

Tsunami Swim Team has completely changed my life. The team I started on was a stepping stone team, one that would only get you so far but they never could get you where you wanted to go. I left with that team to follow my coach at the time. He was an okay coach, kind of goofy looking, and was always messing with his hair and stuff on deck. Some know him as Thomas Kleiboeker but I always think of him as a father figure.

You see, when I say Tsunami changed my life, I really mean Tom has changed my life. At the time, Tsunami was a very small team. I remember many practices where it was only me and him at Henley Aquatic Center. Tom and I would always joke around between sets and he would tailor the sets for me personally. That made me want to go to practice and as a result I start to drop loads of time. So much so, that as a 13-14-year-old I was ranked top 16 in the nation in a couple of events.

That was a turning point in my swim career. I was named to multiple All-Star swim teams. I placed in the top 8 at Sectionals in a couple of events. I won High School state in three events and made the All-American team three years in a row. I made Nationals and was even on deck with multiple Olympians swimming in the same heat. This made colleges actively recruit me, and ultimately led to me swimming on scholarship in college. There I met my wife on the team and now we have twin daughters. If I didn't swim or wasn't at the level I was at, I wouldn't have met my wife or had my kids.

Tom's teachings at the time made my eyes roll. I thought it was another adult telling me what to do or how to think. However, I always find myself going back to his lessons more and more. I have even stolen his wisdom and passed it off as my own. So if there was no Tsunami Swim Team, I wouldn't have the life I live now.