

Long Beach 908 Magazine

Fall 2013



Cover Photos:
Nick LaRoque, LB908

Emerson Etem has become a premier ice hockey player for the Anaheim Ducks, despite growing up in a Long Beach roller skate environment

Mike and Arline Walter rose from humble beginnings to see their names bedeck the Pyramid, a tribute to the generosity they have shown in Long Beach



908 LONG BEACH

magazine

lb908.com

Inside:

- 4 *Community Photos*
- 6 *Mike and Arline Walter*
- 12 *Long Beach State Men's Basketball*
- 16 *Deli News*
- 18 *Ja Yoga*
- 20 *Emerson Etem*
- 28 *Community Photos*

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The two cover stories in this Fall issue feature three incredible people, Emerson Etem, and Mike and Arline Walter. The re-sounding theme in both stories is that of hard work. Both feature local people who have risen against tough odds to follow their dreams. Nothing in either story happened by chance and we put light to only a fraction of the work it took these three Long Beachers to achieve greatness. I hope their stories are compelling examples and reminders of what hard work can achieve to both myself and anyone else who cares to listen!

The best way to support our magazine is to support the small businesses who support our magazine. These are genuine, hard-working individuals who live in Long Beach and wish to provide their neighbors with a product or service. Please contact us with any questions, comments, or story ideas. Enjoy the issue!

John Grossi
 Editor/ Publisher

local business, local teams, local people



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Residents of East Long Beach enjoy themselves at community events. Concerts at Whaley and El Dorado Parks, Parkview Village Street Fair, School Carnivals, and Stroll and Savor on 2nd Street give families a lot to smile about! Who do you recognize?

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...Building Opportunity and One Iconic Structure

Mike and Arline Walter

By John Grossi



The Mike and Arline Walter Pyramid



Mike and Arline Walter

Earlier this year a policeman approached Mike Walter at a Long Beach community function, and said, “I don’t know you, but I want to express my thanks for what you’ve done. This is the first year in a long time that my son is understanding and enjoying algebra!” The police officer was referring to a tutoring program that Mike and his wife Arline coordinated with LBUSD superintendent Chris Steinhauer, in which motivated high school juniors and seniors get paid to help tutor their 9th and 10th grade counterparts. The program has been a huge success – like most things the Walters are involved with – and begun to instill in Long Beach’s youth two things about which the Walters are extremely passionate: education and helping others.

When most locals hear the names Mike and Arline Walter, they think of the Walter Pyramid at Long Beach State. However, when it comes to the couple’s generosity, their donation to the construction of that East Long Beach icon is... well... just the tip of the pyramid.

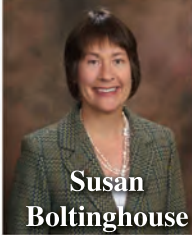
Mike is entering his 13th year as a Professor of International Business and Executive Assistant to the President at CSULB. After the career he has had, this position - along with membership on more than 20 non-profit boards over the past decade - is considered winding down!

The numbers - both in dollar amounts and time - that Mike and Arline give back to those in need and/or seeking an education are stunning. As to why the Walters are so driven to help the less fortunate? Mike’s answer is simple, “They don’t know me, but I know them.”

By the standards of his hometown in Illinois, Mike’s childhood spent growing up with grandparents was relatively “well-off.” Thanks to his grandfather’s thriving garden, Mike generally had food to eat at night – a luxury that many families went without. His grandfather shared everything with neighbors in need. He also dipped into savings to provide a one-room City Hall for town use, because he felt strongly that everyone should have a place to cast their vote.

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Arline and her Choir from Trinity Lutheran Church



Mike (left) and Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster (right)



Mike, Arline, Marilyn and her friend Jim



Arline and her sister Marilyn at a basketball game

Arline's mother and father showed similar generosity. Arline's mother volunteered her time as choir director and financial secretary at their church while her father coached the town's basketball team. Arline and twin sister Marilyn actively participated in many sports activities. It's not surprising that Arline now volunteers as the choir director at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Long Beach and spends much of her time and money helping students and enjoying sports. For anyone who has never attended a Long Beach State basketball game, I urge you to go to the Pyramid this season. That die-hard fan in the front row excitedly waving the sign, "I Bleed Black and Gold?" That's Arline.

Mike joined the United States army right out of high school, and soon attended the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has always felt a deep commitment to "Duty, Honor, Country."

Belying the role of education in their lives, Mike and Arline met in a graduate math class at the University of Iowa, where Arline earned a Master of Science degree in mathematics. Upon receiving his Ph.D., Mike was hired by Rockwell Collins to teach engineers how to design computers and large communication networks. Arline began a career in information systems and the couple soon moved to Anaheim.

Though their jobs stationed them only 20 minutes from Long Beach, the Walters in the 1970s were not quite ready to settle down in the community they later learned to love. In fact, Mike accepted dual positions as Director of State Relations Planning and Director of Administrative Systems at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In stride as always, Arline was soon responsible for the University's hospital and graduate school computing environments.

After four years in Michigan, Mike and Arline assumed positions with the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. At the time, DuPont had the second largest private switched telecommunications system in the world—second only to the United States Department of Defense. Mike managed DuPont's computer systems around the world, becoming involved with international business and traveling extensively to major cities in Europe. By this time, the couple had two children – a son Lance and a daughter Angela. Family activities were treasured.

After seven years of impressive, groundbreaking work at DuPont, Mike was hired by Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco. This position may have been the most pivotal of his long, industrious, and fruitful career. Using his knowledge and experience in computer network systems, Mike positioned Levi Strauss as a leader in international business.

