



GLEN EDEN INTERMEDIATE

NZAIMS—National Sporting Championships

2011 WATERPOLO

Butterflies, nervous, confidence.

These are some of the words that describe NZAIMS for me because, in a game when you are down 4-0 at half time playing off for 1st and 2nd, what would you be thinking??? Do you think your team could get five extra goals in ten minutes?? BELIEVE in your team and you will.

The first day of pool play is always the hardest. In the first game we were a bit ahead of ourselves and we thought we could win by a long shot but we didn't. We think we could've done a lot better. Being way ahead of yourself is just a barrier to get past. Resting is very important and sleep because you're up at 7.00am and in bed by 10.00pm. Sleep is probably going to be your best friend. Our coach, Joe tells us all that it's all in your head, treat every game like a final. Losing for us was not an option because otherwise we would have a hard semi and that's just what happened to us. We had to beat Murrays Bay in the semi final (and they have won NZAIMS waterpolo 6 years in a row) As the tournament went on the competition suddenly got more interesting and more difficult. Murrays Bay and Mount Maunganui were our toughest opponents. This year we wanted to prove to ourselves that we were the best team in New Zealand.

We lost one game in pool play to Mt Maunganui so it meant that we had to play Murrays Bay in the semi final. To come up against the 6 time champions was going to be a hard fought battle. We beat Murrays Bay in the semi final and the final was going to be between GEIS and the home town favourites Mt Maunganui.

Coming into the finals, I wasn't really thinking about it too much (I was more interested in what Ingrid was making for dinner that night) On the way to the pool, we sang our team song by CeeLo Green, then Mark Stankovich said a few humbling words to us. We were down 2-0 in the first quarter, then in the second quarter it was 4-0 to Mt Maunganui. Our heads never went down, Joe believed we weren't playing well and for us to keep our heads up and to come back strong in the second half. Our whole GEIS NZAIMS team were at the pool chanting and singing, this lifted our spirits. Into the third quarter we scored one goal, it was 4-1 still to Mt Maunganui. We had to really dig deep and our team had to work together. In 5mins in the last quarter GEIS scored 4 goals, the last goal was scored with 3 seconds to go. The GEIS crowd went wild, we did it, our GEIS LAKERS team won GOLD.

We want to thank all the parents for their support and to Joe Bensley and George Armstrong, the two of you make our team complete, you both drive us to succeed!!!

Troy Armstrong - rm33

