

2022 Okaloosa County Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame

Male Athlete Inductee:

James Lefebvre

James Lefebvre started swimming at age 7. He swam year-round for local teams Hurlburt Swim Club and Playground Area YMCA (PLAY), and for Area Tallahassee Aquatic Club (ATAC). Growing up, he was a successful swimmer, winning numerous meet high point awards, including Southeastern AAU Championships, and contributing to team high point awards. He swam for Fort Walton Beach High School and Leon High School, winning multiple district championships and finaling at State Championships his Junior and Senior years in the 200 freestyle, the 500 freestyle, and the 4x100 free relay. He went on to swim for Indian River Community College, earning an All-American award.

An avid triathlete, Lefebvre was named the Atlanta Sport & Fitness Magazine Athlete of the Year in 1996. He has had over forty 1st place overall finishes, has competed in three World Ironmans, and won the National Amateur Triathlon Championships in 1996. Locally, he holds the record in the Elephant Walk/Sandestin Triathlon, a race in which he competed in and won in 1992, and then again in 2012, inspiring this newspaper headline: "Lefebvre wins Elephant Walk, again."

Jim still swims 3 to 5 times a week, and you can find him doing 200-yard individual medleys at Bernie R. Lefebvre Aquatic Center—a community swimming pool named after his father.

