



# Eight qualify for world championships

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SOUTH Africa's two greatest male swimmers, Cameron van der Burgh and Chad le Clos, showed all the elements that made them world-beaters at the South African National Aquatic Championships last week.

They were two of eight swimmers to surpass A international qualifying times at the championships.

They did it with ease and with each swim.

They have relocated to Cape Town, and their new coaching staff, Bobby Hurley and Andrea di Nino, were on the pool deck at their first national championship with these greats.

The outstanding times achieved by Chad le Clos and Cameron van der Burgh last week certainly caught the attention of the international swim world.

The other six swimmers to qualify were Olympians from Rio, Brad Tandy, Douglas Eras-



**Chad Le Clos swimming the men's 100m butterfly at the Kings Park Aquatic Centre last week.**

PICTURE: SAMUEL SHIVAMBU/BACKPAGEPIX

mus and Myles Brown, as well as newcomers to the top level of international swimming, Zane Waddell, Brent Szurdoki and Tatjana Schoenmaker.

Zane Waddell hails from the Free State, he is a first year student athlete at Alabama in America.

Waddell won the 100m Freestyle in 49.07, way ahead of the rest of the field, and was the only swimmer in the final

under 50 seconds. He came second in the 50m Freestyle final in 22.41 for his qualifying time.

The head coach at Alabama is South African swimming legend Jonty Skinner, who also looks after Christopher Reid there.

With South Africa having such superb swimmers in the Breaststroke and Butterfly, perhaps the key to a successful

medley relay is with Skinner in Alabama, who now coaches the country's best 100m Backstroker in Reid, and Waddell, a contender for the country's top 100m Freestyler.

The 1500m Freestyle on Saturday night was the most exciting race of the championships. Brent Szurdoki from Central Gauteng won in fine style in 15:11.22 to cement his place among South Africa's top eight. He is coached by Peter Williams in Johannesburg, another of South Africa's swimming legends.

A number of South African women swimmers are getting closer to the A times, but Tatjana Schoenmaker did the business by satisfying criteria in the semi-final of the 200m Breaststroke.

Schoenmaker is a student at Tuks, an institution with the best history in South Africa of getting female swimmers under the international qualifying times.

