



Featured Athlete/Coach Archives
Note: All Archive Files are in PDF Format.



Previous Featured Articles for 2006

[WCSC Part 1](#)
[WCSC Part 2](#)
[WCSC Part 3](#)
[Concord City Championships](#)
[VSA Championships Part B](#)
[VSA Championships Part A](#)
[Rec Championships 7/29 and 7/30](#)
[Far Western LC Championships](#)
[Terrapins Qualify 10 for Nationals](#)
[Mitchell and Mom Inspire Heim-Bowen](#)
[2004 Olympic Gold Medalist Brendan Hansen](#)
[2006 NCS Championships](#)
[2006 BCS Championships](#)

Previous Featured Articles for 2005

[2005 County Championship](#)
[Black Hawk Strikes Back at VSA Championship](#)
[Vista Diablo & Diablo Water Polo's Mason Kinnard](#)
[Gehring Gators Go Gang Busters...](#)
[Michael Phelps at May's Stanford Grand Prix](#)
[NCS in Walnut Creek](#)
[De La Salle Invitational](#)
[College Park HS & Gehring Gators](#)

AT Feature: Dave Maddan -- Staying "Pooh Strong" in his Fight Against Cancer

by Debbie Johnson



*Dave Maddan, past Assistant Crow Canyon
Sea Lions coach, and his sister*

While I was covering Valley Swim Association's (VSA) league championship the last weekend of July, a young man stood at one of the entrance gates to the pool with a sign about a former Crow Canyon coach and his bout with cancer. I was very touched by this young man's dedication, commitment and service and took a photo of him (Matt Maxwell, 11-12, Crow Canyon Sea Lions swimmer) and got some info. Mari Anderson got wind of it and the e-mails between us began...

- [Cal-Stanford Men Part 3](#)
- [Cal-Stanford Men Part 2](#)
- [Cal-Stanford Men Part 1](#)
- [Cal-Stanford Women Diving](#)
- [Cal-Stanford Women, Part 2](#)
- [Cal-Stanford Women, Part 1](#)
- [Olympian, Michael Phelps](#)
- [Olympian, Ian Crocker](#)

Previous Featured Articles for 2004

- [Concord Pool Progress Photos](#)
- [Forrest White](#)
- [Olympic Diver Kimiko Soldati-Part 2](#)
- [Olympic Diver Kimiko Soldati-Part 1](#)
- [DVC Men's Water Polo](#)
- [Aquatic Times Hosts Bottomline Aquatic Clinic](#)
- [Pacific Masters 2004 SC Champs](#)
- [Natalie Coughlin in at NorCal in WC](#)
- [Olympic Diver, Kimiko Hirai Soldati](#)
- [Crow Canyon Coach Matt Struempf](#)
- [Aquanut Show II](#)
- [Aquanut Show I](#)
- [County Championships II](#)
- [County Championships I](#)
- [VSA's Championchips](#)
- [Caitlyn Gunn](#)
- [Tri-Valley Master Water Polo Team](#)
- [Forest Parks' Marco Brunamonti](#)
- [Crow Canyon Coaches](#)
- [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](#)
- [Coach Mike Heaney-Walnut Creek Aquabears](#)
- [Chris Danesi-Terrapins](#)
- [McCall Dorr-Orinda Aquatics'](#)
- [Kelly Koch-Diablo Valley College](#)
- [Olympian Jeff Rouse](#)

Previous Featured Articles for 2003

- [Coach Leonard Chaplin-DVC](#)
- [Coach Brian Holm-Dewing Park](#)
- [Coaches From Around the League 4](#)
- [Coaches From Around the League 3](#)
- [Coaches From Around the League 2](#)
- [Coaches From Around the League 1](#)
- [Coaches-Walnut Creek Championships](#)
- [AT Features REC Assistant Coaches](#)
- [Gehringer Gators Coaching Staff](#)
- [Kelly McCabe-Diablo Valley College](#)
- [Katy Erhardt-Diablo Valley College](#)
- [Blake Henderson](#)
- [Sean Peneyra-Vista Diablo](#)
- [Sam Craven-Vista Diablo](#)
- [Jocelyn Chang](#)
- [Ryan Wall](#)
- [Dewing Park 8&un Girls](#)



