

Uncommon Success

Rudy Garcia - Tolson – *A Brave Heart is a Powerful Weapon*

Rudy Garcia – Tolson was born with Pterygium Syndrome which resulted in a club foot, webbed fingers on both hands, and a cleft lip and palate. By the age of 5, he had already gone through over 15 surgeries and was confined to a wheelchair. It was then, that doctors gave Rudy the choice between remaining in a wheelchair or walking with the help of prosthetics.

He chose to have greater mobility and a full, active life with prosthetics, which required the surgical amputation of both his legs through the knee.

Rudy's achievements in swimming have won him many medals and awards – he is currently only 13 years old. For the average child, these honors would be accomplishment enough to fit in between school and play -- but not for Rudy – he wanted more.

Rudy decided to try running after building his swimming resume, a sport he trains for 5 days a week at two hours a day. He competes against adults and holds national records in swimming and track:

- Swimming - National Record, 200m Breaststroke (4.00.47)
- Swimming - National Record, 400m Individual Medley, (6.56.34)
- Track - National Record, 400m (1.21.48)
- Track - National Record, 800m, (2.51.93)
- Track - National Record, 1500m, (5.57.93)
- Track - National Record, 5000m (23.59.01)
- Track - National Record, Half Marathon (2:22)



Uncommon Success: Rudy Garcia-Tolson has certainly demonstrated “uncommon success” in his life. What's next for Rudy? He has competed in three triathlons with his friend, hero and mentor, Robin Williams and has set his sights on competing in the Iron Man Competition. Rudy has been a spokesperson for the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) since 1999. He travels the country on behalf of CAF providing the inspiration and encouragement to children and adults that they can overcome any obstacle and pursue their dreams. Follow his successes at the CAF website at www.challengedathletes.org. His favorite quote:

A Brave Heart is a Powerful Weapon

Uncommon Success is a program of the Uncommon Friends Foundation designed to inspire, motivate and empower tomorrow's leaders through character and leadership education. We help students make their dreams come true.

Uncommon Friends Foundation

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