



MONTROSE MARLINS SWIM TEAM

Marlin of the Month

Ryan King

July 2015

Heading into our big home meet, this 14-year-old has simply become one of the more dominant distance and mid-distance swimmers hailing from the Western Slope – and even beyond. A Montrose High School freshman-to-be, Ryan has already posted a prestigious USA Swimming Sectional cut in the mile and is nearing that same qual time status in such events as the 400 individual medley, 400/500 freestyles and 200 backstroke. Not bad for a former soccer nut. “That was my favorite sport for a long time,” Ryan said. “Now I’m glad I finally settled on swimming.” Fearless in the water against opponents even well into college age, Ryan has come to love race day more than any other. “I have finally learned to block everything else out and just race,” he says. “I think that has really made a difference.”

Parents: Mike & Suzi

Marlin since: 5 years old.

Food: “Meat. All kinds and lots of it.”

Music: “From classic rock & roll to current, I’m kind of all over the place there.”

Coach Silas comment: “Ryan is reaping the rewards from a solid year of committed training. Not a week, not a month, but a whole year. It’s neat to see him enjoy the ‘fruits of his labors.’”

Spare time: “Mountain biking, hiking, snow skiing and computer games. I don’t have much time for TV, but when I do, it’s usually something on Comedy Central with my family ... that’s good times.”

Events: “Backstroke always came pretty natural for me. Then freestyle. Now I’m starting to get more comfortable with butterfly. I credit Coach Silas for that, because he’s basically changed that whole stroke in the past year.”

Swim-spiration: Big brother Connor King, headed to University of Puget Sound (WA). “A lot of swimmers look up to Olympic champions like Michael Phelps or Ryan Lochte, but I look up to Connor. He’s worked so hard at this sport, and I feel bad for the (shoulder) injury he’s had to battle through. When he recovers, I look forward to racing him.”

Teammate speak: “Connor has been a good friend for years,” says fellow Marlins senior swimmer J.D. TenNapel. “Now that I’ve committed to year-round training, I’ve gotten to know Ryan, too. But I never realized just how fast Ryan had gotten until our Phoenix meet. It was the 400 IM, and I was standing on deck with Coach Si and he simply said, ‘watch this’ ... Ryan blew me away with what he did that day. He’s become more like a little brother to me.”

The Marlin of the Month is selected by our coaching staff with the intent on highlighting success both in and out of the pool. Each honored swimmer also receives two complimentary movie passes from San Juan Cinemas.

