

**General Information**

Country:	JPN
Gender:	M
Handedness:	Left-handed
Date of birth:	1987-07-15
License:	15071987003

**Further Personal Information**

Occupation	Athlete, Office Worker
Languages	Japanese
Higher education	Politics - Hosei University: Tokyo, JPN

**Sport Specific Information**

When and where did you begin this sport?	He began fencing at high school in Echizen, Japan. He initially took up foil, but switched to epee after starting university.
Why this sport?	He was involved in karate for six years while he was in primary school, and played volleyball in middle school. He began fencing at high school following encouragement from his father.
Club / Team	Nexus: Japan
Name of coach	Oleksandr Gorbachuk [national], UKR
Handedness	Left

**International Debut**

Year	2008
Competing for	Japan
Tournament	World Cup
Location	Montreal, QC, CAN

**General Interest**

Nicknames	Kazu ( <a href="https://nexus-group.jp">nexus-group.jp</a> , 19 May 2015)
Most influential person in career	His high school coach Katsuaki Moroe. ( <a href="https://the-ans.jp">the-ans.jp</a> , 17 Jan 2023)
Hero / Idol	Japanese feudal lord Nobunaga Oda. ( <a href="https://gunosy.com">gunosy.com</a> , 22 May 2019)
Injuries	In March 2021 he sustained a hernia. He put off surgery until after the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. ( <a href="https://instagram.com">Instagram profile</a> , 17 Nov 2021, 10 Sep 2021)  He sustained injuries to his neck and his shoulders at the 2016 World Cup event in Vancouver, BC, Canada. ( <a href="https://sankei.com">sankei.com</a> , 15 Feb 2016)
Sporting philosophy / motto	"Don't set limits for yourself." ( <a href="https://the-ans.jp">the-ans.jp</a> , 17 Jan 2023)
Milestones	Along with Koki Kano, Masaru Yamada, and Satoru Uyama, he was part of the men's epee team that won Japan's first gold medal in any fencing discipline at the Olympic Games. They beat ROC in the final at the 2020 Games in Tokyo. ( <a href="https://SportsDeskOnline.com">SportsDeskOnline</a> , 09 Apr 2022; <a href="https://mainichi.jp">mainichi.jp</a> , 30 Jul 2021)  He became the first fencer representing Japan to win a medal in men's individual epee at the world championships by claiming silver at the 2022 edition of the tournament in Cairo, Egypt. ( <a href="https://SportsDeskOnline.com">SportsDeskOnline</a> , 13 Jun 2023; <a href="https://the-ans.jp">the-ans.jp</a> , 17 Jan 2023)
Ambitions	To win individual and team gold in epee at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. ( <a href="https://prtimes.jp">prtimes.jp</a> , 30 Jan 2024; <a href="https://nikkansports.com">nikkansports.com</a> , 10 Aug 2021)
Other information	<b>ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE</b> In August 2017 he was voted onto the International Fencing Federation [FIE] athletes' commission. He has also served as chair of the Japanese Fencing Federation athletes' committee. ( <a href="https://prtimes.jp">prtimes.jp</a> , 30 Jan 2024; <a href="https://fie.org">fie.org</a> , 04 Aug 2017)  <b>AMBIDEXTROUS</b> He is naturally right-handed, but trained himself to fence left-handed. ( <a href="https://hochi.news">hochi.news</a> , 31 Jul 2021)