

9-yr-old Helps Disabled Brother Finish Triathlons by Huffington Post

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□Over the weekend, brothers Cayden and Connor Long joined hundreds of other children as they competed in the first annual New England Kids Triathlon in Cambridge, Mass., Examiner.com reports.

□The boys did not win the event -- they didn't even come close. But that didn't stop them from winning hearts across the Internet.

□The Long brothers are not your typical triathletes. Six-year-old Cayden has cerebral palsy and can neither walk nor talk. But thanks to the dedication of his older brother, Connor, the young boy has participated in several triathlons.

□"People don't realize that when you're special needs and in a wheelchair, you won't be able to get out that much," 9-year-old Connor told ESPN in November last year.

□Wanting to help his brother experience sports like other children, Connor asked his parents if he and Cayden could compete together in a triathlon after he saw an ad for one last year.

□His parents agreed and after working out the details with the event's organizer, Connor and Cayden -- under the name Team Long Brothers -- took part in their first triathlon last June. It was held in Nashville, Tenn., not far from the boys' hometown of Whitehouse.

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□With Connor pushing and pulling his younger brother through the 2.5 mile course, the boys ended up coming in second last. But neither seemed to mind very much.

□"[It was] pretty inspiring to some people and it was cool to me that I took on the challenge to pull my younger sibling," said Connor, who uses a special raft, cart and stroller to get his brother around the race course.

□He added that it's just finishing the race that matters to him. That, and making sure his brother is enjoying himself.

□"When I see him smiling and laughing, that means he's having a good time," Connor told ESPN.

□According to Examiner.com, the brothers have already competed in several triathlons around the country, including the 2011 Iron Kids Triathlon.

□Cayden's mother said that participating in these events has given Cayden an extraordinary gift.

□"I know it's changed him," she said. "With the help of his brother, he's found something he can do."

□These photos of Connor and Cayden from the New England Kids Triathlon were posted by user jet_tripleseven on the social news site Reddit:

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