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Mike and Arline shake hands with President Bill Clinton



Mike and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

As he proudly recalls, “The goal was to create a corporate office with no walls, all tied together with computer systems. Through accomplishing this goal, we effectively changed marketing, sales, management, finance, manufacturing cycles, and inventory. By integrating business processes across 22 countries - from the buying of materials, to blue jeans manufacturing, to sales - into one instantly updated private computer network, Levi Strauss was able to revolutionize its business, greatly reducing the time – from a month to overnight – that it took to place an order in one country, confirm it in a second, and manufacture in a third. Meanwhile, Arline began work for Wells Fargo, managing information systems and financial operations for some of its larger departments.

“The goal was to create a corporate office with no walls, all tied together with computer systems. Through accomplishing this goal we effectively changed marketing, sales, management, finance, manufacturing cycles, and inventory”

In 1983 the Haas family desired to take Levi Strauss & Co. private again and place family members in the top positions of the company. Their buy-out offer made it attractive for Mike to move on and become the Dean of Economics and Business Administration at Saint Mary's College in Northern California. In 1993, Mike was offered the position as Dean of Business at CSULB. With their son just graduating from UC Berkeley and their daughter headed to Northwestern, it was once again an opportune time to move. Only this time, it would seem, the Walters have found a place they can live permanently. Their mark on this city began as soon as they arrived.

Long Beach State's famous blue Pyramid was already under construction when Mike accepted his position; however, the college was struggling to raise the money to pay off its debts. University President Bob Maxson approached the Walters about making a lead donation, hoping to spark others to follow suit. The plan worked. The Walter's leadership ignited donations from other friends of the University to a total of more than 5 million dollars. President Maxson then made the decision to name the structure the “Mike and Arline Walter Pyramid.”

When they moved here in 1993, Arline assumed a position at Union Bank similar to the role she had previously performed at Wells Fargo. She retired in 2005 to enjoy more

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time with her grandchildren. However, she hasn't really slowed down. In addition to volunteering at her church, Arline is Vice President of Finance at the Assistance League in Long Beach and a key member on the Metropolitan Board of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach. She serves on the City's Citizen's Technical Advisory Committee. She is very involved with Long Beach State athletics and enjoys volunteering as a tutor at the University's Bickerstaff Academic Center.

Mike has served as a Commissioner for the City's Water Department, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, a Harbor Commissioner for the Port of Long Beach, and Chairman of the Board of the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ). He currently serves as Chair of the St. Mary Medical Center Foundation. Everything he touches is associated in some way with creating jobs and improving educational opportunities in Long Beach.

Guiding the Walters through their blessed journey from Iowa to "Iowa by the Sea" (Long Beach) has been their strong faith in God.

It's an amazing sight to spot the two walking through the Long Beach State campus and see how many times they are stopped by students and faculty for a hug or a chat. It seems everyone wants to thank them for their direct or



Mike with a group of his CSULB International Business Students

indirect help and encouragement. The Walters actively listen and catch up on the lives of their greeters, because that is the nature of their personality. Mike's emotion during this interview says it all. After I sat wide-eyed listening to his tales of advancement from the ground floor of the computer revolution to leading a major company into billions of dollars in international business, and his impressive record of service on business, municipal and education boards, he revealed that perhaps a recent achievement made him most proud: he was voted by the CSULB class of 2010 as a "Most Inspirational Professor." After a lifetime of giving to others, this award caused a tear to roll down Mike's cheek. Luckily Arline was by his side to help finish the interview. ■

Photos Courtesy Mike and Arline Walter



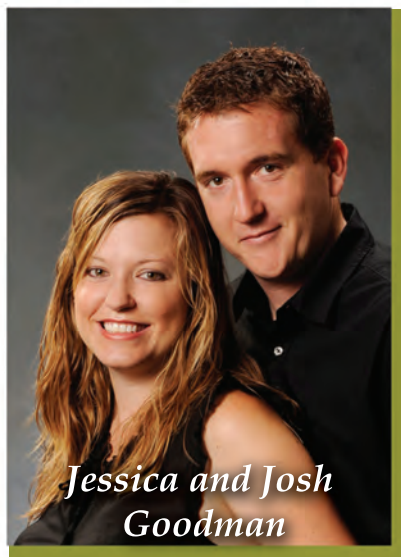
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Long Beach State Men's Basketball

By Jonathan Murrietta



Coach Dan Monson



Student Section

The upcoming 2013-14 season for Long Beach State's men's basketball team is shaping up to be an electrifying and pulsating experience for the East Long Beach community. On November 9, Long Beach State hosts Hawaii Pacific to shoot off the season. The Walter Pyramid will no doubt be jam-packed with 49er fans cheering on a team looking for its fourth consecutive championship in the Big West regular season.

The challenging season pits our 49ers against 14 out-of-conference opponents including a December 3 game with likely top-10 contender Creighton, now in the Big East; and local rival USC on December 19. Fans will really get a chance to see what their team is made of in the 8-team Puerto Rico Tip-Off held from November 21-24 in San Juan, where Long Beach State will compete against the likes of Michigan, Kansas State, Georgetown, VCU, Northeastern, Charlotte, and Florida State—all winning teams boasting NCAA postseason tournament experience. Loyal fans can then look forward to attending the Big West Tournament at the Honda Center from March 13-15, 2014; followed by the NCAA Tournament starting on March 18.

The difficult schedule might worry lesser men, but head coach Dan Monson just can't wait to see what he's got.

"I'm really excited to see what our team can do this year," says Monson. "The tough schedule doesn't worry me at all because it will show what our team is made of." Coach Monson's optimism is supported by the record: his diligent 49ers teams have had great success, winning 66 games in the last three seasons despite playing the nation's toughest non-conference opponents.

