

## **A great barrier**

### **Proscurshim's physical play in pool has Sharks rolling.**

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Alexandar Proscurshim was born to play water polo. It just took him a while to get there.

The Spanish River senior competed in cross country, football, basketball, wrestling, rugby and swimming. It wasn't until he was introduced to water polo his freshman year, when his high school started a program, that he realized how well-suited he was to play the game.

"Out of all of them it's just the best sport," Proscurshim said.

The Brazilian-born Proscurshim fell in love with the sport even more when he started working out with some of the best players on the South Florida Water Polo Club.

At 5 feet 11, 205 pounds he loved the physical aspect of the game that has been compared to a mix of rugby and soccer. The tough 2-meter player with great hands is the strongman of the Sharks' district-leading team. His speed from swimming (23.0 seconds in the 50 freestyle and 52.0 in the 100) has helped him improve since his freshman year.

"It's physical and demanding," Proscurshim said. "It's exhilarating. It's like an adrenaline fix all the time. The games are aggressive, and you are really mixing it up out there. The best part is the physical part. It's a mix of everything I've played. It's part of the game."

He also takes pride in the fact that he is aggressive but has yet to be yellow- or red-carded in a game.

"I don't get caught," he said. "That's just experience. I have learned from a lot of different people and had some great coaches. Every game I play against an older person that is a lot better than me I ask him a lot of questions, because everyone has their own style. It's how you get better."

South Florida Water Polo Club coach Bruce Wigo was glowing in a college scouting report he put together and sent to coaches across the country trying to find scholarships for most of his players, including Proscurshim, a four-year starter. "He's built like a house, and he is very strong," Wigo said.

"I really want to play water polo in college," said Proscurshim. "I think I really turned the corner when I started playing with South Florida. Bruce really expects a lot out of you. He is a great coach, and that's how you get good. I told him if I ever become a doctor he won't have to pay for healthcare."

Proscurshim and Sharks teammates Phil Reilly are the county's top two players. Reilly was All-District first team, and Proscurshim was named high school All-American and Most Valuable Player on the All-District team. They are coached by Reilly's mom, Ellen.

Spanish River is defending district champions and favored to repeat. The Sharks, who already beat St. Andrew's earlier this season, are hoping for a trip to the first sanctioned high school state meet at host St. Andrew's School. Spanish River probably will have to get past Northeast first in the region playoffs.

The lack of teams in Palm Beach County may hurt the Sharks' chances since they have few opponents to practice against, Proscurshim said.

"Last year we had a few more teams like Wellington and North Broward Prep," Proscurshim said. "It will be interesting if we go up against Northeast because I will be playing my club mates. It will definitely be a different style of game."