<p>If you have any appreciation for the BCS system in college football or an NFL mock draft, you'll appreciate the 'mock OMPA' python script that I rigged up a few weeks ago. In short, using three python scripts, we can score and predict what an OMPA championship swim meet would score as if it were held at that exact point in time.</p>

<p><b>Tracking changes throughout the season</b><br>

This means that rather than simply having to wait for the OMPA in August, we can now run the mock ompa at certain times throughout the season and track the changes. It means we can finally quantify just how much Sleepy Hollow out scores their seed position heading into the real OMPA (they always do). It means we can quantify which teams improve the most throughout the season. Its always surprising to me how close together teams are at the beginning of the season. However, by the end, some teams have just kept on steadily improving and end up far ahead of the pack.</p>

<p><b>Running a mock Lafayette-OMPA</b><br>

It also means that any team's times that can be web-scraped in a similar fashion, can be loaded into the mock OMPA and scored as if they were OMPA member teams. With the Lafayette teams recently forming their own league, it's been a curiosity as how the Lafayette teams measure up. Springbrook usually beats OMPA teams at County, but are they really that much faster? By loading their times into the mock OMPA, we can finally quantify that Springbrook is a solid 4th place OMPA team, and Rancho Colorados is somewhere between a 5th - 7th place team.</p>

<p><b>How it works</b><br>

The top 50 swimmers from each of the 12 age groups, and their best times, are 'scraped' from the ompa web database. These are then fed into another python script that scores a realistic OMPA (taking best events, relays and such into account). What this means is that on any day of the season (June 10th, July 5th, whenever), a 'mock OMPA' can be run with whatever everyone's best times are at that exact point in the season. </p>

<p><b>How it works (from a technical standpoint)</b></p>

<p><b>Example Outputs</b>

<br><a href="/static/mockompa2013.txt">2013 Mock OMPA using swim times from August 2013</a>

<br><a href="/static/mockompa2014.txt">2014 Mock OMPA using swim times from August 2013</a>

<br><a href="/static/mocklafomparcsblt.txt">2013 Mock Lafayette-OMPA</a></p>