

Angelo Pallaro... A touch of Italy

Angelo came to Canada to learn English as part of an exchange program. An accomplished swimmer with his home club in Padua, Italy, Angelo has been a great addition to our team. He embodies the Goldfins value of being a LEARNER; right off the hop he is showing the other swimmers that learning is a process and that growth happens when you challenge yourself.



Angelo's Successes

- Selected to the 2016 U16 Italian National Team
- Placed 6th at 2019 U18 Italian Championships in the 200 m backstroke
- Represented Team Sask at Ontario Junior International meet in December 2019
- Representing Goldfins at the upcoming (Olympic) Trials March 30-April 5 in Toronto, where he hopes to set some Club and Provincial Records before heading home to Italy in July!

What made you choose Canada for your year abroad?

I wanted to learn English. I went through an Italian Agency and I had the choice of going to USA, Canada, or England.

Was Canada your first choice?

No, I wanted to go to the USA. When we watch movies in Italy, they are always set in the USA, so I wanted to go there.

Did the Agency place you in Saskatoon or did you get a choice?

The Agency gave me some schools in the USA. But they did not have very nice pools and fast teams.

So you had swimming in mind when you chose your location/school?

Yes. The Agency recommended Saskatoon, because of the nice pool and fast swimmers. The Shaw Centre was a definite highlight for me.

I understand that your hometown in Italy is similar in size to Saskatoon.

Yes, it has about 200,000 people. The Agency won't place us in big cities for security reasons, so this is a similar size to my hometown. The size feels comfortable.

Did you research our winters?

No! I was told it was going to be a bit colder than Italy. So I wasn't expecting -40!
Author's note: Angelo hung his head in shame when asked this question ;)

So what are normal winter temperatures in Italy?

About +15. A little colder in the mountains - around zero. So I've had to learn to layer!

Are you impressed with our club and level of swimming in Saskatchewan/Canada?

Yes, there are some fast swimmers here. There are less people in Canada (about half as much as Italy), but there are an elite group of really fast swimmers.

Are you happy with your swimming here in Canada?

I am improving in some of my technique. The training is different from back in Italy. For instance, no morning practices! On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I leave in the morning at 5:30 a.m. and do not get home until 6:45 p.m.

What have you enjoyed most about your time in Saskatoon & Canada aside from swimming?

I have made some really great friends. And my host family is very nice.

Have you gotten to do any travel outside of swimming?

I went with a group of school friends to Candle Lake and tried snowmobiling, which is illegal in Italy. I had lots of fun!

Would you consider staying in Canada?

Yes, I have made some great friends. Also, in Italy after high school the Universities don't really have swim teams. So I would have to continue swimming with my local club. However, it is not like here. It would be great to stay in Canada to swim and be competitive.

