

# Hohm swims his way to UNC commitment

Michael Messele  
Editor-in-Chief

Like a fish to water.

That's what many people say about junior Nate Hohm's affinity and gift for swimming.

That ability has led to Hohm already committing in his junior year to swim for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Coach and CEO of the Aquatic Team of Mecklenburg (ATOM) Shaynah Jerrell witnessed Hohm's talent when he joined the team at eight years old.

"The first time I watched him swim he had a really natural feel for the water and he was always competitive which is something that is hard to teach," Jerrell said. "Those two things combined made it pretty clear that he had potential."

The success followed Hohm in the pool, from being top of his age group at 10 years old to four years later (at 14 years old) winning multiple state championships. Jerrell has played a key role in Hohm's young swimming career.

"She's easily had one of the biggest impacts on me inside and outside the pool," Hohm said. "Shaynah taught me to treat every challenge as a new opportunity for growth. Although she may have just been talking about swimming it's been something that I apply everywhere in my life."

Analise Hohm, Hohm's older sister, was the one to get him interested in the sport. "One of the reasons I began swimming in the first place was because my older sister Analise started swimming," Hohm said. "She has always been three years ahead of me so being able to use her guidance and let her pave the way has been helpful."

Hohm has truly cultivated a family at ATOM, which has made swimming more enjoyable, even through the rigorous training sessions. "I have a great small group of people I train with everyday, they keep me motivated," he said.

Caden Campolmi, has been Hohm's teammate for the past six years at ATOM, and mentioned the amazing teammate Hohm has been. "He pushes everyone on the team to be the best version of themselves in and out of the water," Campolmi said. "He's very dedicated to the sport and the team."

As much as the team keeps Hohm motivated, he reciprocates that same energy. "His energy is so hype and he pounds on his chest and yells and it gets everyone motivated especially at the end of the season," Campolmi said.

Throughout Hohm's three years at East Meck he has been juggling a lot, with training sessions everyday after school lasting from 4 p.m.-6 p.m., being in the International Baccalaureate program,

and now being a part of Student congress.

This past year has been a culmination of his success, as he has received offers from Power Five Division One schools and other premier universities such as Auburn, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale and UNC-Chapel Hill.

But Hohm's first offer will always be the most special one. "I was super pumped when I got my first offer," Hohm said. "It was the first time I realized that swimming could help me in life and set up my future whether I'm in the pool or not. "Going D1 (Division One) was a dream of mine for quite a while so it definitely felt like all the hours paid off."

The school that eventually rose to the top and stood out amongst the rest was the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Their team environment and team culture stood out to me," Hohm said. "They just looked like they enjoyed themselves and they just have a great balance of both academic and athletic success."

Looking towards the future Hohm has a number of goals. "I hope to qualify for the NCAA Division One championship meet, although I'm definitely a ways away but going into the future it's a top goal of mine. Additionally, wanting to compete in the Olympic trials in 2024, it's coming up soon and they just released the time standards and it's definitely attainable," Hohm said.

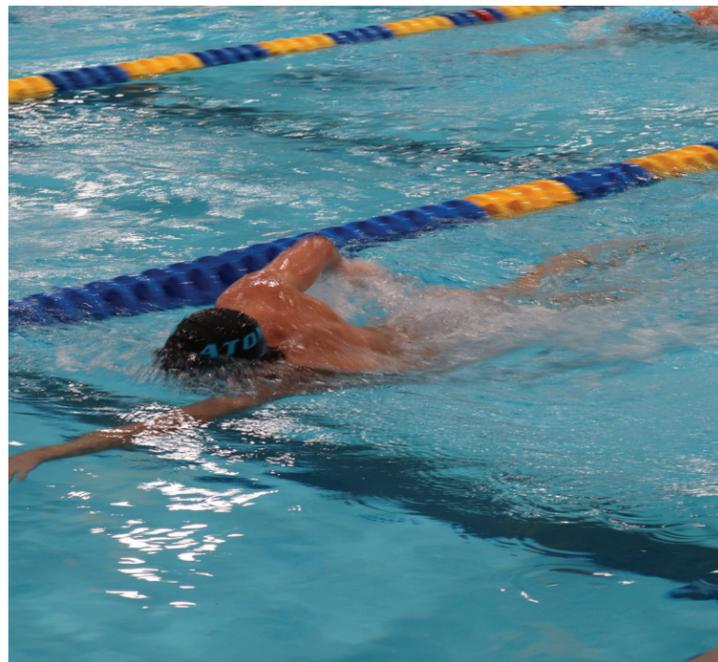


Photo by Michael Messele

Junior Nate Hohm's success in the pool has led to an early commitment to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Photo by Michael Messele

Shaynah Jerrell speaks to ATOM team during a swim practice.

# Volleyball spikes in popularity as team improves

Logan Parsons  
Staff Writer

The East Meck women's volleyball team has enjoyed a sudden rise to fame this fall, winning eight of their last 10 games and attracting noticeable attention from the student body.

During that stretch, senior Mya Sellers and junior Allison Oberlin-Pope put up huge numbers, averaging a combined 5.1 kills a set and 186 kills total. Their efforts led the Lady Eagles to multiple big wins in conference play and into the top three in the conference, and into the playoffs.

"We've improved a lot since last year," Coach Eric Wojtalewski said.

Since 2021, the Lady Eagles have accumulated a record of 16-6 in conference play. They've been ranked the best of any team in the Southwestern 4A conference these past two years.

The driving force has been the stellar play by the class of 2023. With six out of the 15 players on the roster being seniors, it's as if they've really brought out the best in everyone due to the high standard they set for the team.

"I feel like they keep us in

check and help us grow as a team," junior defensive specialist Nadia McCoy said. "I play better because I know they have confidence in me, even when I'm not playing my best."

However, this senior class of volleyball players aren't the only ones impacting the team. Students from East Meck recently founded a club called East Meck Hype Nest, a club where students from all grades come together to cheer on one another at East Meck sporting events.

Particularly during September, Hype Nest has supported the Lady Eagles by forming student sections at nearly all home games. The players have been excited to see their fellow classmates watch them play from the stands.

"Seeing everyone I know from school cheering for me in the bleachers makes me even more competitive on the court," Sellers said. "I love seeing women's sports getting the attention it deserves."

Wojtalewski has also been impressed with his team's play this year, coaching the Lady Eagles to their first winning season since 2016.



Photo by Griffin Zetterberg

Lady Eagles cheer as they win, progressing to the top of the Southwestern 4A Conference.

"The girls love seeing each other win. It's been great being able to coach a team where we have a lot of fun but can also win while we are having fun," Wojtalewski said. "Even during a rough game, you can see the girls laughing off their mistakes and picking each other up as a team."

"I've definitely enjoyed coaching them this season."



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