

# Varsity's swimming twins plan to make a splash worldwide

INDIE BOYCE

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University's (NMMU) identical twin brothers Alard and Alaric Basson are to represent South Africa at the Fina World Short Course Swimming Championships in Windsor, Canada, in December.

This comes after a successful African Championships held in Bloemfontein last month where they collected a slew of medals.

Alaric, a breaststroke specialist, earned a gold medal in the 100m breaststroke, silver in the 200m event and gold in the 4x100 mixed and men's medley relays.

Spending many hours in the water under the tutelage of coach Mark Edge, Alaric said they always kept their focus on the big picture.

"The training can be quite tough but then you have to look at what your goals are," he said.

"Ultimately I am aiming for the 2020 Olympics and my mindset is always on that prize.

"To have a chance of achieving something like that, you have to make a lot

of sacrifices and you can't just say you don't feel like training."

The second-year students, who are both studying building engineering at NMMU, said they started swimming at an early age.

"Our dad watched us in the pool at home and felt we had some talent so he signed us up for the local Dolphin Club. From there we eventually linked up with Mark and have been with him for 11 years," Alaric said.

His brother Alard said he was happy with his results at the African champs where he took gold in two relays and bronze in the 50m and 100m butterfly events.

"Considering we were at altitude, which we are not used to, I was pretty pleased the way it turned out."

With Tokyo 2020 in the back of his mind, Alard said he was focused on putting in an extra effort to improve his chances.

"You always have to go the extra mile and push yourself to the limit," he said.

He said he had been inspired by South Africa's star swimmer Chad



**SETTING EYES ON THE CROWN:** Swimming twins Alard and Alaric Basson to represent South Africa in Canada.

le Clos and had learnt much from him.

"For me the ultimate hero is Chad because he is very humble and one of

the best swimmers in the world.

"He does so many things phenomenally well, such as his precision technique underwater.

He executes everything so well and that's something I strive to emulate," Alard said.

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