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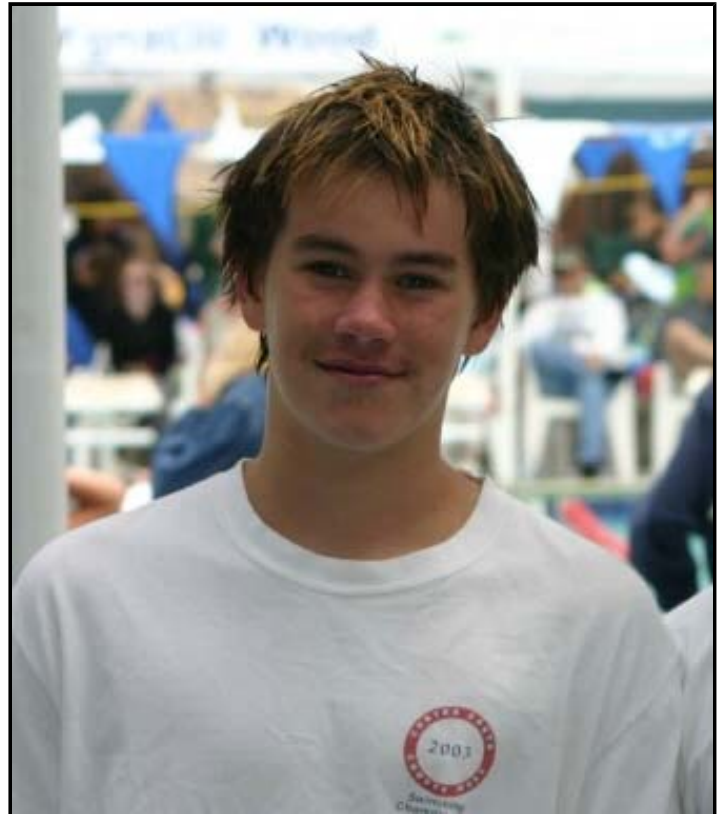
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AT Feature: Mason Kinnard of Vista Diablo and Diablo Water Polo



You can't go wrong participating in sports encouraged by both family togetherness and fun. Mason Kinnard of Vista Diablo Swim Team and Diablo Water Polo can attest to that. Alone, Mason is a standout swimmer, holding onto 20 Vista Diablo and other pool records and having helped drive Diablo's 5th place finish at the recent San Diego Cup. An even more powerful swimming force is realized when looking at his family. Spurred on by his older brother, Adam's, successes and records, Mason said, "Swimming is also our 'family' sport and we do it together...every year. ... My brother Adam inspired me to go faster. He is a fast swimmer and, even though I don't swim in his age group, every year I set a goal to try to beat his records."



Talking with Mason it becomes evident that the word "fun" is ever present in his vocabulary. And it shows in his dedication to both sports. "I have great memories of my swim coaches," Mason recounted. "(Coaches) keep you motivated by being fun and sometimes tough." Outside the pool is also ... fun,

Olympic Diver, Kimiko Hirai Soldati
 Crow Canyon Coach Matt Struempf
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 Aquanut Show I
 County Championships II
 County Championships I
 VSA's Championships
 Caitlyn Gunn
 Tri-Valley Master Water Polo Team
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 WHO's Charlotte Brown
 Antioch Delta Skimmer, Emily Gonzales
 Bentley HS and WCAB Swimmer, Dash

Rothberg

Lamorinda Water Polo Coach, Boyd LaChance
 USA Swimmer, Jocelyn Phillips
 Local Artist Suzy Wear
 Coach Mike Bottom-Cal
 Josh Scott-Syracuse University
 Hannah Hair-Vista Diablo
 Billy Hayes-De La Salle
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 Jimmy Bailey-Diablo Valley College
 Blake Henderson
 Chelsea Allard
 Suzanne Heim-Bowen
 Dave Boatwright
 Lauren Rogers

"My [swim] team is a blast," says Mason. "We have a lot of fun hanging out in between events. ... I have played [water polo] for a long time with the same group of boys. We have a ton of fun when we travel together."

And, where have these sports taken him? "My most memorable [water polo] experience was going to Florida last year for the National Junior Olympics," Mason said. "It was so much fun to hang out at the hotel and beach with my friends...and playing the tournament." A little closer to home, Mason has always enjoyed the Concord City Meet: "I will always remember the three-day Concord City Meet as my favorite [swimming event]. Every year it is so much fun to be part of Vista Diablo [there]."



Giving his positive spirit reign of the day, or season, Mason remains excited regarding his prospects for this summer's County meet and next season's water polo performance. "My immediate goal is to win fly at the County Meet," said Mason. "I would love [also] for our water polo team to be top 10 this year at the National Junior Olympics." That would be fun!

[Editor's Note: After the writing of this article, Mason went on to win the Devil Mountain Pentathlon (July 10) and swam more best times: freestyle, 25.71 seconds; backstroke, 30.74; breaststroke, 34.68; butterfly, 27.58; individual medley, 1:05.23.]

Is your team not being covered in AT??? Do you have a swimmer(s)/coach that you would like to be featured in AT? Then give us a call at 60 WATER.

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