Though the 49ers will be playing without James Ennis, last year's star senior, there is no reason to downgrade expectations for this well-coached and hardworking program. Ennis, who displayed spectacular talent and skill on the court last season, earned Big West Player of the Year Honors and became the first 49er since 1992, and fourth player under Coach Monson, to be drafted into the NBA. Last year, Ennis helped a program that lost four starters from the 2011-2012 team win its third straight conference title. That squad was the first to win three conference titles for LBSU in 40 years.

This year's lineup includes returning point guard Mike Caffey, a First-Team All-Big West selection from last season. Along with returning forward Dan Jennings, Caffey will work on leading the team out from the shadow of last year's stellar accomplishments. If Jennings (8.4 points a game



with an average of 6.4 rebounds) and Caffey (12 points per game) can replicate the numbers they boasted last year, the team should be in great shape. Caffey, now a junior, started every game last year, and will look to improve his already impressive season-total of only 91 turnovers. Jennings shed 20 pounds from his 6'9" frame in the offseason, impressing Coach Monson, who foresees the senior will have more drive and conviction than ever. Jennings will clearly bolster a team welcoming a large incoming class.

Among Monson's stable of young players eager to step into the three remaining starting slots are eight newcomers, including Tyler Lamb, a Division I midseason transfer from UCLA. For Coach Monson, the offseason has been like "trying on a new pair of shoes," i.e., mixing different combinations on the floor, finding the right fit. Entering his seventh season as head coach, Monson reflects, "Every year's preparation is different, and this year - with a new Saturday start, we have a couple more weeks to get ready and

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Mike Caffey dribbles on the perimeter

make sure our team fits just right.”

The “shoe” that best fits the CSULB basketball team is obviously the Walter Pyramid. At 18 stories high, the 19-year-old Walter Pyramid stands tall and proud, much like the 49er men’s basketball team. The playing conditions are certainly unique. Thousands of fans fill the giant arena, which often overflows into standing room only during home games. 49er home games have become a staple for Cal State Long Beach students, alumni, and the East Long Beach community.

Coach Monson cites the exhilarating atmosphere of cheering fans topping 4,000 as a key component to the team’s success. “The fans’ enthusiasm and student involvement is huge for our players. Coming into the North Carolina game last year, we had one of the longest home game winning streaks and we haven’t lost a league game at home in three years.” Undoubtedly, the student camaraderie at Long Beach State plays a significant role in generating success for the men’s basketball team. The atmosphere is electric. That type of electricity, however, can only be created by an enthusiastic coach and coaching staff, talented and dedicated players, spirited student involvement, and an East Long Beach community that enjoys witnessing greatness at work. ■

Photos Courtesy Long Beach State Athletics



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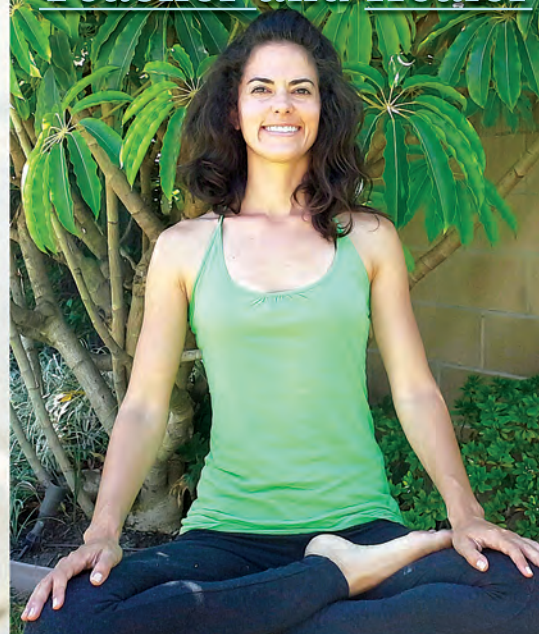
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Deli News Pizza

By John Grossi



Angela, Noelle, Darlene, and Luis



Recently renovated inside seating

You may have noticed the bright new red awning hanging over Deli News, the popular eatery in the Los Altos Shopping Center on Bellflower and Stearns. It is part of a slew of beautifications and modernizations implemented by Louis and David, the new owners of the classic local spot. Last December when the founders of Deli News decided to sell, Louis with David, his wife and family pounced on the opportunity to carry on the tradition of a family pizza deli with great food and affordable prices.

The family has owned several Italian and Mexican restaurants over the last decade and currently own one other besides Deli News. Their focus is on listening to what customers think they should improve, while keeping what has proven to be successful. What has proven successful at Deli News throughout the years is great food at a great price. The line out the door has been created by items like the delicious \$6 pepperoni pizza, the \$5 spaghetti, meatballs, and garlic bread, and the \$3.25 small pastrami sandwich.

Though the new Deli news has not taken anything off the menu, some items have been added. For a couple bucks more, Deli News offers specialty pizzas such as the Hawaiian, Margherita, BBQ Chicken, and "The Works." Pizza is now available by the slice at lunchtime—already a popular feature; and delicious homemade cookies are made fresh daily. The restaurant also offers daily gourmet pasta specials, about which customers can learn every morning by checking out the Deli News Facebook page.



Deli News Outdoor Patio

Louis has been cooking Italian food for over ten years and you can taste it in these new entrees. However, besides introducing dishes that feature his own cooking style, Louis has kept the entire staff of cooks who helped put Deli News on the East Long Beach map. The staff loves serving up a perfect option for each person among the diverse clientele who walk through their doors: the ever-thrifty college students taking advantage of hot and cold sandwiches for lunch; the mom taking her young kids to split a pizza after



Large Cheese Pizza



Large Vegetarian Pizza



Antipasto Salad



Angel Hair Scampi with Garlic Bread



Chicken Tortellini with Tomato Basil Sauce



Large Meatlovers Pizza

school; and the busy family picking up a to-go pasta dinner on their way home at night. Deli News's ability to fit so seamlessly and easily into customer lifestyles has allowed the venue to thrive for 2 decades and counting.

