About Me

Education

- BFA – Painting & Visual Arts, *Rutgers University*
- BS – Accounting , *Kean University*

Mason Gross (Rutgers) is conceptual. I didn't follow that.

Art, guitar, and the worlds are self-taught.

Swimming

I began competitive swimming at age 9 and competed through age 14 after moving to a highly competitive community where swimming carried considerable pressure.

In 1989, at age 14, I competed at the YMCA Nationals in Florida.

At the meet, I broke the New Jersey YMCA 13–14 50-yard freestyle state record with a 22.09,

and swam 48.39 in the 100-yard freestyle which broke the record at FSPY, where I trained.

My 50-yard freestyle time in the 4-man medley relay was 21.78. which was faster than my 22.09 state record time.

Our coach was Craig Beardsley ,

who had held the world record in the 200-meter butterfly from 1980 to 1983.

The pressure of competitive swimming eventually led me to step away from the sport around age 15.

Below is the original 1989 YMCA Nationals meet record document and screenshots of my freestyle events.

The YMCA Nationals meet record shows my friends and I—all just 14 years old — competing against swimmers who were 16, 17, and even 18 years old.

If you look for age 14 in the meet record, you will find my friends and I representing FSPY, or Fanwood, NJ.

We traveled to competitions on the weekends for years in every season. Once I qualified for YMCA Nationals at age 14, preparation began with early-morning practice three days per week, followed by another practice after school every day.

This was a full-time job.

Our training combined weightlifting, sit-ups, push-ups, mile runs, and hours in the pool.

This was the reality. We were 14-year-old kids training under Craig Beardsley ,
who had qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team but never got to compete because of the U.S. boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

On July 30, 1980, he set the world record in the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 1:58.21.

On August 22, 1981, he broke his own world record again, swimming 1:58.01. That record stood until 1983, only two years later.

YMCA Nationals in Florida - 1989 - My Times at age 14

Download the YMCA Nationals 1989 meet record

View my 50-yard freestyle NJ state record in 1989: 22.09

View my 100-yard freestyle: 48.39

View my 200-yard freestyle: 1:51.12

View 400-yard 4-man relay - My 50-yard freestyle time: 21.78 (fastest)

My main events were the 50 and 100-yard freestyle.

Swimming: Then and Now (1989 - 2026) 37 years

Worlds away and seconds apart.

Download the 2026 YMCA 13-14 boys - NJ swimming state records - PDF (njswim.org)

View the 13-14 boys short course yard (SCY) NJ state records as of 2026.

The NJ state record for 13-14 boys 50-yard free as of 2026 is 20.59 set in 2017.

The NJ state record for 13-14 boys 100-yard free as of 2026 is 45.51 set in 2025.

For the 50 free, my fastest in 1989 was 21.78 - 20.59 current = only a 1.19 second difference done 28 years earlier for a kid to swim 2 laps in a swimming pool.

For the 100 free, my fastest in 1989 was 48.39 - 45.51 current = only a 2.88 second difference done 36 years earlier for a kid to swim 4 laps in a swimming pool.

I was unable to find any scanned document of my NJ 50-yard freestyle NJ YMCA state record from 1989.

The oldest recorded state online records for YMCA NJ swimming I could find were from 2004.

The only evidence I have that I even held a YMCA state record in 1989 is because someone scanned this document (YMCA nationals meet in 1989 - Florida), that has my name and times at age 14, and put it online.

Conclusion

The reality of it: These are meets with seconds and split second differences between swimmers.They all deserved a gold medal , honestly.

The records that take years to achieve are broken within a few years by someone else.

No one saw this back then. I doubt they see it now 37 years later, and seconds away.

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