

# Record rekindles memories for former holder

Dave Campbell

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STOCKTON - In 1973, the Vietnam War still was going on, Richard Nixon was president, gasoline was 39 cents a gallon and Eric Morley set the record for 12-year-old boys in the 50-yard butterfly at the Stockton Summer Swim League Championships.

Much has changed the past 40 years, but Morley's record stood, until this year.

On July 20, the second day of the championships at the Cortopassi Aquatics Center, Carson Niemeyer of the North Lake Lappers, who is entering the eighth grade at Sierra Middle School, edged Morley's record by .13 seconds with a time of 30.97 seconds.

When Morley discovered his record had been broken, he wanted to congratulate Niemeyer and reflect on his youthful days.

"My record had become a fun little reference point for the good old days of the Sherwood Manor Sharks and the swim teams that we were all a part of, and that record has kept hanging on for years and years," Morley said. "I had forgotten about it for a while, but it kind of crept back up a few years ago and turned into kind of a cult following for my friends who would call me and tell me, 'Hey, nobody has broken your record this year. It's still there.' "

Morley moved with his family to Utah when he was a senior in high school, and he still lives there. As time went on, his friends kept him posted on the status of his record.

"Year after year, it was kind of a fun thing with my friends," Morley said. "And when the story broke that some of these age-old records had broken, low and behold one of them was mine. Several friends got a hold of me to tell me the record had been broken, and that was a fun moment."

Morley believes Niemeyer is only the third person to hold that record in 70 years.

"It was exciting to see the headline and see that these kids are succeeding and doing well, and I am sure Carson is just floating on air," Morley said. "And when I broke that record, I was told (it had been on the books) for 30 years. That may be folklore, but I was excited about that."

Niemeyer swims year-round with Tiger Aquatics.

"I have been working really hard and it feels really good," Niemeyer said.

Niemeyer had no thoughts of setting a record. He just wanted to better his qualifying time of 34.72, and he did in grand fashion.

"Once I got out of the pool, my coach told me that I broke it and that is when I got really excited because butterfly was not even my best stroke," Niemeyer

said. "I was not even thinking about the record. I just wanted to improve on my time."

Moments before Niemeyer's record-setting swim, North Lake Lappers and Tiger Aquatics teammate Ashley Hunter shattered the record in the 50 butterfly for 12-year-old girls, beating Lisa Webster's record - also set in 1973 - with an effort of 30.53, shaving nearly a second off of Webster's 31.50.

"Ashley is a great swimmer," Niemeyer said. "She swims with the older kids. She loves what she does."

Morley was surprised to learn Webster's record was broken on the same day as his.

"For Lisa Webster's record to fall also meant that must have been an exciting swim meet," he said. "She was quite an athlete."

"Those were some wonderful days and I am so happy that these meets are still going on."

More records were set at this year's meet, including Shelby Richardson in the 7-under 25 breaststroke, Sidney Banks in the 9-year-old 50 breast, Guy Paulin in the 12-year-old 50 breast, Enoka Aumavae in the 11-year-old 50 backstroke, Danny Johns in the 13-14 50 butterfly, Joshua Herron in the 15-18 fly, Bella Nunez in the 9-year-old 50 back, Camden Fong in the 10-year-old back, Julia Delay in the 12-year-old 50 back, and numerous "A" standard times were recorded.