The new owners are gratified by the loyalty the community has shown to this deli and forever thankful to customer support throughout the transition. One local couple Tim and Trina, exemplify the welcoming spirit of East Long Beach and their kind promotion to other long-time customers has been invaluable. All of the new aspects of the restaurant are based on customer suggestions and the staff's desire to continue fulfilling clientele wishes. The deli has been given a thorough cleaning, new furniture has been placed, and a new paint job is enlivening the atmosphere. There is a classy wine rack and two big flat screens so that families can enjoy a sports game in the background as they finish their pizzas and subs.

With the same friendly staff (You may recognize some of the longtime employees—Bruno, Luis, Didi, Angie, Cassandra, Noelle, and Bernice) and delicious food as always, the Deli we have all come to love looks like it has gotten the facelift to continue to serve East Long Beach for the next decade. Louis and his family care only about listening to their customers and providing the best possible service based on what they hear. That's fancy shmancy business talk for "Come try our delicious pizza if you haven't already!" If you have 20 minutes and 20 bucks, Deli News can give you the perfect family lunch or dinner. Now even open on Saturdays! ■

...A Studio with Heart

Ja Yoga

By Andrea Sampson



Mic, owner of Ja Yoga on Spring St.



The studio's spacious and calming layout

It's easy to see why Ja Yoga has been Voted the last 4 years in a row "Best Yoga" in Long Beach Beachcomber Newspaper. The sunny, over-sized studio draws you in, and the warm inviting lobby begs you to stay. Ja Yoga is a hidden gem in the heart of East Long Beach.

When owner Michael James Manley, better known as Mic Ja, opened his studio, he envisioned a place where the community could practice yoga, meditate and take a break from the busy world. Now, more than five years later, his clients have come to feel more like friends as they practice all levels of yoga in the special space he created, tucked into a quiet shopping center at Bellflower Blvd. and Spring St.

The quaint studio is actually one of the most spacious in Southern California. Mic and his parents, the owners of the Los Altos Dance Center, built and designed the studio together. The former tuxedo shop was gutted, and the studio came to life. The studio was set at an angle to allow all participants to clearly see the instructor and to maximize personal space.

"The angled floor plan makes it easy for beginners to sit in the back, where they often feel safest, but still see the teacher," Mic said.

Details like living plants, running water and ambient lighting enhance and reinforce the elements of yoga. "Everything in the studio has meaning and purpose," Mic said. "There are subtle details that even our regular clients don't seem to notice right away."

One special touch is the hand-plastered walls. If you look close enough you may see hearts throughout the texture. Mic has put a personal touch on every detail.

Ja Yoga offers classes that range from gentle to advanced, but the wonderful thing about the studio is that anyone can participate. Mats, blocks and blankets are provided to assist even novice participants.

"I wanted my studio to be accessible to everyone," Mic said. "We have everything you need to try out yoga."

Ja Yoga is located at 5525 Spring St. and offers an excellent new student rate of only \$40 for the first month with access to unlimited classes. The average class size is approximately 12, but the large studio comfortably holds more than 20. More information about the studio, the teachers, the schedule and the pricing can be found at www.jayoga.org. ■



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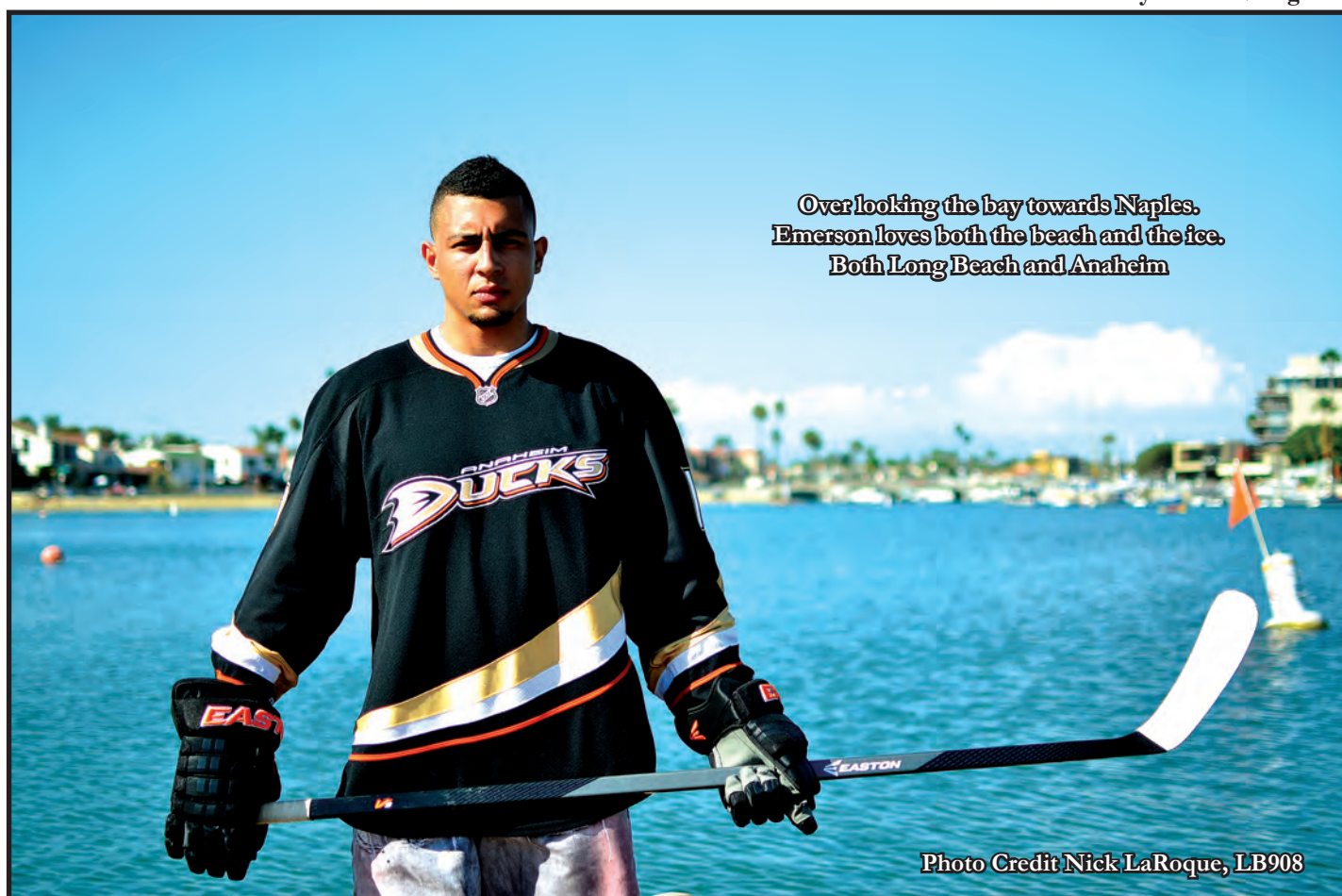
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...From Alamitos Heights to the Anaheim Ducks

