

Spending Summer with Sports

Text by Agnes M. Abrao

Half-Filipino half-German Jacque Buskowitz relishes the summers with her fetish on water sports.



For 18-year old Jacque Buskowitz, summers would mean vacation, more time for water and water sports, and planning what to do in college.

She has spent much of her grown up years liking the water—swimming and engaging in water sports. Although she is exposed to the chic and cutting edge summer vacations in Germany or Austria with her family, going wakeboarding or snowboarding, is almost always a summer staple for this beautiful recent graduate of the German European School in Manila (GESM).

Buskowitz is loving the feeling of the country's varied vibrant resources to get her hands into sports.

"In my case, summer is the perfect time to travel in Germany and try out different wake parks to go wake boarding in, since Germany has over 70 cables. Other activities I think of, also include kitesurfing, surfing, jet skiing, beach volleyball and fun

activities wherein you're on an inflatable object that is being pulled at 20 km/h," says the pretty teenager.

She relates that two years ago, she and her brother spent their summer party in Austria, "going snowboarding for the first time and skiing after a long time."

Sports, for her, is fun. "After my brother and I went around to check out different wake park cables, and we found a turn-cable, which we really liked. I learned new tricks on that wake park since I board regular (left foot forward) and the other wake park was turning the other way around, which gave me a benefit," she shares.

Life-changing Year for the Teener
Stepping off the "academic treadmill" and now taking a gap year to explore other interests, Buskowitz says she will be spending it by going wake boarding, traveling and learning about business, which she plans to pursue for further studies

after her gap year.

While she is a self-confessed water sports lover, her interests vary. As natural as she is in the water, she relates that since she was four years old, her parents, Jochen and Methuselah Buskowitz, would send her every day to try figure skating.

"This gave me the push to do sports from the beginning on and now makes me crave for something tiring but fun every now and then," adds the determined teenager.

"Compared to sports, my other hobbies can seem quite different. I like to play the piano by ear, which gives me the challenge of listening to a song so deeply until I figure out how to play it. Nevertheless I also dance jazz, lyrical and hip-hop dance, which keep me busy during summer also when dancing with my friends," Buskowitz says, proving that she doesn't confine herself to water activities.



Jacque Buskowitz loves to bask in the sun, sand and sea. She equally loves the snow and spends some time skiing with her brother in Germany and Austria. Photo at far right shows Jacque at home with her lovable pets.

Own Timeline

But as a kid growing up in the Philippines, Buskowitz loved the Philippine beaches and enjoyed going to Boracay.

"Boracay, that's where I started loving the beach. This made me try all the boarding activities and started off with windsurfing. The water right below the board also gives you the feeling of safety knowing when you fall, it might not even hurt as much, which can make you more motivated to try out new and riskier tricks," she shared.

"Since I recently spent a lot of time on my studies, I didn't have the chance to go wake boarding that often. However, I still went to the gym frequently and went swimming every now and then. I definitely encourage today's youth to engage in sports since it's

not just physically healthy but also mentally and emotionally. It makes one just feel so much better knowing what you've done," she explains.

Buskowitz is happy to have graduated high school in a multi-cultural, multi-national environment like the GESM in Merville, Paranaque.

With high school done and now enjoying her gap year, Buskowitz may have more opportunities to explore her interests and passions.

While she's at it, summer for some is spent on shenanigans, quite normal for the youth who continues to explore more, Buskowitz has this advice to her fellow teenagers:

"I advise them to travel and try out different wake parks and go kitesurfing. I'm not as experienced with surfing itself though, so wouldn't know much about it. When wake boarding, you get to meet the coolest people that you don't want to forget. It gives you the idea of a small world," she says.

Her dreamy-eyed expression may suggest a typical girlish wonder, but Buskowitz has her future mapped out on her mind.

"I'd like to be a businesswoman wherein I have enough time to do my sports and workout," she says firmly.

Her answer reflects the intensity of an 18-year old, versatile and gets pleasure in sports, fitness, education and travel. ■