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Central Area Swimming Scholarship Essay
3/14/2016

“Swimming doesn’t build character, it reveals it.” Over the course of the past eight years my career in the water has played a vital role in the preparation for post secondary life and education, both in the classroom and in the real world. I joined the Northern Lights Swim Club when I was 10 years old, after taking swim lessons with Paula Smith. My initial coach was Liz O’Dell, under her guidance she taught me the basic skills to become a competitive swimmer. After some time I progressed under direction of Cliff Murray. Coach Murray taught me my most core belief to this day, to never give up and always strive for personal excellence.

The coaching staff for the different levels in the club were rearranged. Grant Gamblin became my new coach. As important as the lessons Coach Murray taught me through all the hard practices, Coach Gamblin inspired in me a passion for swimming, a drive to constantly refine and improve my body and stroke. Under his guidance I was able to finally see what each individual is capable of if their nose is pushed to the chlorine grindstone. As I entered High School, I had a combination of three coaches; Ben Kitchen and Coach Murray for the majority of the year during the club season, and Troy Christenson for my first three years of High School swimming at South Anchorage.

Coach Kitchen was very unique compared to my original coaches. This low-key, tranquil coach instilled in me the ability to not only move beyond my limits through strength alone, but also through mental fortitude and physical endurance. He opened my eyes to a remarkable way to look at the world. In the many travel meets I have attended with him, his personal stories of experience imbued in me that everyone has their own greatness and sometimes all someone needs is a little bolster to achieve that greatness. As powerful and life changing the qualities my astounding coaches have given me, my teammates have helped me equally become the person and leader I am today.

Many foreign to swimming might believe it is an individual sport, excluding the relays as the majority of races swam are in fact done by your lonesome. This could not be farther from the truth. The reliance of one another for the pursuit of excellence must be done in the company of those whom also are suffering. Many of my greatest role models are not adults, but my past teammates. My older brother, Alexander Emili encouraged me to always give my absolute best by leading by example. Every practice he pushed himself to the utmost limit, and pushed those around him to their absolute best by doing so.

The culmination of traits received from my coaches, teammates, and family has lead me to strive for success not just in the pool, but in all aspects of my life. As I was developing into a stronger swimmer, I took on many challenges that without my coaches and teammates' constant support and knowledge I would've otherwise not undertaken. During my last two years on the South Anchorage Swim Team I was one the team captains. Although I had many minor responsibilities, I remembered the ways of my brother and led by example. Attending every practice, swimming every yard as intended, and finishing every push-up, crunch, and pull-up assigned. My motivation for success in swimming pushed my fellow teammates to place their own targets on success.

As I was one of the stronger swimmers on both my club and High School teams I was comfortable in delivering motivational speeches to nervous swimmers in the same way Coach Kitchen had taught me. For this reason, I interviewed for the Parliamentarian position for the South Anchorage High School Student Government, and was chosen to serve the following year. After learning the Robert's Rules of Order I was tasked with leading the formal meeting every Thursday in a rambunctious class of over thirty screaming students. This required a firm command over everyone in the class regardless of age. I had to balance arguments in a civilized manner, not an easy accomplishment for High School girls.

In addition to partaking in Student Government, I also enrolled in a Prealgebra Tutoring Class. That simple lesson, taught to me by Coach Kitchen that I used to motivate my teammates in the pool I followed to help hindered students the basic skills of mathematics. I tutor a group of 5 freshman, two of which speak limited English yet with patience and a reserved tongue I am able to teach these students, and let them reach their own inner greatness in success in mathematics.

Tutoring these students as well as teaching toddlers the primitive swimming skills through NLSC, has lead me to decide a course for my life. I intend to become a Math Teacher, using the values I learned from the swim career, my swim coach, and my swim family to help and instruct the children of the future. My appetite for personal success, will be replaced with the personal satisfaction of watching others blossom, and conferring the experience I have learned to my students as my coaches have done so sympathetically to me. My participation in the pool has molded me into a greater person, a stronger leader. With my thirst to learn as I further my career in collegiate swimming, the experience and knowledge gained will further my ability to lead in the classroom and in the world.