



In Honor of
SCOTT JORDAN



NCAA Swim Team Captain Scott Jordan Talks About Being Openly Gay

OLEAN, New York (January 10, 2008) — Saint Bonaventure University Swim Team Captain **Scott Jordan** has written about his experience of coming out and being openly gay as a nationally ranked swimmer on the Bonnies' NCAA Division 1 swim squad.

In a web story that was posted to the gay sports website *OutSports.com*, Jordan, 21 detailed his decision to come out to his team mates before returning to the Olean, New York campus in August 2007.

Jordan writes, "I told just three teammates that summer, purposely telling one teammate in particular because I knew he liked to gossip. As planned, gossip took care of the rest. When I got to school a month later it felt like the entire campus knew I was gay, and I had only told three people."

Jordan states that it took him a few months to get past the fears he had in the anticipation of what other people thought about him.

Jordan shares that "Ultimately, it was the team that helped me come around. I slowly realized my teammates still respected me and still liked me, and that social support made me feel better. My relationship with my team is awesome, and increasingly I'm finding it unique. Contrary to my initial fears, my team's love for me hasn't changed, and I've found them all to be completely accepting of me."

St. Bonaventure University is a Catholic school operated by the Roman Catholic Franciscan Order. Located in rural Alleghany County it is generally a place that is generally comfortable for openly gay communities. Jordan writes, "I've considered transferring almost every year, but I feel like I'd be leaving my family if I left my team. I survive here by taking road trips, usually to Buffalo, which is an hour north of my school."

Jordan a native of Higganum, Connecticut; finished 1st in the 100 Breaststroke at the 2007 Atlantic-10 Championships.



"Being out is pushing me in training. I feel like my swimming results are now reflecting the real me, and that inspires me. With so few openly gay men in sports, I feel a bit more pressure to prove myself, and that gives me a lot of fuel to train my ass off in the water. I've gone in-season best times in my 100 breaststroke and 200 individual medley, and I've set some challenging goals for the end of the season. My championship meet is at the end of February, and I'd like to qualify for NCAA championships in the 100 breaststroke. It's going to take a lot of hard training to get the cut, but I have new-found inspiration that will hopefully help me achieve that goal." (Republished from *outcomebuffalo.com*).

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