

AUSSIE CHAMPION

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glory in
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David Rocco

AOMEWHAT High School student Robert Rafael has continued his superb swimming with another set of outstanding results.

Performing at the recent NSW All Schools Swimming Carnival, the 17-year-old won five gold medals while also establishing three new records. Rafael's latest achievements have earned on the back of his eight medal haul at the State Combined High School Carnival held in April.

The talented swimmer obtained gold in the under-17 boys 100m and 200m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly.

Previously, Rafael was named 'Outstanding Male Swimmer of the Meet'.

In the 200m Freestyle, he had broken the new record time of 2:13.58.

To the informed though, Rafael's sensational effort in the 200m freestyle came as little surprise as he currently sits at No. 2 on the Australian Age rankings.

Rafael also entered the highly sought after 200m IM (Individual Medley) and 100m Butterfly (I.A. Breast).

He also finished fourth in the 50m and 100m Backstroke. The year-7 student will now turn up his obvious talent to the Pacific School Games in November.

More records for swim rocket

Thorpe and Soul move over, swim star Rocket Robert Rafael has struck again setting three records and winning five gold at the NSW All Schools Championship on May 9th.

Robert won a blazing 1:14.94 in the 100m Boys 100m Butterfly, swimming the record, and followed up with two more records in his age division in the 200m Individual Medley (2:33.52) and 100m Butterfly (1:28.39). He also won the 100m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly and was named 'Outstanding Male Swimmer of the Meet'.

specialist wheelchair without swimming champion. The Homebush Boys' High school, who is leading in both categories, is both boys and girls swimming. They have more than 100 Sydney Aquatics Centre in Homebush under Olympic coach, Brian Wilkinson. His next challenge will be the Pacific School Games in Melbourne in November, which attracts swimmers from across



Rocket Robert with his five gold medals at the NSW All Schools Championship

Is Rocket Robert the Ian Thorpe?



The press named the seventh year Homebush Boys high school student Rocket Robert



Robert

Robert was born in Australia. His parents had travelled from South America to settle in Australia, as they thought they would have a better future for themselves and for their baby who was on the way.

Robert nació en Australia. Sus padres viajaron desde Sud América a establecerse en Australia, porque pensaron que tendrían un mejor futuro para ellos y para su bebé que estaba en camino.

The family found a flat in Liverpool, where Robert attended the local childcare centre which happened to have an Italian and a Spanish teacher who understood Robert's Spanglish.

Their economic situation meant that Robert's mum, Maria, had to enter the workforce. She was sad that she could not stay at home with Robert, but the childcare was a good solution.

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La familia encontró un departamento en Liverpool, donde Robert asistió a un jardín de infantes local. El jardín de infantes tenía una profesora que hablaba Español y otra italiano quienes entendían el Español mezclado con Inglés de Robert.

La situación económica significó que la mamá de Robert, María, tuviese que entrar en la fuerza laboral. Ella se sentía triste de que no podía estar en casa con Robert, pero el jardín de infantes era una buena solución.

Robert was a very slim and shy boy with big shiny black eyes. Unfortunately, his parents soon realized that Robert had hearing problems. Robert began to use hearing aids from four years old. At this age, his grandparents Cecilia and Jorge came to Australia to help to take care of Robert and Laura, his two year old sister.



Robert era muy delgado y tímido con ojos negros brillantes. Desafortunadamente, sus padres pronto se dieron cuenta que Robert tenía problemas de audición. Robert empezó a usar audífonos desde los cuatro años. En esa edad, sus abuelos Cecilia y Jorge vinieron a Australia a ayudar a cuidar a Robert y Laura, su hermanita de dos años.

in primary school, he was not considered very sporty, because he kept tripping due his bowed legged feet. He was rarely given the opportunity to enter a football team, Robert was not a very popular child. Robert was very shy. He wanted to belong to the group, but he did not know how. He did not play football very well.



En la escuela primaria el no era considerado un deportista porque se paraba tropezando por sus piernas chuecas. Sus compañeros le daban poca oportunidad de entrar en un equipo para jugar fútbol. Robert no era un chico popular. Robert era muy tímido quería pertenecer al grupo pero no sabía como. El no jugaba muy bien fútbol.

Robert wanted to do something he could be good at. He secretly admired Ben, a boy at school who was school champion in all sports, including swimming. Robert was only a spectator in swimming competitions, but he wanted to try it out.



Robert quería hacer algo en que podría ser bueno. Él secretamente admiraba a Ben, un niño de la escuela quien era campeón en todos los deportes, incluyendo natación. Robert era solamente un espectador en las competencias de natación, pero él quería tratar.

