

Dear North Carolina Waterski Hall of Fame Committee,

I would like to nominate Clint Culp for the North Carolina Water-ski Hall of Fame. Clint was a young man who excelled at every aspect of waterskiing. Not only did he achieve greatness through his on the water activity, but also through his sportsmanship and interaction within the waterskiing community.

Clint was born and lived all of his life on Badin Lake. He first learned to ski at the age of three with his brother John Henry and his parents Hank and Judy. Clint entered his first tournament at the age of six. He made his first regional appearance in Destin, Florida in 1991. He went on to ski in the next six consecutive Regional and National tournaments. In 1993, his last year in boys I, Clint finished second in slalom and fifth in tricks at the regionals in West Palm Beach, along with setting new state records in both events. 1996 was Clint's year to excel in slalom and jumping. At the State Championships at Skyview Lake he set a new Boys II slalom record off 1 at 35 off while jumping a personal best of 99 feet. At Regionals that year, he won the slalom title and finished second in jumping. His true claim to fame came with a return visit to Destin, Florida for the 1996 Nationals. Clint was the number 2 seed in slalom and number 3 seed in jump. He finished the jump event third with a jump of 98 feet. In slalom however, he brought home the National Boys II title with a score of 2 buoys at 35 off. Clint was unable to compete in 1997 and 1998 because of a fractured bone in his back. When he returned in 1999, he stunned us all in his first tournament with an awesome performance of 3 at 38 off.

Not only did Clint excel on the water, he was also a true sportsman in all that he did off the water. Never in the time that I knew Clint did I ever see him with any kind of attitude. No matter how bad his set was, he left it all out on the water. He was always the person to congratulate someone on a great performance. Although he was a fierce competitor, he always made time for his friends in the sport. I met Clint on July 10th 1999 at Coble Ski School where we instantly formed a very close bond. If it were not for Clint I would not have had the chance to get into the sport the way that I have. Even though he was as great a skier he was always pushing me to be a better skier than he was. I will never forget the great times that we shared together from skiing to just hanging out on the dock. I feel as though he brought many people in the sport closer together and also took the time to open many windows of opportunity to the people of the sport. There are not many skiers at the age of 16 that will put other people's skiing before their own and that is exactly what Clint did. He loved to see others ski well and have fun. Clint was a great skier, but in my mind he was a great person and very dear friend.

Clint loved the sport of waterskiing very much. Many of us had the privilege of knowing him and calling him a friend and he will always hold a special place in each of our hearts especially mine. For these reasons I nominate Clint Culp for and believe that he should be a member of the North Carolina Waterski Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey C. Miller