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.