Emerson Etem

By Adonis Voulgaris



**Over looking the bay towards Naples.
Emerson loves both the beach and the ice.
Both Long Beach and Anaheim**

Photo Credit Nick LaRoque, LB908

Last season, Emerson Etem—the kid from Long Beach—became the first athlete from Long Beach (and one of the few from Southern California) to score a goal in professional hockey. Better yet, playing for a local team, Emerson led the Anaheim Ducks in playoff goals as a rookie in his first playoff series ever against the Detroit Red Wings. The stats he put up through his first NHL season - and his long amateur career - stand by themselves as worthy of praise. What's more interesting, however, is the unique journey he took working to become an elite ice hockey player, while being raised in Alamitos Heights—smack dab in the middle of sunny East Long Beach.

Imagine yourself as a 14-year-old boy. Your first thoughts are probably of entering high school, your Pony League Baseball team, or more likely the horrors of being in the midst of puberty. Emerson Etem remembers these years quite differently. His summers were spent waking up at 6:00 a.m. so that he had time to strap on his skates and rollerblade to the train station in downtown Long Beach, catching the Blue Line to Willowbrook. A Green Line ride and three bus transfers later, Emerson found himself rollerblad-

ing into the doors of Gold's Gym in Venice Beach, taking advantage of this opportunity to train with the world-renowned T.R. Goodman and age-defying Red Wings veteran, Chris Chelios. After a three hour workout, Emerson would strap on his skates and head back home, where he spent summer afternoons just trying to be a kid. It was this drive and determination that ultimately drove him to the pinnacle of hockey performance, the National Hockey League.

Before Emerson could even dream of the NHL he had to make the interesting choice to pick up the stick and the skates in the first place. If he were raised on the East Coast, no one would ask twice, but Emerson grew up five minutes from the ocean in suburban East Long Beach, and here, hockey has not yet created the same pull as youth soccer and Little League baseball. No one told this to Emerson however, as he followed in brother Martin's footsteps by joining a roller hockey league at the Los Altos YMCA. It didn't take long for young Emerson to fall in love with the game. Two years after his first encounter in the rink, a six-year-old Emerson made his first advantageous career move. He transitioned from roller hockey at the YMCA to ice hockey at



The crowd erupts as Etem celebrates his 1st NHL goal

Photo Courtesy Anaheim Ducks



Emerson looks for the puck against the Detroit Red Wings

Photo Courtesy Anaheim Ducks

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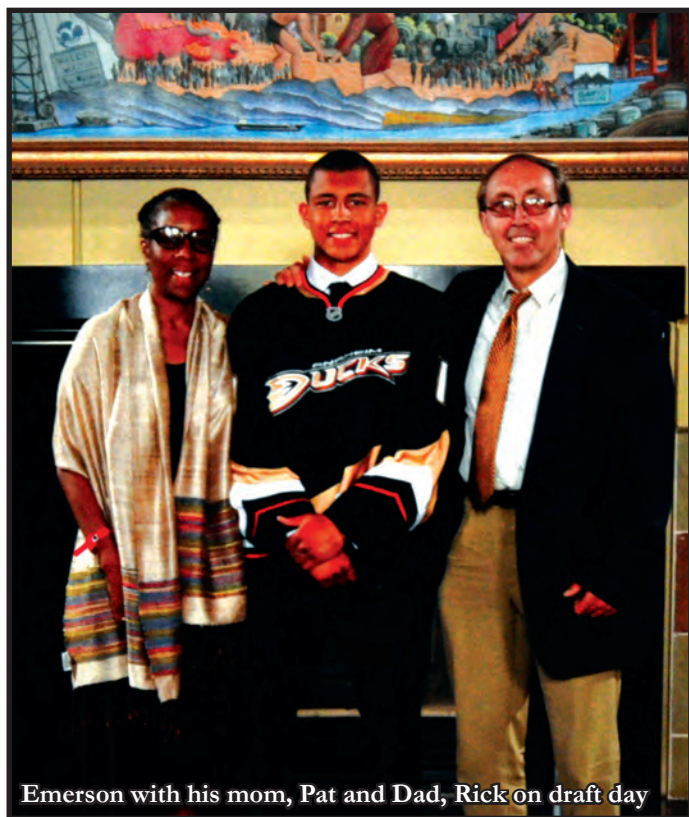
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Emerson with his mom, Pat and Dad, Rick on draft day



Little Emerson with his sister, Elise and brother, Martin

Glacial Gardens, which is now known as the Rinks (fittingly owned by the Anaheim Ducks).