Robert's mum enrolled him in swimming classes at the age of 7 years old at Blacktown swimming pool. Robert began with enthusiasm and, in only two years, made a lot of progress. At the age of 9, to everybody's surprise, he won the swimming competition at school.



La mamá de Robert lo registró en clases de natación en la piscina de Blacktown a los siete años. Robert empezó con entusiasmo y en sólo dos años progresó bastante. A los nueve años, para sorpresa de todos ganó la competencia de natación en su escuela.

Robert's parents were very proud of his improvements and convinced him to compete in another event with great expectations. In the race, Robert was ahead for a considerable long distance. When the winner was announced, there was a big disappointment. They named another child. Robert had been disqualified for not touching the wall.



Los padres de Robert estaban muy orgullosos de sus mejoras que lo convencieron para que participe en otro evento importante con grandes expectativas. En la carrera, Robert estaba adelante por una distancia considerable. Cuando el ganador fue anunciado, hubo una gran desilusión. Robert había sido descalificado por no tocar la pared.

Maria called the organizer to tell him about their disappointment. She asked him why Robert had to be disqualified when he finished first.

The organizer told Maria something very important. "I wouldn't worry about this competition," he said. "Robert has enough talent to win the State championship".



María llamó al organizador para decirle acerca de su desencanto. Ella preguntó porque Robert había sido descalificado si llegó primero.

El organizador le dijo a María algo muy importante: "Yo no me preocuparía por esta competencia, Robert tiene tanto talento como para ganar la Competencia del Estado".

Maria thought about this for a long time. Could it be possible that her son wins something so important as the State Championship. She immediately began working to make of their dreams a reality by searching the internet for Australian Swimming Championships.



María pensó acerca de esto por un largo tiempo. Podría ser que su hijo ganara algo tan importante como la Competencia del Estado. Ella inmediatamente empezó a trabajar para hacer sus sueños realidad buscando en la internet por campeonatos Australianos de natación.

Robert went to the Olympic pool in Homebush. The coaches saw his official time and decided to test him. Robert was going to be given a chance to enter the Homebush Olympic squad to train and compete for the club.

Robert fue a la piscina del Parque Olímpico de Homebush. Los entrenadores vieron su tiempo oficial y decidieron probarle. Le iban a dar la oportunidad de entrar en el equipo de Homebush Olympic Park para entrenar y competir por el club.

Robert's coach Rudy saw Robert was very fast, but he lacked good swimming technique. He made Robert make improvements and predicted that in the following year Robert would become a champion.



El entrenador de Robert, Rudy, vio que Robert era muy rápido, pero carecía de buenas técnicas de natación. El hizo que Robert hiciera grandes mejoras y predijo que el año siguiente Robert sería un campeón.

Sometimes he did not hear the coaches instructions, so the coaches reminded him that he was not following the instructions. This also caused Robert to think they were picking on him. His grandfather explained that it was not so.

A veces él no escuchaba las instrucciones de los entrenadores así que ellos le hacían recordar que él no estaba siguiendo las instrucciones. Esto también causó que Robert pensara que lo estaban fastidiando. Su abuelo le hizo ver que no era así.

His grandfather Jorge supported him. Jorge sometimes had to speak with the coaches in an English with foreign accent due that he was immigrant, but he made himself understood.

Su abuelo Jorge le apoyaba. Jorge a veces tenía que hablar con los entrenadores en un Inglés con acento extranjero porque era inmigrante, pero se hacía entender.



Robert did in fact became a state champion, at the age of ten he was a popular child at his school, known for his achievements. He was NSW Swimming Champion in free style and butterfly for his age group. At the age of 11, he was part of the NSW relay team, the best team in Australia, in The Australian Championship.

At the age of twelve, he won most of the competitions in The NSW High School Carnival. They named him "Swimmer of The Meeting" for getting more medals than any other competitor.

Robert's story shows that even if you are the only one with a disadvantage, you can be the best.

Robert en verdad se convirtió en un campeón del estado, a la edad de diez él era popular en la escuela, conocido por sus logros. Él fue campeón de NSW en estilo libre y mariposa de su edad. A la edad de 11 años, era parte del equipo de relevos de NSW, el mejor en Australia, en El Campeonato de Australia. A la edad de doce, él ganó la mayoría de las competencias en El Carnaval de Escuelas Secundarias a nivel de NSW. Fue nombrado "Nadador del Encuentro" por ganar más medallas que ningun otro competidor.

La historia de Robert demuestra que aún siendo el único con una desventaja, tú puedes ser el mejor.

ROBERT

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