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## Caldwell making a big splash

### KIDS PROFILE: He takes swimming success to California and Hawaii

By CHRISDELL Correspondent

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#### SARASOTA

Nicholas Caldwell has become one with the water.

The Sarasota YMCA Sharks star swimmer recently won the men's high point title at the USA Junior National Championships in Irvine, Calif.

Caldwell broke the national record in the 400-meter freestyle event with a time of 3:52:32 en route to being named a member of both the USA Junior National Team and the International Pan-Pacific Team.

Caldwell garnered the most individual points in the 16-under division to qualify for the Pan-Pacific Junior Championships. The Sarasota Sharks placed third overall in the team category despite only having 10 swimmers.

"It was exciting to be able to compete against some of the best swimmers from around the country," Caldwell said. "It felt good to break the record because it shows that all the work this summer and during the past year has paid off."

Caldwell took home the gold medal in the 400 free at the Pan-Pacific Junior Championships in Maui, Hawaii, with a time of 3:50:51 against swimmers from countries such as Japan, China, Bermuda and the Philippines. Caldwell also placed third in both the 200 and 800-meter freestyles.

The senior at Riverview High also finished sixth in the 400 IM and was named Male Performer of the Meet for the 400 freestyle at the Pan-Pacific Games.

Representing the United States on the 800-meter relay, Caldwell's squad finished second overall behind Australia at the international event.

Caldwell, who has been swimming since he was eight years old, is currently mulling over multiple swimming scholarships from colleges such as the Florida, North Carolina, Stanford, Texas and Georgia. He will be taking a visit to UF this fall.

"The Pan-Pacific games was a great experience ... I never thought I'd ever have the chance to travel to Hawaii just to swim in a meet, Caldwell said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Sarasota YMCA Sharks' Nicholas Caldwell, above, recently won the men's high point title at the USA Junior National Championships in California, and won a gold medal at the Pan-Pacific Games in Hawaii.



The competition was extremely tough, and it just makes me more motivated to continue to train hard for the future ... the 400 freestyle has definitely been my strength so far, and I want to continue to improve my personal times."

Caldwell, who swam for the Rams' varsity squad last season, made the 2010 Pinch-a-Penny All-State High School Swimming and Diving Team by setting personal bests of time in the 200 IM and the 500 freestyle.

At the Pan-Pacific Games, Caldwell broke five Sarasota Sharks records, including three of his own, in the 200, 400, 800 and 1500 freestyles, as well as the 400 IM.

Last year he was also chosen as a 2010 NISCA/Speedo Swimming and Diving All-American.

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