

Bobby Patten

US Masters Swimming



A native of Colorado and a High School All American, he earned a scholarship to compete at Southern Methodist University. He was a five-time NCAA division I All American.

Patten began his competitive swimming career as a six year old swimming at the Denver Athletic Club in downtown Denver, swimming for Coach Gene Mack.

He moved to the DU Hilltoppers and Coach Steve Hadley. As a ten year old Patten was ranked second in the country in the 100 Meter Fly, a time that was also the Colorado State record.

When the Hilltoppers moved from DU to Englewood High School, Patten moved with the team and continued to swim with Coach Hadley. He qualified for the Jr. Nationals as a 14 year. Upon Hadley's retirement he began swimming for Mike Doane, and later that year set the National Record in the 200 yard butterfly.

Doane left Englewood the next season and Jimmy Railey and Eric Craven took the helm. Under the direction of Craven and Railey, Patten qualified for senior Nationals in 1980 and swam the Olympic trials in the summer of 1980.

Patten attended Littleton High School and swam for coach Stringy Ervin. While at Littleton Patten was high school state champion in the 100 butterfly '79, '80, '81; 500 Freestyle '79, 200 IM '80 and 100 Back '81. He also swam the butterfly on the state Championship medley relay '80 and '81. While at Littleton the Lions won the state Championships all three years. He was a high school All American all three years of his high school career.

During his age group career Patten set over 100 Colorado State Records, competed in five Jr. Nationals and Two Sr. Nationals and the 1980 Olympic Trials.

Following in the footsteps of Colorado swimming Stars Richard "Cat Daddy" Hess and Dr. Eddie Fuller, Patten accepted a scholarship to Swim for Southern Methodist University and Coach George McMillion. While at SMU Patten was a five time NCAA All American, represented the United States at the 1982 world Championships along with other Colorado swimmers Sam Worden, George Di Carlo and Jennie Childes.

In the 1983 season Patten swam the butterfly on the NCAA Championship Relay, which set the American and US Open record. This record was made possible by a 51 second breaststroke swum by Olympian Steve Lundquist. Patten said the freestyler and I had a race plan, we knew we would be ahead at the end of the breast, so we decided it would best if we "just don't false start."

After college Patten continued to compete and represented the US at the Pan Pacific games in 1987. During that season he was again reunited with long time friend and coach Mike Doane.

While in college, Patten began coaching masters for The Lone Star Masters Swim club founded by 1976 Olympian Jim Montgomery. In 1999 Montgomery and Patten became business partners and formed Dallas Aquatic Masters or DAM.

As a master swimmer he has set numerous world and national records in the 200 butterfly, the 400, 800, and 1500 freestyle. Patten is an experienced open water swimmer and has been the over-all winner of the Waikiki Roughwater Swim, the Alcatraz Sharkfest Swim, and the Lake Minnetonka 5-mile Open Water National Championship Swim.

He was named United States Masters Swimming coach of the year in 2010.

Patten lives in Dallas with his daughter Kaari.