

Tiger Aquatics  
Senior Class of:

20  
21



# Graduates

**SIDNEY BANKS** pg. 4-5  
Bear Creek High School  
Tiger since 2016

**JOSH REYES** pg. 6-7  
Ben Holt School  
Tiger since 2019

**KYLE SAMSON** pg. 8-9  
St. Marys High School  
Tiger since 2012

**SYDNEY SPENCER** pg. 10-11  
Lincoln High School  
Tiger since 2012



# A letter from Coach Nate

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First, I would like to recognize all of our Senior Tiger swimmers. To say this group has been challenged continuously over the past year is an understatement. What defines this class is their resiliency. They've lost two championship seasons for High School swim, multiple travel meets, recruiting opportunities, most of their senior year (in person), prom, and countless of everyday activities. In addition to those hardships, they've practiced at 5AM over the last several months to open up more pool space for our younger age groups at Tiger Aquatics. That is the definition of being selfless. I couldn't be prouder of these four amazing individuals. They embody all the core principles of the Tiger Way, and I cannot wait to watch them as they continue their journey into adulthood. Congratulations class of 2021! Your strong character will guide you to multiple avenues of success! Go Tigers!

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# Sidney Banks



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**COLLEGE** UC Berkeley

**SWIMMING EVENT** 100 Breast

**TIGER AQUATICS MEMORY** Getting Dutch Bros with Sydney and Kyle after morning practices.

**PLANS FOR THE FUTURE** Study molecular environmental biology in college and hopefully join the Cal club swim team.

**FAVORITE QUOTE** "I'm not stopping, I'm just fixing my goggles!" — Sydney Spencer

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE TIGERS** Text Coach Nate before missing practice so you don't have to swim fly.

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# Sidney Banks

## A MESSAGE FROM COACH NATE ABOUT SIDNEY

Sidney came to Tiger Aquatics almost 5 years ago. What is amazing about Sidney is her ability to listen to feedback, implement those changes, and use those adjustments to improve from season to season. A good example would be after joining Tiger, there were some technical changes that I wanted her to make involving breaststroke. Asking a swimmer to come into a new environment, new coach, and new program, and make changes is extremely difficult. Most of the time it requires a good rapport, sense of trust, and communication (over time) to successfully implement adjustments. For Sidney, this transition happened seamlessly. This skill helped Sidney throughout all her trials-finals swims.

As a swimmer, Sidney has had a strong progression and list of accomplishments. This includes: qualifying for Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics, Far Westerns qualifier, and multiple San Joaquin County High School Section finalist. In addition, Sidney (Pre-Pandemic) was well on her way to being a CA/NV Sectional qualifier (within a second of (2) events, 100 & 200 Breast).

Good Luck Sidney! We are all excited to see you continue your success at the collegiate level and hopefully continue your swimming career at the next level! YOU CAN DO IT!

# Josh Reyes



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**COLLEGE** UC Berkeley

**SWIMMING EVENT** 100 fly

**TIGER AQUATICS MEMORY** Going to Concord for a swim meet and bonding with my team!

**PLANS FOR THE FUTURE** I plan to major in bioengineering. I also plan to do swimming and play water polo at the collegiate level.

**FAVORITE QUOTE** "Challenge yourself; it's the only path which leads to growth."  
-Morgan Freeman

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE TIGERS** Although you should be consistently practicing for swimming in order to improve, school should be your main priority, so learn to manage your time well.

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# Josh Reyes

## A MESSAGE FROM COACH NATE ABOUT JOSH

Josh joined Tiger Aquatics a little over two years ago. A major factor in Josh's improvements have come from his consistent practice attendance, work ethic, and ability to listen to feedback. Some moments to be remembered do happen outside of the pool. After a swim practice Josh expressed to me that the "universe is against him." My facial expression must have given away how confused I was with his statement. He explained that his initial DMV appointment got postponed, and he would have to reschedule. The entire next week it was POSITIVE VIBES ONLY. Low and behold, he crushed his driving exam and the rest is history.

Along with the photo, Josh also sent me the "strong" Emoji, and I will always remember him overcoming adversity and conquering a major hurdle. It's even in these moments (unrelated to swim), that a positive memory can occur and make for an everlasting fun memory.

Good Luck Josh! Speak it into existence is your motto!



# Kyle Samson



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**COLLEGE** Franklin and Marshall College  
**SWIMMING EVENT** 200 free and 100 breast  
**TIGER AQUATICS MEMORY** Carson City Junior Olympics, Far Western Relays, and all the times the Three Musketeers (Sidney Banks, Sydney Spencer, and I) annoyed Nate.

