



Background Bio

Schuyler Bailar was a star student at Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC – one of the top private schools in the country, graduating in 2014. He was aggressively recruited by most of the Ivy League and eventually committed to swim for Harvard. Schuyler Bailar is also the first openly transgender athlete to compete in any sport on an NCAA Division 1 men's team.

Schuyler's love of swimming started with Mommy-and-me classes before he was a year old and he was swimming solo before his first birthday. Schuyler competed in his first meet at the age of 7 and by 10 Schuyler was competing in the Junior Olympics. By 13, Schuyler qualified for his first National level competition, and less than two years later, Schuyler was ranked one of the top 20 15-year-old breast stroke swimmers in the United States.

In the summer of 2012 Schuyler broke his back in three places in a biking accident. He was released from an upper body brace shortly before swimming championships began. He went on to win all three of the DC-area 100-yard breast stroke championships and qualified as an All-American (a feat repeated his senior year). At the 2013 NCSA Jr. National Championships he qualified for the U.S. Open – the fastest U.S. meet in a non-Olympic year.

At the 2013 USA Swimming National Championships, Schuyler's 400-yard Medley Relay Team set the U.S. 15-18 year-old Age Group National Record.

Schuyler also holds dozens of team records for his summer league and high school teams.

Throughout his journey, but particularly in high school, Schuyler struggled with issues of body image and self-esteem, often battling with disordered eating and self-harm. In the spring of his senior year, he decided to take a gap year before enrolling in college to deal with these issues. In therapy, it became clear that Schuyler's real struggle was with gender identity and that he was transgender. This presented Schuyler with the most difficult decision ever: whether to continue as a possible NCAA champion – on the women's team – or to transition to a man and be authentic to himself, accepting the consequences and challenges it would entail.

Schuyler's choice – to be true to himself – has been historical. His story hit Facebook's top-trending news when it came out and has been recounted globally in hundreds of media outlets from *The Washington Post* and *60 Minutes*, and *The Ellen Show*. MTV cited his story in their list of "2015's Best Moments for the Trans Community" and *Buzzfeed* named him one of the "11 Transgender people who are shifting our views."

Schuyler's advocacy includes speaking to schools, governments, corporations and non-profit groups about inclusion and diversity. In 2016, he was awarded the SMYAL Community Advocacy Award and in 2017 his *60 Minutes* profile was nominated for a GLAAD MEDIA Award. Schuyler was selected for the 2016 NCAA Common Ground II – a group dedicated to advancing diversity and inclusion in college sports. Schuyler tells his journey on Instagram – @Pinkmantaray – which has tens of thousands of followers, so that others can explore his example personally.