

Adam Barron, excelled at sports, academics

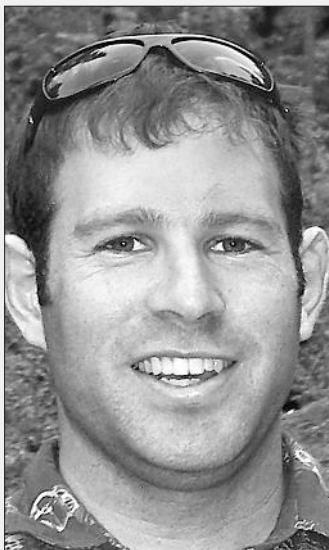
● The 1995 Breck graduate loved skiing, the outdoors and learning Mandarin Chinese.

By AISHA EADY
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Adam Barron did his homework. Whether it was doggedly perfecting his ski technique or staying on top of Margaret Wong's Chinese language assignments, he could be counted on to get it done.

His high school Chinese language teacher, Wong of the Breck School in Golden Valley, said Barron would miss class for several days training for the Junior Olympics. He didn't use his absence as an excuse to fall behind in class. "He would come up to me before he left and ask for all the homework," Wong said. "He would say, 'Don't worry. I'll get it done on the plane.'"

Barron disappeared May 27 while kayaking in the white waters of Vallecito Creek, Colo. He was 29.



MARTY CRONIN

Adam Barron, 29, disappeared May 27 while kayaking in Colorado. Services are Sunday.

Barron, who grew up in Minnetonka and Wayzata, graduated from Breck in 1995. Wong inspired him to spend a semester in China. While there, he became fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

"I can only see his beauti-

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ful smile; he had a winning smile," Wong said.

He was a member of the Buck Hill ski racing team, a state high school slalom champion, and a winner of Division I All-America honors while he was a college skier. In 2000, Barron graduated from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt.

"He persevered in Chinese and in academics. That's why he could get into a good school like Middlebury," Wong said.

It was his love of the outdoors that called him to Colorado about seven years ago. Barron chose to live in Boulder, where he worked as a commercial real estate broker for C.B. Richard Ellis. In his spare time he was a mountain biker, skier and kayaker.

He was well respected in the Denver business community. His colleagues told his

parents that if they lost a major real estate account, Barron was the first to tell them to keep moving. "He was never one to dwell on defeat," his mother, Charlene, said.

Barron's parents, Stephen and Charlene Barron, said they are beginning to learn how many lives he touched. On the day of the accident, a woman with her children videotaped Barron and his friends going into the water. "She said, 'My kids were so excited seeing your son go in and were so inspired by his smile,'" Charlene said.

He is survived by his parents; a brother, Eric, of Denver; a sister, Becca, of Boulder, and three grandparents.

A memorial service will be held at 4:15 p.m. Sunday at Bet Shalom, in Minnetonka.

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