The young hockey player continued from his youth league at Glacial Gardens onward to several highly touted club teams throughout the area, and had the opportunity to travel across the country and into Canada to play in prestigious tournaments for five consecutive years. His mother, Pat Etem, remembers his crazy childhood as full of travels and hectic schedules, but it was clear Emerson had a knack for hockey and the will to go far from even a young age—he set a record at the Los Altos YMCA as a four year-old scoring 16 goals in one game!

At age 10, while attending one of brother Martin's tournament games, Emerson witnessed a teenaged Sidney Crosby, who at the time was playing for the Shattuck-St. Mary's Prep Team in Minnesota. In one instant, Crosby took the puck down the wing, crossed back to the middle where he performed an amazing deke against the defender, and ultimately backhanded the puck into the back of the net. To this day Emerson recalls the move with astonishment. It was that flash of brilliance from one of the greatest hockey players of all time that would eventually help clear his mind over a major decision in his life: whether to make the traditional succession from Rogers Middle School to Wilson High School with all of his best friends; or follow his hockey dreams with a radical move to Minnesota – and appear on the ice in the hockey-renowned red, white, and black jersey

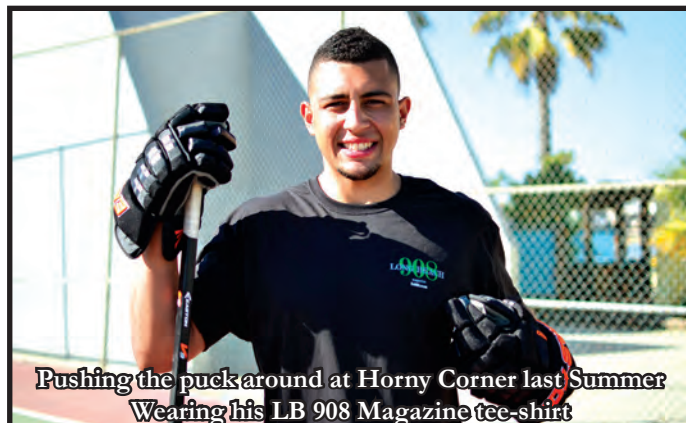
of the Shattuck-St. Mary's Sabres. This decision meant that he would be essentially alone, and tragically, 2,000 miles away from anyone who would come near his laundry. Needless to say, Etem was forced into a precocious maturity long before most of us are ready to handle the responsibility of waking up for school in the morning.

The transition to life on his own at age 14 was incredibly difficult, but the key to Emerson's success away from home comes from his family and childhood growing up in East Long Beach. Emerson's parents, Patricia (Pat) and Rick Etem, were both collegiate rowers, and Pat was selected for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. Unfortunately, the USA ended up boycotting those Moscow games due to international conflicts. Luckily, as Emerson has proved, a strong work ethic runs in the family, and Pat eventually received a bid to row in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Rick now works at Boeing in Long Beach, and for years—just like Emerson—has roller-skated to work every day. Emerson's family role models don't stop with his parents, as both Martin and sister Elise became national-caliber rowers at their prospective colleges, Syracuse and UC Berkeley.

Emerson wasted no time in rising through the ranks at his new boarding school. He followed closely in the footsteps of current NHL Stars Sidney Crosby and Jonathan Toews as he made the school's most elite team, the Varsity Prep squad, in just his second year on campus. After sophomore year, during which he started most of the season on the first



On the road with LA Hockey club in Michigan



Pushing the puck around at Horny Corner last Summer
Wearing his LB 908 Magazine t-shirt

line along side another future NHL star, Derek Stepan, he was chosen to play on the USA National Development team with the top 22 players in the nation. To Emerson, being able to represent the United States on the ice was the biggest honor he could receive, especially knowing that his mother once wore the Red, White, and Blue as she participated in the Olympic Games.

As a “junior” in high school, while his friends back at Wilson High got drivers’ licenses, Emerson was drafted to the Medicine Hat Tigers, a junior affiliate of the Canadian Hockey League. After Etem joined an essentially pro team in a hockey community, his Long Beach community, having always known Emerson as “the hockey kid,” could actually



Moments after a successful oral presentation at
Lowell Elementary school

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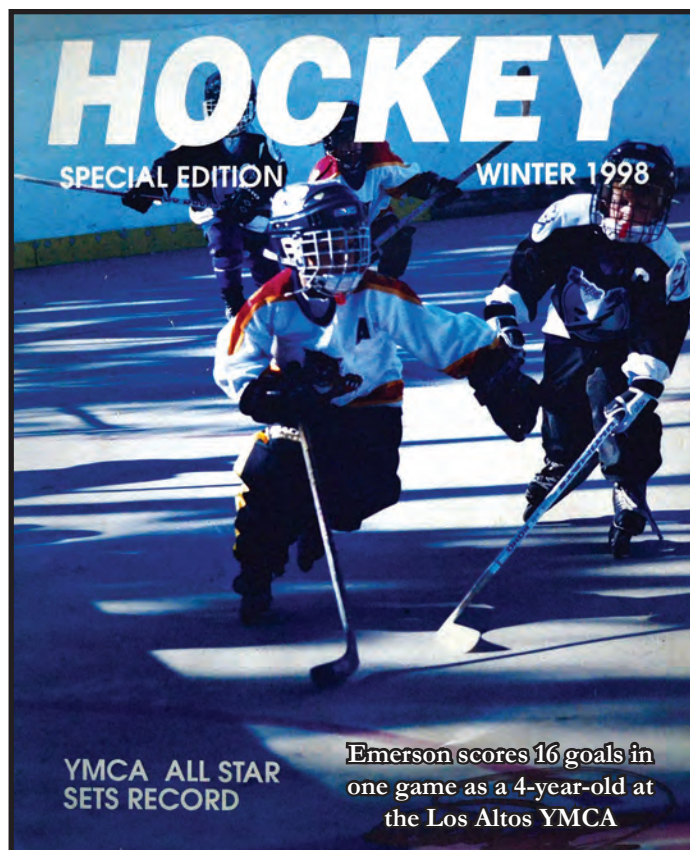


