



**Matthew Sates**

Professional Swimmer

South African Olympian

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matthew Sates, and I am a South African Olympian, **World Champion**, World Cup Champion, and international swimmer who has had the privilege of representing South Africa on some of the biggest stages in world sport, including the Olympic Games. Throughout my sporting career I have been fortunate to compete internationally, break records, and achieve success at the highest level of swimming. While my professional achievements have taken me around the world, one thing that has remained constant is the friendships and relationships formed during my childhood, and that is where my connection with Jesse Breytenbach began.

I have known Jesse since we were both six years old. We grew up together, attended school together, and I have had a front-row seat to watching him develop into the talented musician, dedicated professional, and exceptional person he is today.

Having known Jesse and his family for two decades, I can confidently say that they are one of the most supportive, close-knit, and loving families I have ever known. What always stood out to me was the unwavering commitment his parents showed towards Jesse and his ambitions. Whether it was sport, music, or any other opportunity that allowed him to grow and develop, they were always there encouraging him every step of the way.

I have countless memories of seeing his family on the side of rugby fields week after week, supporting Jesse and cheering him on. Their presence was never occasional— it was consistent. They showed up, they invested their time, and they made it clear that Jesse's goals and passions mattered to them. Looking back now, it is easy to see how that level of support helped shape the person he has become.

What impressed me most was that their support extended far beyond sport. As Jesse's passion for music grew, so did their encouragement. They believed in him long before many others did and continuously supported his development as a musician. I saw firsthand how they created an environment where he felt confident pursuing his dreams and where hard work, commitment, and perseverance were encouraged and celebrated.

Over the years, I watched Jesse's musical ability develop from a natural talent into a professional career built on dedication and countless hours of work. His success was never something that happened overnight. It was earned through persistence, discipline, and an incredible work ethic. Through **CANVYR**, his rock band with his father, Neil Breytenbach from Prime Circle, Jesse has helped build a new rising South African sound that is gaining recognition both locally and internationally. Seeing Jess and **CANVYR**, tour overseas, perform for international audiences and receive international awards while still so young in his career has been amazing to watch, especially knowing where it all started. None of this just happened, it is the result of watching

Jess's years of hard work, commitment, and refusal to give up on his goals and dreams. Even as his career progressed and despite his success, he has remained humble, approachable, and genuinely appreciative of those around him.

Beyond his talent, Jesse has always been someone of strong character. He is loyal, honest, respectful, and dependable. He has a natural ability to bring people together and build meaningful relationships. Whether on a sports field, in a classroom, or later in his professional career, he has always carried himself with integrity and treated others with kindness and respect. I passionately believe that much of who Jesse is today can be traced back to the values instilled in him by his family. Their love, encouragement, and constant support provided a foundation that allowed him to pursue excellence while staying grounded and true to himself. As someone who has seen this firsthand from childhood through adulthood, I can say without hesitation that Jesse's family played an instrumental role in helping him become the person and professional he is today.

It has been a privilege to know Jesse and his family for so many years, and I am proud to offer my strongest recommendation and support. They are people of exceptional character, genuine integrity, and unwavering commitment to one another. The support I saw throughout Jesse's life was remarkable, and I have no doubt that it contributed significantly to the success he has achieved and will lead to Jesse and **CANVYR'S** growth and success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Sates*

**Matthew Sates Olympian | World Champion | World Cup Champion**

**South African National Swimmer • Competed for South Africa at both the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

- **Winner of the overall FINA Swimming World Cup men's title in 2021 after collecting 18 medals, including 13 gold medals.**
- **2022 World Short Course Champion in the 200m Individual Medley and winning bronze in the 400m Individual Medley.**
- **Multiple African and South African records and setting several junior worlds records.**
- **Winning an NCAA title in the United States while swimming for the University of Georgia.**