



## Profiles

## DILLON MAGEE

## If At First You Don't Succeed, Tri, Tri Again!

In high school, Dillon Magee says he was overweight and couldn't comprehend, let alone run a mile. So, Magee bought a bike and running shoes and decided to drop the weight.

While walking through the university's Quad one day, he noticed the Texas State Triathlon Club's table and became intrigued enough to attend a swim practice with club members.

With no prior triathlon experience and very little swimming experience, he literally dove into the club's training process and into the hearts of its members.

Triathletes swim, bike, and run (in that order, otherwise, Magee says, they'd all be dead) because they find it fun. They just hate it during the race, he says.

Magee was one of the 11 out of 21 members of the Texas State Triathlon Club to compete in the USA Triathlon Collegiate Championship in Tempe, AZ last month.

For the first time in the club's history they placed in the top 50th percentile at this year's nationals, Magee says.

There was a moment in the race when Magee became dehydrated, he says. So, someone from another university paced and crossed the finish line with him to ensure his safety.

However, not all triathletes are as encouraging and kind.

Swimming in a pool is worse and causes more injuries, because participants aren't swimming in a straight line, like open water, but snaking.

Magee says he's been swam on top of, had his ankles grabbed, been pulled under water, and clawed while swimming competitively in a pool before.

As a senior, his last official hurrah with the team was the club's annual Texas State Sprint Triathlon (featured in Triathlon Magazine), which Magee says is a great opportunity for first timers.

"Find the simplest way to start. Don't just think, 'I'm gonna go all out and train my hardest, first place winner....' Do not have that mentality," he says. "Have the mentality that I want to finish."

A support system also helps.

Magee's support system has been the members of the Texas State Triathlon Club, who were among some of the first people at the university he told he was gay.

In the meantime, Magee's looking forward to being accepted into graduate school and his next tattoo.

"MOTIVATION  
IN THE SWIM IS  
DON'T DROWN.  
I CAN'T DIE OUT  
HERE."

TEXAS  
STATE