February 2026 Youth Athlete of the Month
Sunrise Swimming

Athlete: Giovanni Gianfriddo
Coach: Alec Wathen

Giovanni Gianfriddo is an 18- year old student at Somerset Academy Charter High School and a participant in the Sunrise Swimming Program.

Comments from his Coach:

Giovanni has been a member of Sunrise Swimming for over 12 years, starting in our lesson program at the age of 5, and then moving through the training groups, where he now trains with the Champions group. He is a competitor both in practices and at competitions; he doesn't give up, even when faced with difficult scenarios.

Giovanni is a Sectional qualifier, which puts him in the top 10% of swimmers nationally. He has been a High School State qualifier for the last two years finishing 21st and 10th respectively.

Giovanni is in all advanced high school classes, and has earned many academic and behavioral awards through the years. He even published a poem at the age of 12!

In addition to his swimming achievements, Giovanni has been working with Sunrise Swimming teaching private and group swim lessons to children and adolescents for the past 3 years. He is a valuable member of our staff, and is respected by those he works with.

Athlete: O'Neika Gayle
Coach: Alec Wathen

O'Neika Gayle is an 18- year-old student at South Plantation High School and a participant in the Sunrise Swimming Program.

Comments from her Coach:

O'Neika has been a member of Sunrise Swimming for over 11 years, starting in our lesson program at the age of 5, and then moving through the training groups, where she now trains with the Champions group. She has been a State finalist in her events since her Sophomore year of high school (finishing in the top 8). She suffered a stress fracture during track season in 10th grade, but overcame that challenge to go on and become a finalist in her Jr and Sr years. This December she qualified for the Futures Championship, which is a national competition for athletes transitioning from the Regional to the National level (typically the top 2-5% in the sport).

In addition to her swimming accolades, O'Neika has maintained a 3.87 GPA, while completing a rigorous course load and earning the AICE diploma. She is also enrolled at Broward College through the Dual Enrollment program, graduating in June with both a HS diploma and an associate degree.

O'Neika is a member of the National Honor Society, tutors fellow students in English, and is a Youth Leader at her church. She completed an internship at Ft Lauderdale AC and Marriott Hotels this summer.

O'Neika has been accepted to several colleges and universities. She has received a Bright Futures Scholarship, and plans to major in nursing while also swimming in college.