

Gabe Blaylock: motivation behind the man

JACKSON – Six-year-old Finn Blaylock lay in bed one Saturday afternoon, staring intently at his dad's laptop computer.

Most children would spend their weekend outside playing with friends or huddled on a couch watching cartoons. Not Finn. He was in Blair E. Batson



**JOE
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editor

“ *Everything Finn's been through has motivated me.*”

– *Gabe Blaylock,*
senior swimmer

Children's hospital surrounded by nurses, hooked to machines and watching his big brother Gabe

compete in the state swim meet streamed live to his dad's computer.

At the same time, Gabe, a St. Joe senior and member of the Bruin boys swim team, stood on the edge of the Olympic-sized swimming pool at the Tupelo Aquatic Center ready for the 200-medley relay.

ARCHRIVALS

The Bruins entered the afternoon finals of the swim meet as underdogs to cross-county rival

St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, just a few miles south of St. Joe's Madison campus.

St. Andrew's performed exceptionally well in prelims earlier in the day. The Bruins needed to place well in every event, including the 200-meter relay, if they hoped to knock off the Saints.

It was a fight Gabe and other Bruins were determined to win. At the same time, Gabe knew his little

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