

AFTERTHOUGHTS

Each year this camp experiences, what I will refer to as, challenges. As usual though, these unplanned setbacks are the main ingredient for a driving force to recovery. This year's camp earmarked a historical first of having less than the required amount of participants. Make no mistake; it was not planned that way...campers dropped as a result of their own, or a family member's illness. Despite the setbacks, the campers stepped up, met the challenge and succeeded.

This year's camp was held in Indian Trail, North Carolina from Wednesday May 10th to Sunday May 14th. Some members of the staff arrived on Tuesday the 9th to complete the set-up for the camp. In alphabetical order, the staff included: Rodney Bryant (VA), Camp Director: Michael Catalano (FL), Susan Collins (NC), Michael Ciesliga (TN), RIC: Jim Dewhirst (TN), Cameron Gentile (NC), Jason Geiger (NC), Eric Gibson (FL), Richard Gioia (FL), Ron Johnson (NC), and Joel Webster (NC).

The 2017 participants included, in alphabetical order: Stephen Baxter (GA), Ben Everette (GA), Dan Fendius (GA), Matthew Flier (NC), Colton Hagan (AL), Kyle Hebron (FL), Tobin Hernandez (VA), David Kriston (MD), Sean Letona (FL), Brandon McInnis (FL), Tyler Totten (GA), Karl Von Haasl (FL), Andrew Whatley (FL), Colin Wilson (NC), Yohsuke Yamakawa (GA).

As is the case every year, this year's camp produced a tempo that far-exceeded the expectations of those in attendance. The staff of DSC deserves sole credit for the success that the participants tasted during this camp.

A special thank you to Camp Captain, Karl Von Haasl and Co-Captain, Tyler Totten for their efforts in keeping the lines of communication open between the participants and the staff. It is the captain's responsibility to ensure that the campers were on time for class and ice sessions, to have the proper schedule, and any other reasonable request by staff.

This camp does not just train officials, but it recognizes officials for their hard work, efforts, and dedication to the officiating program. This year, camper David Kriston from Maryland exemplified these traits. David arrived at camp with a temporary medical condition that resulted in him experiencing a lot of pain. But sheer determination and perseverance on David's part resulted in him excelling above the rest.

It is these characteristics and demeanor that landed David the "Michael Frank Staff's Choice Award" this year...Congratulations David...

Other award winners included: Dan Fendius of Georgia for receiving the "Top Fitness Award," Kyle Hebron of Florida for receiving the "Top Academic Award," and Sean Letona of Florida for receiving the "Camper's Choice Award." The "Camper's Choice Award" is a confidential vote from the participants for the camp participant they believe exemplifies the one official that stands out, the official that always give 100%, the official that has a humble and great attitude on and off the ice.

Directors note: Anyone can learn to develop a more positive, productive outlook on life. As I said in camp, it's often just a matter of habit. Remember, to climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first and the road to success is always under construction.

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On behalf of Jim Dewhirst, the Southeast District Referee-In-Chief, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire staff of the 2017. Your dedication to the program, to preparing and delivering instruction above and beyond the norm is an example of your love for the game. Believe it or not, it's the little things like this that mean a lot to people. THANK YOU ALL for your support. A special thank you to Mike Mulhall and his staff at Extreme Ice Center for the unending support during our training.

With that in mind, I will leave you with this...character is more important than intelligence for success and true character is who you are when no one is watching. I wish you all the best of luck and hope to hear from each of you in the future and learn about your accomplishments.

Finally, I ask the 2017 attendees to please tell officials around you of the incredible experience at the DSC. The 2018 DSC will be posted sometime in the fall of this year.

All the best...

Michael Catalano
DSC Director



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David Kriston, Michael Frank Staff's Choice Award



Dan Fendius, Top Fitness Award

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Kyle Hebron Top Academic Award



Sean Letona Camper's Choice Award