

# Swimming for world domination

Nine athletes compete at Special Olympics swim meet

by Natalie Durliovy  
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Terry Kuliktana couldn't see his opponents at the Special Olympic swim meet last weekend but felt they were there.

"Even though he can't see them he can feel that it's happening," said Cappy Elkin, co-organizer of the swim meet.

A Special Olympic swimmer who is blind, Kuliktana used the meet as training for the 2007 Special Olympic World Summer Games in Shanghai, China this October.

Kuliktana, who trains on Sundays, was also able to gain some official times for his training.

## Olympic swimmers

The Chilled to the Bone swim meet featured nine Special Olympic swimmers in a series of events.

"This is sort of the big



Photo courtesy of Cary Klein

**Terry Kuliktana, left, and a Polar Bear Swim Club member dive during a Special Olympics swim meet at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool April 15.**

meet of the year," said Elkin.

Nine Polar Bear Swim Club swimmers also swam in the event.

Elkin said the meet is not like any other. They split the

Polar Bear Swim Club members into two teams with the Special Olympic athletes on both sides.

"We started with a skills competition, with one team

against the other," said Elkin.

She said swimmers were tested on skills such as how far they could glide, and how many objects they could retrieve from the bottom of the

pool.

The competition also included races for those who could swim full lengths of the pool.

The Polar Bear Swim Club

provided timers and officials for the event.

Elkin was thankful for the club's help.

"We really believe in that integration," she said.