

Dereck McDaniel – Parent to Andrew McDaniel, Princeton High School, Sophomore.

While players and coaches get a lot of the attention in the water polo world, we decided to catch up with Dereck McDaniel who is the parent Andrew McDaniel.

Dereck is a very active contributor to water polo on Twitter: @H20poloDAD2020. You can typically find video clips and score updates for Princeton Men's Water Polo.

1) What team does your son or daughter play for?

Andrew started playing water polo last year as a freshman, under the referral of one of the seniors "Jessie" on the team. Jessie was on our community center swim team with my son for many years, as well as the school swim team. We then joined a local water polo club under the recommendation of the coach, that team is called the Cincinnati [Moose Water Polo Club](#). The 2 sessions he played made major contributions to his techniques and knowledge of the sport. The other cool part of that is the comradery of that team, so far this season. When we go to other local schools and tournaments, it's neat to watch them talk and play against each other for their schools team.

2) How long have you been following water polo?

We just started getting into water polo when he started playing (his freshman year). But it took all of us like a fever; we loved it right from the 1st game. The intensity and endurance of these guys is insane. So happy my son choose to play.

3) What do you like about it?

What we like about the sport? Everything so far!! The intensity of them, "guys going at it" while being able to not drown. The play is a blast to watch, as far as setting up plays and getting a guy open and moving the ball around to find the weak spot for an available shot, getting the goalie to be moving back and forth to catch him off guard. But personally, my favorite offensive plays are the "alley oop": when the guy passes high and the other player just barley catches it and shoots. The other is the skip shot. Also, I like defense, I like watching the guys in the hole go at it playing clean with no fouls and keep them from even trying to pass the ball in.

Now keep in mind, I have not learned all the right terms for descriptions, definitely still trying to learn the rules of fouls!

The other good thing about this sport is the parents, we have a great group of parents that help the newcomers and teach about the sport. But in general the parents that I have encountered have all been a great group of people, we actually ended hanging out with some parents from Tennessee at Sunlight pool that were an awesome group. But in general just a pleasant competitive atmosphere to be in.

4) What is your favorite tournament and why?

As far as the tournaments, I really enjoyed both times we have been to the Ohio Cup tournament, except for the shallow pools the JV had to play in, but I get it, they would be there for 5 days trying to get all those games in on 2 pools. I took a car full of guys up to Bowling Green State University for a tournament with the Moose to the Great Lake Zone Invite. That was a good time and nice place to play. Of course I enjoy The Packer Classic which is at our school, for obvious reasons. This year we got invited to the ST Xavier classic at Coney Island Sunlight pool that was a very cool experience. But like I said above, we are new, so there may be more out there that we were not invited to, as our program has been around for years, we are just starting to gain momentum as a team and a sport in our school. That is part of the reason I started using Twitter, to help promote this wonderful game, and stumbled on you and

a couple others who are about the game and bringing it to the public attention. Everyone knows about football, baseball and soccer and a "bazillion" kids play, but water polo is kind of on the quiet side of sports. And personally I feel that water polo is safer than most sports and the conditioning the kids get is awesome for their bodies and minds. Not to mention the obvious fact that he has a way better chance to get a water polo and swim team scholarships than in other sports.