

PJ Ransford from the PACK Swim Team in Pittsford, New York (near Rochester) has verbally committed to the University of Michigan, joining their loaded distance group. He trains there and at Pittsford High School, under the legendary coach Marty Keating.

"The coaching staff, the team chemistry, and training environment made it a perfect fit for me. I have 100% confidence that Coach (Mike) Bottom and Coach (Josh) White will help me to become the best swimmer I can be, and I felt that I fit in with the team very well," Ransford said of his decision. He added that "on the academic side, Michigan has an excellent engineering school," in which he intends to enroll.

Ransford has yards bests of 4:26.11, 9:16.04, and 15:45.04 in the 500, 1000, and 1650 yard freestyles. In yards, that 500 free is his best time.

Looking into long course, though, it's clear that his 1650 yard time will be coming down soon enough. At the U.S. Open this summer, he was 4:01.3, 8:12.5, and 15:35.9 in the 500, 800, and 1500 meter freestyles.

He'll join the next wave of a Michigan distance group that is absolutely dominant on the Big Ten level. Last season, Michigan had six of the eight fastest guys in the conference in the 500, but of them, the only one returning after the current season is Anders Nielsen.

Ransford joins a class that also includes distance swimmer **Alexander Katz** from Florida, who's a 4:24.9 in the 500 yard free.

This duo feels a bit like when Ryan Feeley and Sean Ryan came to Ann Arbor a few years ago (they were one class apart). Katz and Ransford will have to have some drops as seniors to be as good as Ryan and Feeley were coming out of high school, but this latest duo also includes one swimmer from New York, and one from the Southeastern U.S.; they all even kind of look the same, too. That pair of Ryan and Feeley sort of kicked off this present renaissance of Michigan distance swimming, and the Wolverines will hope that their newest pair keeps that tradition going.

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COMMENTS



M_FAN

October 30, 2013 at 2:21 pm

↑0 ↓0

Go Blue! He was only 16 when he swam the 15:35 1500 LCM!

Out of the 10 recruits Michigan has gotten, 9 of them have national times standards. And those 9 are all ranked top 10 in their age group.

REPLY ↩



JONTI

October 30, 2013 at 4:00 pm

↑0 ↓0

Congrats to PJ!

But wow, to see Marty Keating's name on SwimSwam just blew me away. He was my first coach and will always be associated with fond memories. He was, and likely still is, an imposing figure on the pool deck. That said, and just like the last coach I ever had Bill Rose, as long as you put in the effort, we respect the staff and your teammates, they would move mountains for you.

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MATT

October 30, 2013 at 5:33 pm

↑0 ↓0

Not surprised by this.

Last year, PJ's older brother Shea chose to attend Michigan (not to swim, just to go to school). The two have been very close for as long as I can remember, and both are awesome kids. I'm sure the opportunity to spend more time together contributed significantly to his decision to become a wolverine.

Watch out for PJ (or Pickle Juice as we used to call him) to do big things next year!

REPLY ↩

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