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Emerson scores his 50th goal in 50 games with Medicine Hat Tigers

grasp how good he was. His stats showed up on line; and praise for Emerson's play began appearing frequently on hockey websites. During the first portion of the 2009-2010 season, Emerson scored at the unbelievable pace of almost one point per game. After being drafted to the Ducks later in 2010, he returned to Medicine Hat to score 106 goals in his next 130 games, ultimately leading to a call up to the Norfolk Admirals, one step below the NHL's Anaheim Ducks. Emerson's uncanny ability to put the puck in the back of the net, combined with his natural charm, caused him to rise to celebrity status in Medicine Hat, which made it a difficult town to leave. His mom recalls once when the checker in a Canadian grocery store realized from her ID that she was Etem's mother!

At the 2010 NHL Entry Draft held in the Staples Center, Emerson walked in the door as the 8th overall ranked eligible draftee. He was dressed to impress and surrounded by his closest friends and family members as he waited to hear his name called over the intercom. Being a local boy, Emerson was not only able to bring a large Long Beach contingent, but he also became well known throughout the stadium, and as the first round drugged past the 8th selection, the crowd started to get antsy. When the 16th pick came around, the Los Angeles Kings took the podium due to a last minute trade and a hush went over the crowd, particularly in Emerson's corner as they imagined an almost perfect world where Emerson gets drafted by the team he grew up watching and idolizing. However, the day Emerson



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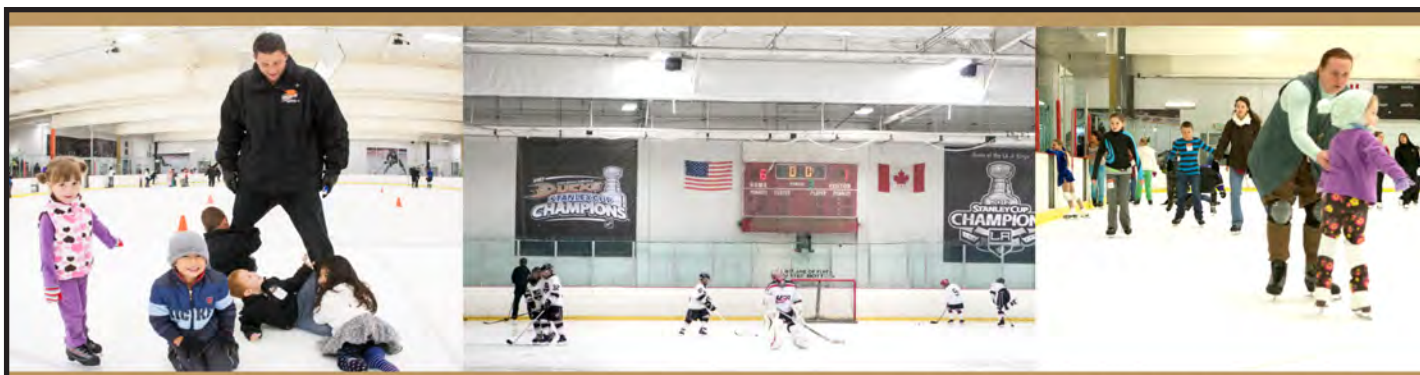
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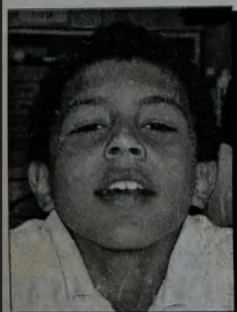
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later described as his “longest ever” continued until the 29th pick of the draft when the Anaheim Ducks ended the waiting game. Emerson slipped a bit due to his unconventional skating style that is now being praised as one of the fastest in the league. Nothing mattered however, once he got drafted. Emerson’s name and face went up on the Jumbotron at the Staples Center, the crowd erupted, and he received the biggest applause of the day, not to mention the hugs, kisses, and screams that came from each member of his entourage. To Emerson, his dream had been made an actuality as he stepped onto the stage and was handed his new Ducks jersey from four-time Stanley Cup champion, Scott Niedermayer.

