

North Jersey's Male Athlete of the Week can't get enough of the pool

Paul Schwartz

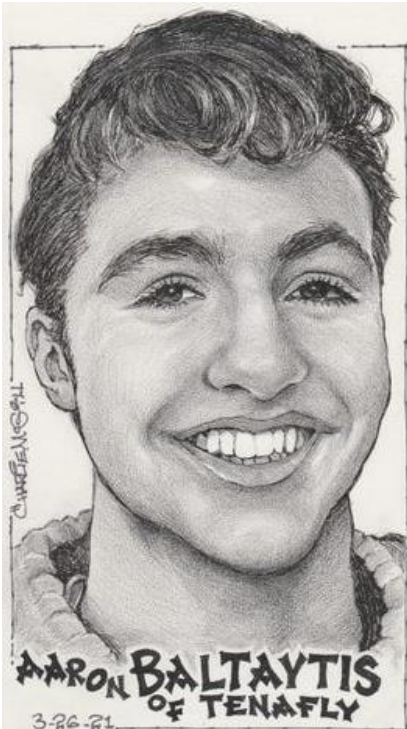
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Aaron Baltaytis is immersed in swimming. Pun intended.

The Tenafly sophomore has other interests, of course. He's a good student, loves college basketball (although his bracket is busted too) and is proud of his dog Cody, a 45-pound Wheaten Terrier his family got in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But it all comes back to the pool.

"I started swimming when I was six years old, when my brother Jacob started swimming at the Tenafly Swim Club," said Aaron, of his older brother, who was a 2017 Bergen County champion and now swims for Bowdoin College. "I played basketball and baseball growing up, but I did better in swimming so I chose to go with swimming."



He joined the Jersey Flyers Aquatic Club in Secaucus and quickly showed his versatility, swimming the butterfly and backstroke and even the individual medley in addition to the freestyle.

Last year, as a high school freshman, he made an immediate impact on the Tigers' program, winning the Bergen County title and taking fifth in the State Meet of Champions in the 100 yards butterfly, helping the Tigers to their first sectional title in five years.