



## Super Vu-Tron<sup>®</sup> Supreme Makes a Splash

Customer Case Study: Northern Kentucky Clippers Swim Team

In a sport where first and last place are separated by a few tenths of a second, accuracy is crucial. That's why the Northern Kentucky Clippers swim team turned to Carol<sup>®</sup> Brand Super Vu-Tron<sup>®</sup> Supreme cable to put an end to their troubling timing system failures.

Established in 1979, the **Northern Kentucky Clippers** are a USA Swimming-sanctioned competitive swim team. From novice to elite swimmers, the team has trained thousands of youths from across northern Kentucky and southwest Ohio, with the current squad numbering approximately 200 young men and women. To satisfy its responsibilities as a premier swim club, the Clippers host several annual swim meets that attract hundreds of competitive swimmers from the surrounding region. Because USA Swimming—the national governing body for the sport—collects every time swum in its sanctioned contests, Clippers meets must be timed with unflinching precision and reliability. So when the team's timing system began experiencing intermittent outages during competitions, a great deal was at stake for the club.

### The Challenge

Originally purchased in 2000, the Clippers' Daktronics system incorporates cutting-edge timing and scoring technology—similar to the equipment the company provides the International Olympic Committee for both the summer and winter games. Comprised of 20 lane modules, 20 touch pads and a

10-line LED scoreboard, the system represents a considerable investment of more than \$30,000 for this non-profit swim team. But despite rigorous maintenance and regular component upgrades, consistent timing failures experienced during club competitions were rendering the system useless. That's when **Bruce Bank**, father of a Clippers swimmer and an experienced aircraft maintenance technician, volunteered to find a solution to the problem. "During a meeting between a Clippers oversight committee and a technician from Daktronics, it was determined that the failures were most likely caused by the OEM cable that tied the timing system together," says Bank. "So, I researched cable specs and determined that a flexible, marine-grade cable would best resolve the problem."

Understanding that a tough, portable cable would eliminate the need for a costly conduit-encased wiring system, members of the oversight committee contacted local manufacturer General Cable to inquire about product options. Company engineers quickly recommended Super Vu-Tron Supreme as the optimal solution to the team's cabling issue.

Possessing a durable water-, cut- and chemical-resistant jacket; corrosion-resistant tinned copper conductors; integral Flexfill<sup>™</sup> for crush-resistant resiliency; and class M stranding for maximum flexibility; it seemed as though Super Vu-Tron Supreme was created specifically for the Clippers' application. "We engineered Super Vu-Tron Supreme to deliver superior performance in applications where cable reliability is critical," says **Chip O'Donnell**, Product Manager for Carol Brand Portable Cord Products.

### The Outcome

Relying on his vast electrical experience and waterproof splicing expertise, Bank took on the considerable task of replacing the entire timing system's cabling. Requiring approximately 300 feet of 4-conductor, and 200 feet of 2-conductor 18 AWG SJOOW cord, he disassembled each existing module, cut the cable to the required length, spliced the cable, attached it to the connector and reinstalled it in the module. The replacement project took roughly six months for Bank to accomplish, dedicating any spare time he had to the task. "As I worked, I became extremely impressed by how tough and resilient the cable was," says Bank. "The Flexfill core added the crush-resistance we needed for the high-traffic environment around the pool and the flexible nature



jacket meant easy system assembly and disassembly for each meet."

The result of the overhaul is nothing short of perfection. "Thanks to Super Vu-Tron Supreme, we've conducted two meets with no timing system errors," Bank reports. "These multi-day competitions saw more than 1,000 swimmers from Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Indiana compete in more than 200 assorted events—all without a single timing or scoring issue." It's an improvement appreciated by everyone involved with team.

"It is comforting to know that we now have a reliable timing system," says **Jason Roberts**, Northern Kentucky Clippers head coach.

Whether installed in a high-stress industrial environment, or a high-traffic recreational setting, Super Vu-Tron Supreme has the versatility and resiliency necessary to excel in even the most extreme situations. When performance is key and durability is a must, the gold standard is Carol Brand Super Vu-Tron Supreme.

With Carol<sup>®</sup> Brand Super Vu-Tron<sup>®</sup> Supreme, you can **Demand Better ... Expect More<sup>™</sup>**