**PLANS FOR THE FUTURE** First, enjoy my time in college studying social psychology. Second, further improve my times while swimming with a new team. Not sure what the next things are, but my endgame is adopting a Corgi and naming them Butler.

**FAVORITE QUOTE** "You will swim the 500 and before I see you, change your attitude" - Nate Leroy (after I texted him I wanted to scratch the 500 free).

**ADVICE FOR FUTURE TIGERS** Don't ask your coach if you can scratch an event if it's unreasonable.

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# Kyle Samson

## A MESSAGE FROM COACH NATE ABOUT KYLE

Nine years with Kyle Samson....How did I survive?!?! Kyle started with Tiger Aquatics as a swimmer with an infectious personality, distinctive laugh, and a natural ability in the water. For backstory, Kyle and I have intertwined journeys at Tiger. Fortunately (or Unfortunately) for Kyle, every time he progressed to the next group, there also happened to be a coaching vacancy in that same exact group. As Kyle moved...Coach Nate moved. Very much developed into a "fancy to see you here" situation. Regardless, it truly allowed for a great range of memories and learning experiences (for both). The good, the bad, and everything in between. Kyle, I am honored to have had the opportunity to Coach and (hopefully) help you develop as a person, in and out of the pool.

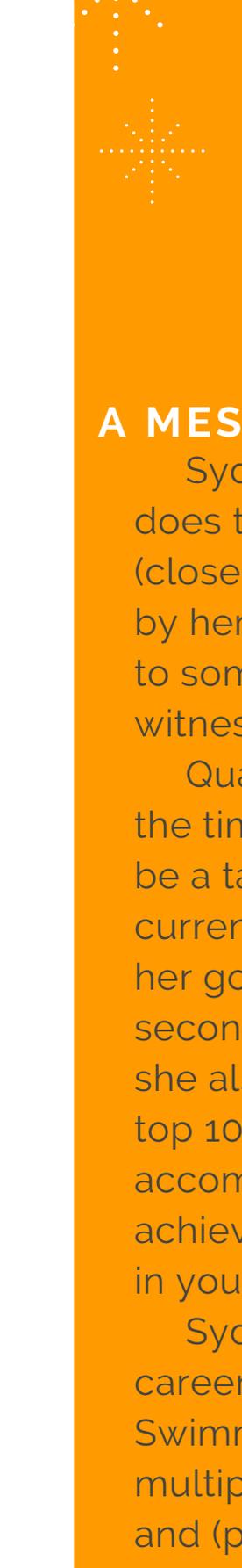
After joining Tiger Aquatics, Kyle's year round swim career has had multiple accomplishments. This includes: breaking Tiger Aquatic team records, multiple top finishes at Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics, Far Westerns, and San Joaquin Sections. Kyle made all-star teams (Western Zones & Zone-2), and qualified for high level meets, such as, CA/NV Sectionals.

Good Luck Kyle! We are all excited to see impressive achievements, expanded personal growth, and rooting for new memories! Make Tiger Proud!

# Sydney Spencer



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- COLLEGE** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- SWIMMING EVENT** 50 Free
- TIGER AQUATICS MEMORY** Every swim meet that I got to swim and spend time with my two best friends, Kyle and Sidney.
- PLANS FOR THE FUTURE** To study journalism at Cal Poly and continue on to get my master's degree.
- FAVORITE QUOTE** "Kyle, don't be a sass without the 's!'" – Coach Nate
- ADVICE FOR FUTURE TIGERS** Come up with a believable excuse to tell Nate before you miss practice.
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# Sydney Spencer

## A MESSAGE FROM COACH NATE ABOUT SYDNEY

Sydney came to Tiger Aquatics almost 9 years ago. Wow, does time fly by! After coaching Sydney for multiple years (close to 6 years), Sydney's strengths in the pool are fueled by her passion and self-confidence. When she sets her mind to something, she can truly accomplish anything. I personally witnessed this at Far Westerns a few summers ago.

Qualifying via yards, Sydney expressed she wanted to get the time standard in Long Course as well. This was going to be a tall task as the cut was over two seconds faster than her current best time. Sydney was confident she would achieve her goal. Not only did Sydney go a best time (by over 3 seconds) and achieve the time standard in Long Course, but she also almost made finals in the event (this meet only took top 10) swimming out of an earlier heat. A MASSIVE accomplishment and a great reminder of what can be achieved through a positive mindset, goal setting, and belief in your abilities.

Sydney has made massive strides through her swimming career. Sydney's list of accomplishments include: Pacific Swimming Junior Olympic and Far Western qualifying times, a multiple event finalist for San Joaquin High School Sections, and (pre pandemic) was within 1 second of her CA/NV Section cut (100 Free).

Congrats Sydney and good luck at Cal Poly!

