



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Rajdeepsingh Waghela, a senior tennis player at Goose Creek Memorial High School was chosen as recipients of a \$5,000 scholarship from Reliant Energy and the Houston Texans, through their Scholarship for Champions – Powering Strong Minds and Bodies Scholarship Program.



Gabriela Chen, a senior swimmer and water polo player at Sterling High School, shows off her big \$5,000 scholarship she was awarded from Reliant Energy and the Houston Texans. Next to Gabi is former Texan J.J. Moses, her swim team teammates and Coach T.J. Markiewicz, far right.

## GCM, RSS Seniors each earn \$5,000 Reliant Scholarships

Rajdeepsingh Waghela, a senior tennis player at Goose Creek Memorial High School, and Gabriela Chen, a senior member of the water polo and swim teams at Sterling High School, were chosen as recipients of a \$5,000 scholarship from Reliant Energy and the Houston Texans, through their Scholarship for Champions - Power Strong Minds and Bodies Scholarship Program.

Coaches, principals, and administrators in school districts from the greater Houston area are given an opportunity to nominate student athletes for consideration, based on their athletic involvement and passion for their sport, as well as their ability to demonstrate ethics and leadership skills through their involvement in school activities and in their community.

Of the more than 1,000 entries in the region, Goose Creek CISD landed two of the eight \$5,000 scholarship handed out this year.

This is the third year in a row that an athlete at Goose Creek Memorial has earned the \$5,000 Reliant scholarship (Tarun Jain in 2010 and Amy Brewer in 2009).

Goose Creek Memorial tennis coach, Ismael Dutchover, nominated Raj for the scholarship "because of the hard working and helpful student he is.

"Raj has always been a big help to his teachers and the faculty here at GCM. He always finishes his work on time and strives to help others achieve. He has tutored many of his fellow tennis players," Dutchover said. "He has helped many Patriot tennis players and other students with things like their homework and tennis games."

After playing tennis for the Robert E. Lee tennis team for his freshman and sophomore years, Raj's parents moved across town, forcing him to switch from Lee to Goose Creek Memorial.

Raj has been a varsity tennis athlete for the GCM Patriots since August 2010.

Raj was an All-District Tennis player both the fall, and the spring seasons of the 2010-2011 school year. He has also been honored with awards from the tennis program such as Newcomer of the Year (2010-2011) and Scholar Athlete of the Year (2010-2011) for having the best grades out of all males in the GCM tennis program.

This year, he was named co-captain of the GCM tennis team.

"His top finishes are the result of many long hours of practice and sincere efforts he has put into the game to perfect his talent and thus displaying his undying passion for the sport," Dutchover said.

Raj is the vice president of the school's Key Club, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and secretary of the Go-Green Club

Gabi, as she is known, has been a member of the Sterling High School Swimming and Water Polo Team for three years. She was an integral part of the school's District 21-5A swimming championship finishing 1st in the 100 butterfly and 2nd in the 50 Freestyle. She was also a member of the 1st place 200 Freestyle Relay and the 200 Medley Relay. Also, the Sterling Girls Water Polo Team, including Gabi, won the TISCA Girls State Water Polo Championship. This is the 4th year in a row for our team, Gabi has been a part of 3 of these championships. This year, Gabi is the swim team captain.

"Gabi is a great young woman who is extremely goal oriented and motivated. She displays great leadership in the pool, she is very vocal and leads by example," said her head coach T.J. Markiewicz. "She always has a positive outlook. She is a great team motivator and a great role model for our underclassman."

Among her activities outside the pool, Gabi is a representative for Student Council, the Key Club Social Chair, the National Honor Society Historian, and is on the Board for Students Against Destructive Decisions, and she is also a member of the RSS Meister Singers Choir.

"In my years as head coach, I have seen many athletes come and go, but the ones that stick out in my mind are not necessarily the best athletes, but the athletes who give it their all and never quit regardless of circumstance. Gabriela Chen is one of these athletes," said Markiewicz. "She has come a long way in three years, and has earned the respect of her teammates by being named captain. Gabi went from being a body that I used to fill holes in our line up to being one of the fastest athletes I have in just one year. She accomplished this feat through hard work and determination."

Both Raj and Gabi have been invited to a pre-game on-field presentation at the Houston Texans game on Dec. 4, when the Texans host the Tennessee Titans. Both students will get four tickets to the game.

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