



Diving coach looks to continue club's winning ways in the pool

Bob Vrbanac, Chronicle Staff

Published on Jun 16, 2010

Roland Lipki has been at the K-W Diving Club through the lean times, when just getting divers out was a struggle.

But these are the salad days for the coach as his club holds the Tier II provincial championships this weekend at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex. His team goes into the event as the defending champs.

The club using this weekend to show off the great facilities this city has for this type of competition, said KW Diving Club President Janice Moore. More importantly, they're celebrating the more than 20 years that Lipki has devoted to the sport in the area.

The only problem is that nobody really knows how long he's been helping out.

Lipki predated Moore's involvement with the club and even Lipki himself thinks his volunteerism is more in the 20 to 25 year range.

But what everyone acknowledges is that the club wouldn't be enjoying some of its unprecedented success without Lipki's commitment to building the sport of diving locally.

"He's seen this club through the ups and downs, divers coming and going and stayed in the sport," said Moore, who is also president of Dive Ontario.

It was the kids that kept him hanging around the pool deck, Lipki said.

And it's the kids who still motivate him to come out to watch their aerial acrobatics before breaking the surface tension of the water.

"It just about working with the kids, and some of the kids we've had have been really good," said Lipki. "They make it just as enjoyable as giving back to the diving community."

"It's been great to see kids progressing and moving on."

The club is enjoying success at all levels with a number of Tier I divers off to nationals in the next few weeks.

But it's the Tier II team that is making waves as a group, and promises more big things this year and as they look to take another step up the ladder. "The skill and quality of the kids and their diving ability has really come a long way in developing that triangle approach where we have a strong base at the bottom," said Lipki. "If you look at a lot of sports like ours, they tend to forget that there are a lot of introductory or novice levels — they're strictly attuned to the elite athlete."



K-W Diving Club's Tier II diver Daria Vela gets ready for this weekend provincial championships at the Waterloo Swimplex.

“With that strong base, it’s filtered up so that we now have that strong core of kids at the middle and at the top we’re really successful.”

Lipki is hoping that success continues this weekend as more than 110 divers come to compete in Waterloo.

While the Swimplex doesn’t have the diving towers to make it an elite competition site, Lipki said it is one of the best in the province for the type of competition that will be here starting on Saturday.

“It’s great to be at home and showcase our facility,” said Lipki. “It may be one of the best facilities in the country for our level of divers — the middle level.”

“It’ll be nice for our kids to show their family and friends what they’ve been able to accomplish.”

So is a repeat in the cards?

“We’d love to do that in our home pool,” said Lipki. “We expect to defend.”

WATERLOOCHRONICLE
.ca

<http://www.waterloochronicle.ca/sports/article/212781>



© Copyright 2010 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from this Metroland West Media Group website is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

