

**SPORTS**

**Sharks to compete for State Championships in Junior Olympics Friday**

Members of the Sharks Aquatic Club have qualified to compete in this weekend's Junior Olympic Swim meet at the Mecklenburg Aquatic Center in Charlotte, July 17-20.

Each of the sharks, ages 14 and under, will dive in for a chance to claim a State Championship victory in their qualified fields. Three of the 12 swimmers, who qualified to compete, are from Kings Mountain. Austin Toney, son of Hope and Barry Toney of Kings Mountain, qualified to compete in the 50 yard breast stroke, 100 yd. breast stroke, 200 yd. breast stroke and relay categories.

Katie Bieker, daughter of Beverly and Joe Bieker of Kings Mountain, qualified to compete in the 50 yd. back stroke and relay contests.

Abbey Bragg, daughter of Ruthie and Greg Bragg of Kings Mountain, qualified to contend in the 50 yd. breast stroke, 100 yd. breast, 50 yd. back, 100 yd. back, 200 yd. back, 50 yd. freestyle, 50 yd. fly and relay divisions. Bragg, Bieker and Toney all attend Kings Mountain Middle School.

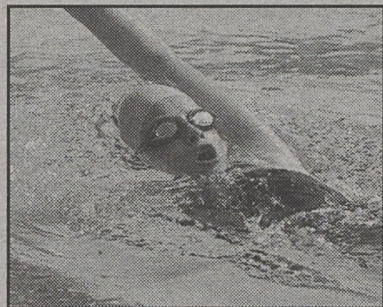
Other qualifying Sharks, competing in the Junior Olympics are: Alexandra Martelle, Lindsey Martelle, Emily Morgan, Ari Wallace, Parker Campbell, David Roby, Garrett Simpson, Ben Waldrep, Jay Wilson. The Sharks will be coached by Kathi Simpson.

"We're very excited about it. I think they're going to do very well. They are seeded high so

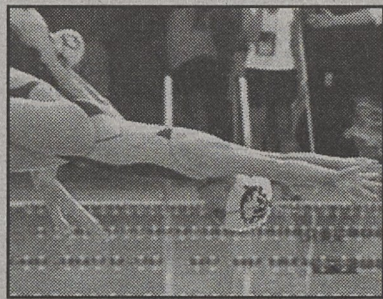
hopefully we'll just get up and race and do very well," Simpson said, adding that the club trains practically year-round for challenges like this one. "It takes a lot of dedication and a lot of time."

She said that they are hoping to make it into the top 10 of teams this year, adding that they have a good shot at it.

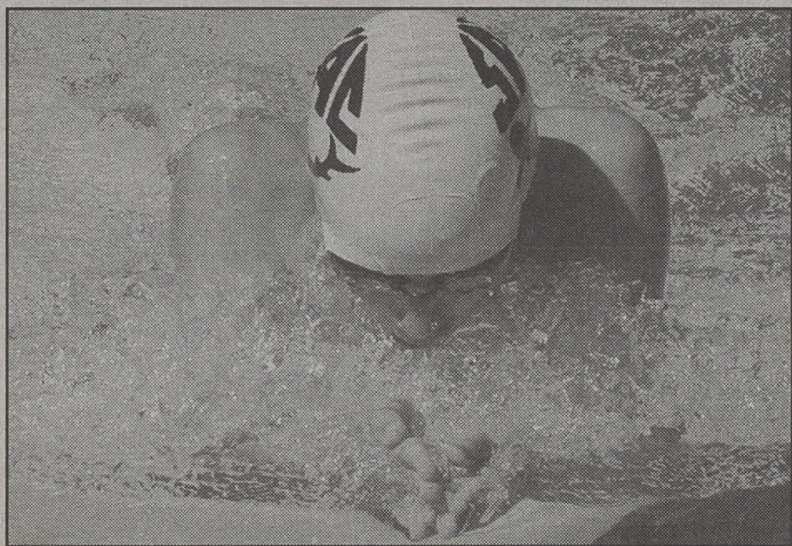
"Our kids have worked hard this spring and summer," said Sharks Coach David Messenger. "I have to give assistant Coach Kathi Simpson lots of credit, these kids are pumped and ready to go. I expect a good weekend of racing. I want our kids to race hard and race smart, but most of all to have fun."



KATIE BIEKER



ABBEY BRAGG



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Austin Toney cuts through the water.

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Register kids now for KM Optimist football**

Football and cheerleading sign-ups, for children ages 5-12, will be held on Saturdays beginning July 12th from 10-2 p.m. at the City Stadium on Gaston Street.

The season will begin with an event from 6-8 p.m. on August 1st.

The registration fee is \$50 for each participant until July 31st.

Beginning August 1st, the registration fee will be \$75 for each participant.

Bring a certified original birth certificate, that the Optimist Club will need to keep until the end of the season, and a copy of your child's end of the year report card showing all four quarters. Each participant is required to have a physical. You may print the registration and medical forms on the KM Optimist web

site at [knoptimist.com](http://knoptimist.com)

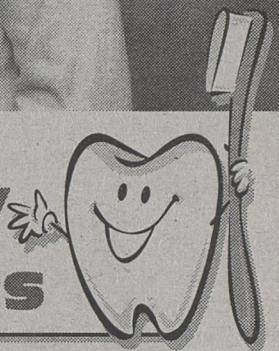
**Peppers makes first hole-in-one**

Derand Peppers made his first Hole-In-One at Kings Mountain Country Club on Hole #17 on Wednesday, July 2, 2008. Derand used a pitching wedge on the 153 Yard hole. His playing partners were Wayne Wasserman, Don Miller, and Tim Bowen.

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