

Project Summary

Westside Aquatic Center



Westside Aquatic Center is home to Team Greenville in Greenville, SC. The facility was built in 1969 as an outdoor facility, but was enclosed in 1992. The facility is one of a handful of 50-meter pools in South Carolina. However, they never had a complete timing system installed. Instead, they contracted a timing vendor to come in to run their meets.

In 2008, the Booster Club board found that they had saved enough money to buy a new timing system. “We decided that it was feasible for us to get our own timing system rather than spending a couple thousand dollars per meet on a timing vendor, as we had been doing,” said Merv Faassen de Heer, Facilities Director for Team Greenville, which holds its meets in the Westside facility.

The facility had a Colorado Time Systems (CTS) scoreboard in place, which was installed about a decade ago. They decided to keep the existing scoreboard after being reassured by the Omega/Swiss Timing representative that the timing system they intended to purchase would be fully compatible with the existing scoreboard.

“The Omega system was not compatible with our CTS scoreboard,” says Faassen de Heer. “It disabled our scoreboard for any type of use. And we had two inoperable touchpads right off the bat. It was very disappointing.”

Ultimately, the Booster Club board decided to send back the system and look for another timing system.

“After our experience with Omega, I contacted Colorado Time Systems. A representative flew to our location, met with our board, showed us products and gave us a solution,” Faassen de Heer says.

One of the difficulties of fitting modern timing equipment into the facility is that it was built before timing equipment became widely used. “The gutter configuration is a little unique,” says Faassen de Heer. “There are irregularities you have to deal with.”

As he and his facility soon found, CTS’ hands-on approach and expertise helped find a perfect solution for the facility.

“It was really helpful to have someone come down here and look at the unique design of our pool, because we were torn between two different designs with regard to our pool’s configuration,” he says. “CTS really did step up to the plate...we had constant interaction, and any questions we had were answered.”

Ultimately, the Westside installation (completed early 2010) included a complete Colorado timing system with a System 6 Timing Console, a Championship Start System, AquaGrip touchpads, associated cabling, lane speakers, a Dolphin Wireless Stopwatch System, Wireless Pace Clocks, and an upgraded LED numeric scoreboard.