Obituary: Remembering John Macionis  
(May 27, 1916 – February 16, 2012)  
American Swimming Champion

The International Swimming Hall of Fame is saddened to report that John Macionis has passed away. He was 95 years old.

He was a National AAU and NCAA champion. Captain of Yale and the first Eli speed boy to swim in the Olympic Games, winning a silver medal in Berlin, in 1936. The war robbed him of his chance to compete in Tokyo in 1940. After serving in the Coast Guard during the war, he helped found the Philadelphia Swim Directors Society (PSDS) and Junior Swim League (JSL), one of the first organized age group swimming leagues in the United States. The stated objectives of the PSDS and JSL were: 1) To promote swimming at all times; 2) To promote harmonious relations among ourselves; 3) To improve our professional status; 4) To foster competitive swimming for all ages; 5) To conduct clinics for our own education; and 6) To provide a clearing house for swimming affairs in our locality. In 1948 and 1949 John served as co-President of the PSDS alongside Commander “King John” Miller, the wartime head of the US Navy Water Survival Program and world famous coach of Mercersburg Academy, where John swam for a year before attending Yale. Under their leadership, the JSL championships were televised, the League was integrated to include teams from the area’s “colored Y’s” and the number of participating teams doubled from 7 to 14. When John’s sons, John and Robert started swimming, he was a swimming parent who was always ready to volunteer as an official or even coach when a coach couldn’t make it to practice. As a swimming celebrity he regularly accepted invitations to present awards to swimmers at every level, from country club meets to national championships at Kelly Pool. He was a man we all looked up to, respected and admired as young swimmers.

Later in life, John and his wife Mae bought a condo directly across the street from the International Swimming Hall of Fame, in Fort Lauderdale. He swam in the Ocean Mile, set records as a Master’s swimmer and volunteered his services during the Annual College Coaches Swim Forum. His annual Christmas gift of a dozen golf balls in egg cartons and invitation to “Come on up for some shrimp.” were always looked forward to. They sold the condo a few years ago. Always cheerful, friendly and kind – John will always be remembered at the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

To learn more about John: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Macionis
THREE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF PHILADELPHIA

Joe Verdeur, Marge Hilton of Brighton Hotel Swim Club, and John MacInnis of Yale congratulating Marge Hilton on setting a new 100 yd breaststroke record in the Germantown YMCA Pool.

Masao Kiyosawa first coach of the Japan's Swimmers, Federation and former Olympic Breaststroke Champion on his visit to Philadelphia entertained at the Yale Club by John MacInnis, Wm. Needler, and Jimmy McKinly, president of Philadelphia Swimming Directors Society.