

Caesar Garcia
Baton Rouge, La.
Men's 3-meter, Platform, Synchro 3-meter, Synchro Platform

Illusive, considerate and determined. That's how diver Caesar Garcia would describe himself. Well, maybe just considerate and determined.

"I just think it would be cool to be illusive," Garcia said.

But maybe it was just an excuse to get one of his favorite quotes from a movie into the conversation.

"I love the movie Mr. Deeds when the butler says, 'you underestimated the power of my sneakiness,'" he said.

As for being considerate, he grew up with six brothers and sisters and said that they all learned to look out for each other.

By looking at this Olympic Trials bound diver, determination is also evident.

"I've always believed that talent can only get you so far," Garcia said.

The Louisiana native placed second at the Speedo American Cup in 2003 and 2004 on the platform, and won both synchro events last year with Matt Bricker.

He's performed on 3-meter and platform events consistently, but has focused more on platform in preparation for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Diving presented by Bank of America. He will also team up with Bricker for the 10-meter synchro event.

"I'm excited about the Trials," he said. "I can't wait for 10-meter synchro and I'm feeling pretty confident about my 10-meter individual event."

His confidence may stem from the rigorous training he has gone through at Auburn University.

"We do something called 'circuit' in the fall with the swimmers and it is torture in its most demented form," he said. "Our strength coach dreams up some crazy stations in the weight room and after about three hours of intense pain, you can hardly move. It's great!"

Despite liking extreme conditioning, Garcia enjoys composing music on the piano and the computer. He usually listens to his songs between dives to get him pumped up.

"My songs are sort of techno-sounding," he said. "But my favorite song to listen to during meets is 'Everlong' by Foo Fighters."

Another way he relaxes is by golfing.

"It reminds of diving," he said. "It's also a great way to relieve stress when diving is not going the way I want it to."

He hopes his diving is going the way he wants it to at the U.S. Trials, where he placed 14th in 2000 on the platform. Being illusive and considerate may not help at the Trials, but his determination will likely contribute to his performance.