aardvark has promised to keep me up to speed with the jackets' whereabouts. (UPDATE: speaking with Erik Major on September 10, he has been told by TYR representatives that the jackets will not be available until December 1, 2007).

Once again, a huge "thank you" to Bob York and Erik Major at Aardvark Swim & Sport for quickly and patiently dealing with all of the Zone Team's needs behind the scenes.

Respectfully,
Mark Faherty
PVS Zone Team Co-Coordinator