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**AT Special Feature:
Las Lomas Freshman Bryan Snyder**

by Matt Martinez



Bryan Snyder

Recently, I had the chance to sit down and talk with Las Lomas freshman and water polo standout, Bryan Snyder. Bryan enjoyed a great amount of success at the varsity level in only his first season playing high school water polo.

MM: What's it like playing high school polo finally? What's the difference between high school and club polo?

BS: I thought it was pretty different. Club polo is a lot different. It's like an all-star team of guys from all the local high schools, so to be on a team with just guys from your school, that's pretty cool. You can really form some great friendships with that. I mean, with club, you see the guys around sometimes, and you love them because they're your teammates, but nothing can replace what you can have

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on a high school team.

MM: How is the transition between club polo to high school polo?
 What's the hardest thing? ...The easiest?

BS: It's pretty tough. High school polo is rougher, I think. Guys are playing for the pride of their schools, not just their club, and basically just themselves. I also think its rougher because of the difference in competition I face. In club, I played on the 14-under team at JO's, but in high school I play against people who are two, three, even four years older than me. It's crazy how different that can be. Some of the guys on the other teams are, like, men. Seriously, it was an eye opening experience for me.



MM: What are some goals you have for your high school career--
 team and personal?

BS: Well, I would really love it if we could do better in the NCS tournament. I want the team to progress deeper into the playoffs. My dream would really be to win an NCS title. I'd also like to get a really good group of guys. We weren't as close as we could've been on Las Lomas this year, so by my junior/senior year I want us to be like a family. As for personal goals, I'd love to just be among the best guys in the section. I'm starting to try out for zone teams right now, so we'll see how far that takes me. I also am seriously considering

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playing polo in college. I know I'm just a freshman, but I think its something I'd really enjoy. I love water polo and I know I'd just be living a dream if I could play it at the next level.

MM: What's it like having to adjust to play against all of the top-tier players in the NCS? There's just so much talent, what's it like when you have to go up against one of the best guys in the section?

BS: At first, I thought it would be pretty tough. That guy's on the National Team, that guy's on the Zone team, you know? It's pretty scary at first, but then, when you actually play them, it really isn't so bad. They're like any other player, but they've just got better skills. You just need to teach yourself to play with the best. Because that's what it's all about, the challenge of playing at the highest level. You just can't let those guys get into your head.

Bryan is quickly becoming one of the better players in the NCS. He helped his Las Lomas Knights to a 15-11 record, with an NCS playoff win over Ygnacio Valley. Bryan proved to be a huge contributor on the Las Lomas team, even though he was only a freshman. He led the team with 75 goals (most ever by a freshman), 60 steals, and also had 24 assists.

In addition to his water polo success, he is also an accomplished swimmer. Spending his summers with the Larkey Sharks, Bryan has put together quite a resume over the past couple years. He has won the Walnut Creek Swim Conference High Point award 4 years in a row and is a meet record holder in the 11-12 50 backstroke and 100 I.M. He also holds the Walnut Creek City Meet records in the 9-10 and 11-12 50 backstroke, as well as the 11-12 100 I.M. With this success, the Las Lomas swim team is probably yearning for his arrival in February.

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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