



DEBRA SCHWARTZ BRICE

CLASS OF 1976

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Deb began swimming competitively at the age of 10, when she joined the AAU team, Wayland Swim Club. In her freshman year at Wayland High School, Deb became a member of the girls' varsity swim team upon its inception in 1972. The team was coached by her father, Barry Schwartz. She excelled in butterfly, individual medley, long distance freestyle and was a member of relays. In four years, Deb led the Warriors to a 40-1-1 overall record – their only defeat was to Wellesley in 1972. The team won the State Championship title in its second year and continued to dominate for the next several years.



Deb went on to swim at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she continued to improve and broke multiple collegiate records. She won the 200 butterfly at the New England Championships in 1977. She also was a starter on the U Mass women's water polo team.



Deb is the recipient of several MVP awards from AAU, high school and college. She was honored as an AAU New England "All Star" for several years. "Sports has had an extremely positive influence in my life. Exercising is what I most love to do and it is as sustaining to me as eating and sleeping. After college, my workout interests shifted to group exercise classes. Not only do I still participate, but I became a fitness instructor in 1999. I currently teach classes at three gyms."

After a 33-year hiatus from swimming, Deb now competes in open water events. Most of her training is with a Masters group at Simmons College. She currently lives in Natick with her husband, Kelly. They have a son, Marcus, who graduated from college in 2016. Deb works in an administrative position at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston in addition to being a group exercise instructor. She coached the Natick Swim Team from 2014-2017.

The person who has had the most profound influence on her swimming career is her father. He also involved her siblings in AAU swimming, traveling all over New England so that the family could compete in meets. An extraordinary example of good sportsmanship, he was one of Deb's first coaches at the Wayland Swim Club and WHS's first girls swimming coach. He has always been her biggest fan.

