LISA JORGENSON

It's been an interesting start to the summer for the Gothenburg Swim Team.

The swimmers have not only had to travel to Eustis and Cozad for practices that began in March but the number of participants has also forced them to sometimes take turns in the pool.

That's what happens when team members multiply from 12 when the program started in 2008 to more than 60 this summer.

"It can be a challenge sometimes," said team manager Lisa Jorgenson. "Keeping track of all those kids and their individual times is a lot of work but it's so exciting to see how much they've improved."

Ryan O'Hare and Alexa Ostergard coach the local participants and Jorgenson estimates that between 15 and 20 on this year's team come from Cozad with team manager Gina Jensen and coaches Anne Burkholder and Karen LaBrayere there.

So far, the cooperative effort has been a good one.

"I'm so thankful to have the collaboration with Cozad," Jorgenson said. "It has made having to practice there so much easier, among other things."

Preparing Gothenburg's pool this season took a little longer than previous years, so the local swimmers had to go elsewhere for their daily practices.

“That added a bit of difficulty,” Jorgenson said.

But it has also allowed the Gothenburg swimmers to become comfortable in the Cozad pool.

That could benefit swimmers on Saturday when the Gothenburg Swim Team hosts a meet there.

As a member of the Plains tSunami Swim League, the team hosts one meet per summer.

Jorgenson said with so many Cozad swimmers involved, they decided to host the meet in Cozad.

“There are a lot of advantages,” she said. “For one, we will be able to use all six lanes there. We can’t use the sixth lane here because of the slide.”

The Cozad pool is also the same depth at both ends of the lanes.

“We’ve decided to alternate between the two from now on,” she said.

The meet begins with a coaches meeting at 8 a.m. followed by warm-ups at 8:30 a.m. and the first event at 9 a.m.

The Gothenburg Swim Team will have one other competitive meet at Indianola on June 23 with the Plains tSunami qualifying meet at Minden on July 7 and the league championships at Lexington on July 14.

The Gothenburg Swim Team finished second as a team to Minden at the 2011 championship.

“To finish second overall in only our fourth season is quite an accomplishment,” Jorgenson said. “And with more kids, we have more opportunities for kids to earn ribbons and accumulate points for the team.”