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Dwight, Justin and Troy Dumais dive into it with all they've got

The diving brothers from Ventura, currently competing in national championships at UCLA, share a common but unfulfilled goal: winning an Olympic medal. At least one has dived in every Games since 2000.

By Diane Pucin

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Dwight Dumais hit the board on a dive Saturday, earning scores as low as 1.5, so it wasn't a great advertisement day, that one missed dive leading to a 10th-place finish.

Justin Dumais is still getting back into competitive form, since recently taking significant time off to do his other job — flying jets for the South Carolina Air National Guard and spending three months in Iraq. Finishing fifth wasn't the best but wasn't unexpected.

Troy Dumais won a bronze medal Saturday in the men's three-meter springboard, his 56th medal at a national championship but one that could have been better, Troy said. He didn't like his water entries.

But for the first time since 2005, the Dumais brothers competed in the same national championships, all three in the three-meter final won Saturday by Stanford freshman Kristian Ipsen.

And all three diving brothers from Ventura will compete Sunday at the Spieker Aquatic Center at UCLA on the final day of the AT&T National Diving Championships. Troy will dive with Ipsen and Justin and Dwight will be partners in the three-meter synchronized final.

Don't call them the Dumais Diving Dynasty, though.

"No dynasty," said Justin. "We're just three guys who love diving."

Troy, 31, is aiming for his fourth Olympics, having participated in 2000, 2004 and 2008. Justin was a 2004 Olympian. Dwight, 25, hasn't competed in an Olympic Games, though he was a college All-American at Stanford.

Justin, who turned 33 Saturday, said what all three Dumais brothers feel. "Diving," Justin said, "is just fun."

Troy trains at the University of Texas and works full time as a life advisor for the Longhorns football team.

Dwight, who also trains in Austin, was able to laugh, a little, about his Saturday miscue.

"A hit just happens," Dwight said. "I was furious of course but then you realize funnier things have happened so you stay within yourself."

Troy was more introspective after his near win. He led after five dives, but his difficulty wasn't quite high enough at the end when he was passed by Ipsen and runner-up Drew Livingston.

"I knew what I needed to get on that final dive," Troy said. "Straight 10s. What was I happy about today? I'm happy about the way I set up every dive. I was a little bit off on the entries, which is usually what I'm good at. But I'm not displeased, not displeased at all."

It is Troy who seems most unfulfilled without an Olympic medal.

"I haven't finished what I want to do," he said. "It's no secret. That Olympic medal is something I'm missing. I still have something left in the tank and the Olympics is the one that's held back. So I want to give it my all until I've got nothing."

Justin actually did quit the sport for about four months last year, thinking he was ready to go full time in his flying career. He's also married — his wife Amy is in medical school — and has moved to Florida. But he also said he stills feels that Olympics pull.

"It's out there," he said. "One more shot, I think I have that in me."

And since there hasn't been a Summer Olympics without a Dumais since 1996, it's hard to count the brothers out in 2012.

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