

## Mooney's Ceddia is boys swimmer of the year



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Cardinal Mooney swimmer Patrick Ceddia repeated as the Class 1A state champ in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle his senior year.

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Patrick Ceddia could not have envisioned all the success that has come his way since he started swimming competitively for the Sarasota Family YMCA Sharks when he was 10 years old.

During that time, Ceddia experienced rapid development.

Years later, as a senior at Cardinal Mooney High, Ceddia certainly hasn't slowed down. He recently capped off a sensational high school career by repeating as the Class 1A state champ in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events to repeat as the Herald-Tribune's Boys Swimmer of the Year.

Ceddia narrowly edged out Riverview High junior and Sharks distance training partner Nicholas Caldwell for the top honor.

In his final high school competition, Ceddia had a time of 4:24.00 in the 500 and a 1:37.38 in the 200 on the way to easy victories over Fort Lauderdale Pine Crest junior Thomas Veale.

"Winning the state championships my junior and senior years and being recruited by some of the top college programs in the country are highlights," said Ceddia, who has signed a scholarship with the University of North Carolina. "I am also proud that while swimming at Mooney, I earned All-America honors in the 100-, 200- and 500-freestyle events a total of 10 times.

"It's been great being part of the program at Mooney. I've been fortunate to have some really good teammates and coaches. I'd especially like to thank (Mooney) Coach (Alice) Smithers and Coach Brown (Sharks age group coach Steve).

"Coach Smithers and Coach Brown had a great plan that worked at the state meet. My goal was to build to the halfway mark in each race and then hit a higher gear. They wanted me to save my legs. I was able to blast and go when it was time and I was able set two personal bests."

Ceddia, who plans to major in American History, intends to compete in the 200 and 500 freestyles and 200 butterfly, along with relay events, for the Tar Heels.

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