Matt Maxwell, 11-12, Crow Canyon Sea Lions at 2006 VSA League Championships, giving his time to help raise funds for Dave's cancer treatment

You see, her sons, Michael and Matt Anderson swam for Crow Canyon a couple of years ago, where their coach was Dave Maddan. Mari said, "They recently heard about Dave's illness while I was talking to Dan Cottam (current Crow Canyon head coach) on my cell phone and wanted to do something to help Dave. [They] started thinking and actually started making a flyer immediately on the lap top [computer] in the car while we were driving around in San Francisco! "



Mari's boys, Michael Anderson, left, with bongo sticks saying, "A Dollar For Dave!" and Matt Anderson, holding the bucket

Jimmy Bailey-Diablo Valley College
 Blake Henderson
 Chelsea Allard
 Suzanne Heim-Bowen
 Dave Boatwright
 Lauren Rogers

"My older son is a leadership student at Charlotte Wood Middle School. At the very end of the school year they he had a "Make A Difference Project" where he raised money for an animal shelter. He really enjoyed the feeling that he was helping out. [So.] it was no surprise to me that they jumped right in when they heard about Dave."



Matt Anderson (left w/bucket) and Riley Hagan (Michael's best friend)

Dave grew up in the Bay Area, and was the swim team captain while at UC Santa Barbara.

It started as a tumor in his knee a year ago when he was 25 and then spread, as you will see in Dave's e-mail response letter below to Mari's inquiry for this article...

"It is great to hear from you guys! Ethan and Dan had told me about the boys' efforts in a recent visit. Thank you so much for your efforts, It is great to hear that I was such an impact in the boys' lives as a result of that one summer of coaching. I really had a great time and regretted my premature exit from coaching to take on 'the real world.' "

"The good news is, everything with my treatment is going well! The name of my diagnosis is Osteosarcoma. It is a pediatric bone cancer that usually occurs in maturing adolescents. Apparently, I had some more maturing to do - who knew?! Anyway, back in December I had my right knee replaced, as well as part of my upper tibia to replace the bone that the tumor had invaded. I have recently completed a successful lung surgery to clean out some bad stuff that was in my lungs as a result of the cancer. I was asleep, so it was really the surgeon that did the work, I don't want to take all of the credit!"

"Next week, I begin what should be my last leg of the treatment - six rounds of chemo over 10 weeks. It will be great to finish up this process that I have been dealing with since last August! I am receiving treatment down at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Heaven forbid any of your kids get sick, but if they were to, that is the place to be."

"Well thank you for your kind words, it is always nice to hear how everyone is doing. I imagine you are at the County Meet this weekend, so good luck!"

"Well, hopefully I can convince Dan and Ethan to bring me back next summer to coach with them, I had such a great summer that year! In all of the coaching I have ever done, that was definitely the most fun of all of my experiences! I imagine it was a combination of the great family atmosphere, the kiddos and the competitive atmosphere of Contra Costa summer league teams that made coaching the Sea Lions such a treat!"



Matt Struempf, Ethan Hall and Dave Maddan looking over yonder, dressed bonnie good for the meet! (NOTE: This photo was sent to Dave by a parent on Crow Canyon)

"All and all, things are going pretty well. I am coming up next week on the year anniversary of my diagnosis, although I have a little more to go for completion of my treatment. I have until about late October, then just a lot of physical therapy and some return time to the pool, to continue the rehab on my leg."

Dave would love to hear from you so, if you wish to correspond with him or send donations, you can contact him at the following e-mail addresses:

david@pohstrong.com and dmaddan01@yahoo.com

"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Proverbs 16:24 (NIV)

We here at AT pray all will go well with Dave's chemo and rehabilitation, and leave you with these thoughts...

Jesus said, **"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."** John 10:10 (NKJV)

A special note from Mari Anderson--

The total raised for Dave at VSA's League Championship was \$1025.78. And, she wishes to thank those who helped collect in their team areas: Sydney Collins, Patrick Colton, Riley Hagan, Kyle Hulbard, AJ Marcotte, Matt Maxwell, Brett Miller, Michael Palmer, Sheryl Pierce, Pat Ward.

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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[Back to Top](#)