

SPEEDO Present's Olympic Gold Medalist Tyler Clary at 2014 YMCA Nationals



Scott Tyler Clary won gold in the 200-meter backstroke in his Olympic debut at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Clary set a new Olympic record and defeated US teammate Ryan Lochte in the race.

Clary will visit Greensboro, North Carolina on Monday, March 31, 2014 on behalf of one of his sponsors, SPEEDO. Clary will sign autographs from 1:00 until 3:30 pm in the Athletes' Village and will stop by the SPEEDO booth to in the YMCA Community Village. At 4:30 pm Clary will be joined by several other Olympic swimmers at the Athletes' Welcome Party at The Pavilion.

Clary has won a total of twelve medals in major international competitions: one gold, seven silver, and four bronze spanning the Summer Olympics, the FINA World Championships, the Pan Pacific Championships, and the Pan American Games.

Clary was born on March 12, 1989 and began swimming at the age of 8 during a water safety class.

His first international competition was at the 2006 Youth Worlds where he won four medals and was named the top male performer of the meet. He attended Riverside Polytechnic High School in Riverside, California, graduating in 2007. He swam competitively for Fullerton Aquatics (FAST Swimming) in Fullerton, California. At the 2007 Pan American Games, Clary earned a silver medal in the 200-meter backstroke, finishing behind Brazilian swimmer Thiago Pereira. At the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, Clary placed third in the 200-meter backstroke and fourth in the 400-meter individual medley.

Clary accepted an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Michigan, where he competed in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition for three years. He was a three-time NCAA national champion, winning the 400-yard individual medley in 2009 and 2010 and the 200-yard backstroke in 2009. Clary was named the 2009 NCAA Swimmer of the Year and received eleven All-American honors.

Clary turned professional in 2010, forgoing his final season at Michigan in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games. He spent the next two years training under Jon Urbanchek at the U.S. Olympic Post-Graduate Training Center at Fullerton Aquatics (FAST Swimming).

On March 27, 2009, Clary broke Michael Phelps' American record in the 400-yard individual medley. One day later, he broke Ryan Lochte's NCAA record in the 200-yard backstroke. At the 2009 National Championships, Clary placed second in both the 200-meter butterfly (1:53.64) and 400-meter individual medley (4:06.96), and qualified to swim both events at the 2009 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Rome. Clary also placed third in both the 200-meter backstroke (1:54.53) and 200-meter individual medley (1:57.25).

At the 2009 World Aquatics Championships, Clary finished behind to Ryan Lochte in the 400-meter individual medley final with a time of 4:07.31. Clary placed fifth in the 200-meter butterfly final with a time of 1:54.45. For his performance, Clary was awarded the breakout performer of the year award at the 2009 Golden Goggles Awards.

At the 2010 National Championships, Clary finished second to Lochte in the 400-meter individual medley, and third in the 200-meter butterfly, 200-meter individual medley and 200-meter backstroke. At the 2010 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships, Clary won three silver medals, all behind Lochte. In the 400-meter individual medley, Clary recorded a time of 4:09.55, behind Lochte's 4:07.59.[24] In the 200-meter

backstroke, Clary finished second in a time of 1:54.90.[25] In the 200-meter individual medley, Clary had a strong comeback to overtake Thiago Pereira for the second position, and finished with a time of 1:57.61. Clary also placed 7th in the 200-meter butterfly. By posting the second-best American performances from either Nationals or Pan Pacs in the 400-meter individual medley, 200-meter backstroke and 200-meter butterfly, Clary has qualified to compete in those events at the 2011 World Aquatics Championships.

At the end of 2010, Clary competed at the 2010 FINA Short Course World Championships in Dubai, where he won silver in the 200-meter backstroke and bronze in the 200 and 400-meter individual medley.

At the 2011 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Shanghai, Clary competed in three events and won two medals, a silver and a bronze. In his first event, the 200-meter butterfly, Clary did not advance past the semifinals, posting a time of 1:56.01 and finishing ninth overall. In the 200-meter backstroke, Clary finished in third place behind Ryan Lochte and Ryosuke Irie with a time of 1:54.69. At the 150-meter mark, Clary was in second place behind Lochte but Irie was able to overtake him for the silver medal. After the race, Clary said, "I won the bronze medal, but that's not what I had expected ... I feel a bit disappointed." In his last event, the 400-meter individual medley, Clary finished second to Lochte with a time of 4:11.17, defending his silver medal from 2009. After the race, Clary said, "This is my second world championships ... Technically, I'm a better swimmer and am more confident. I'll be working on being ready for next summer."

At the 2012 United States Olympic Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, the qualifying meet for the Olympics, Clary made the Olympic team for the first time by finishing second behind Michael Phelps in the 200-meter butterfly with a time of 1:55.12. Later, he also qualified for the 200-meter backstroke by posting a time of 1:54.88, finishing second behind Ryan Lochte. In his first event, the 400-meter individual medley, Clary missed out on a spot on the team by finishing third behind Phelps and Lochte.

In his first event at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, the 200-meter butterfly, Clary placed fifth in the final with a time of 1:55.06, which was slower than the times he posted in the heats (1:54.96) and semifinals (1:54.93). The final was won by Chad le Clos in a time of 1:52.96. In his second and last event of the Olympics, the 200-meter backstroke, Clary won in a time of 1:53.41, bettering Ryan Lochte's Olympic record of 1:53.94. Prior to this race, Clary held a personal best of 1:54.53 set in 2009. Going into the final, Clary posted the top times in the heats (1:56.24) and semifinals (1:54.71), but was not considered the favorite as Lochte was the defending Olympic and world champion. In the final of the 200-meter backstroke, Lochte lead Clary throughout the race and at the 150-meter mark, Clary was 0.12 seconds behind Lochte. During the last 50-meters however, Clary powered home with a split of 28.48, overtaking Lochte and winning gold. For Clary, it was also the first major international gold he won in his career.

In his first event at the 2013 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Barcelona, Clary competed in the 200-meter butterfly and placed 7th in the final with a time of 1:56.34. Clary won his first medal of the competition, a bronze, in the 200-meter backstroke, recording a time of 1:54.64 in the final and repeating his result in the event from 2011. In his third and last event, the 400-meter individual medley, Clary was just off the podium with a fourth place finish, finishing with a time of 4:10.39.

A motorsports enthusiast, Clary hopes to race cars professionally when his swimming career is over.