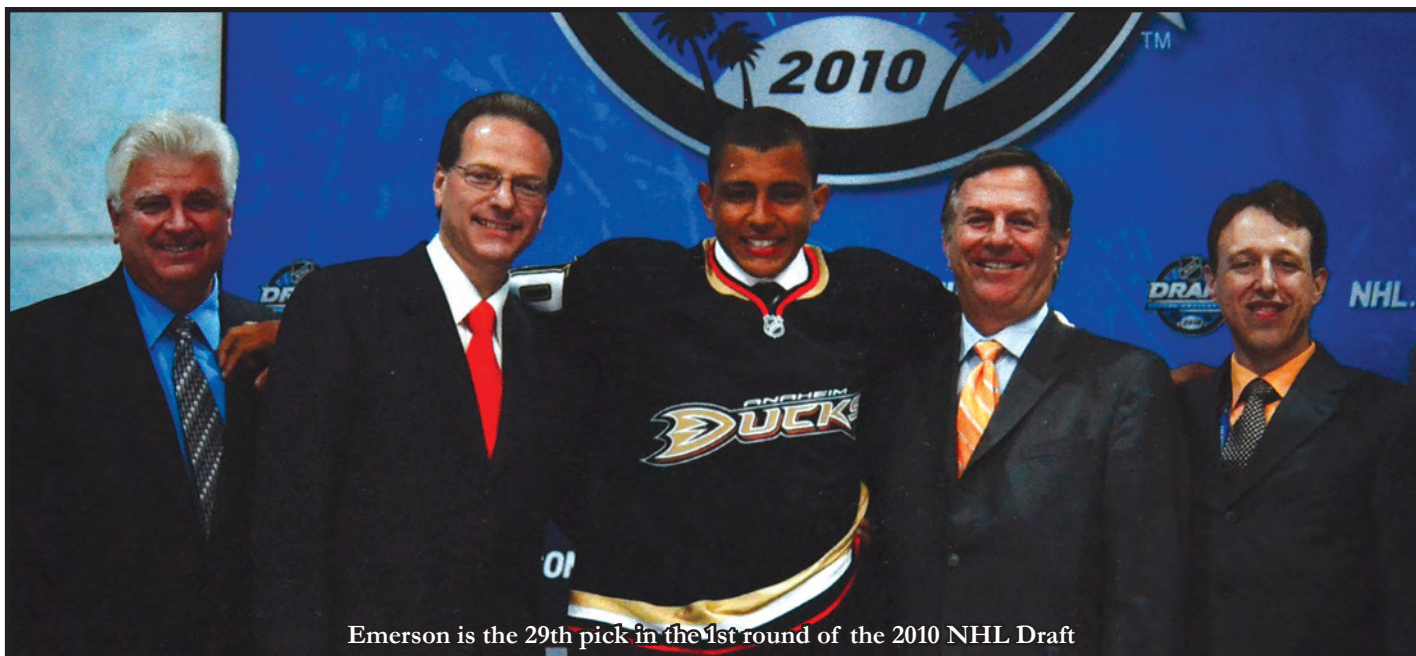
After the draft, and as mentioned above, Emerson was sent back to Medicine Hat to continue developing his game, and that’s exactly what he did. He matured and developed under the tutelage of his mentor Willie Desjardins in Medicine Hat; and then with the Ducks affiliate team in Norfolk, Virginia. Unluckily for Emerson, as his time to reach the primetime level came near, the NHL lockout began, which led to a condensed 2012-2013 season of 48 games rather than 82. Amid the wildness of that season, however, Emerson found his way onto the team and appeared in his first live game in San Jose against the playoff-contending Sharks.



★Emerson Etem★

My favorite memory in fifth grade was going to see “Holes” with my class. My favorite sports are football, basketball, ice hockey and soccer. I play ice hockey for a club team in L.A. My favorite movies are “Forest Gump,” “Barber Shop,” “Ferris Buller’s Day Off,” and “Juanna Mann.” My favorite book is The Swiss Family Robinson. My favorite hockey team is the Detroit Red Wings and my favorite players are Sergei Federav, Danny Heatly, Pavel Bure, Marcus Nastlund, Mike Madono and Darin MaCarty. My favorite basketball team is the Dallas Mavericks and my favorite players are Tracy MacGrady, Steve Nash, Vince Carter, Dirk Nowicki, Allen Iverson and Nick Van Exel. I want to be a pro ice hockey player when I grow up.

The 2003 5th Grade Yearbook at Lowell Elementary School bears testament that Emerson’s dream has become a reality



Emerson is the 29th pick in the 1st round of the 2010 NHL Draft

From that moment on, he has hardly looked back. Emerson has quickly become one of the most popular players on the Ducks. People feel connected with him because he's local, and he has forced his unconventional roller hockey tendencies to help rather than hinder his game. His speed, stick handling, and size helped him end last year's short season with three goals and seven assists, plus another three goals and two assists in the Ducks' playoff series against the Red Wings. He seemed to get more comfortable the more time

he spent on the ice, both doing better himself and making teammates better as his NHL experience wore on.

With one season of professional hockey under his belt, Emerson prepared himself for his sophomore campaign this past summer. However, when not in training, Emerson spent most of the summer returning to his roots in Long Beach—just as he has every summer and break since his journey to Minnesota as a 14-year-old. Despite his growing success and stardom as a professional hockey player, Emerson remains the humble, personable Long Beach guy he has always been. He spent as much time as possible with his loving family, and with friends doing the activities he's always loved... surfing, playing whiffle ball in his buddy's backyard, watching "Wedding Crashers" at a friends house, eating tacos, etc. He also wanted to make sure he gave back to the community that helped to raise him.

After his long, arduous journey to success, Emerson wanted to spread his story and make sure that the children aspiring to play hockey today know that the opportunity for success and greatness exists. He has been in the shoes of those who dream in this non-traditional hockey market, and risen to the occasion when the odds were against him. Make sure to keep your eye out for the fun-loving and personable Emerson at some of his favorite local institutions including Super Mex and George's Greek café. If you're really lucky, you may even catch sight of him playing a round of golf at Big Rec with his trademark right to left slice! Follow him on Twitter (@tweetem-up), and Instagram (@etemerson), and wish him luck this season, it's sure to be filled with excitement, and hopefully great success. ■

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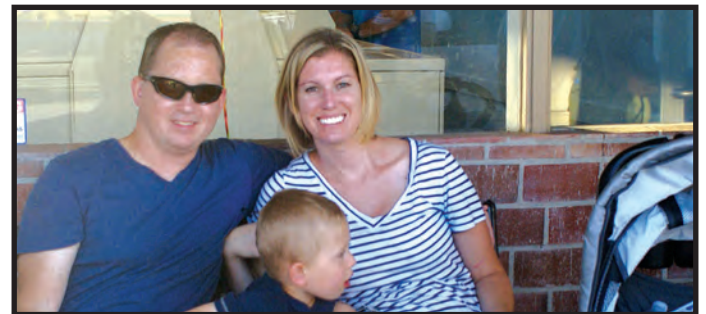
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