

Patriot Press

Fall 2018

Direct from Duje ...

Welcome to the fall session at Patriot Aquatics!

The beginning of this fall session marked the beginning of Patriot Aquatics' second year. For those of you who are new to our club, let me take this opportunity to welcome you and tell you that I'm glad you're here! I view Patriot Aquatics as a family, and I'm thrilled to see our family grow! It has been such a pleasure to see how much we have grown not only in numbers but as a team of coaches, athletes and families working together. I want to thank all the families for their continuous support and time put into driving our young athletes to practice and tournaments, as well as providing snacks, hydration kits and other things that help our athletes recover in between games.

It was a busy summer for Patriot Aquatics. I am especially pleased that we were able to send six teams to the 2018 Junior Olympics! We tripled our JO representation over the two teams we sent last year. Our 10U, 14U, 16U, and 18U boys, plus our 16U and 18U girls teams traveled to San Jose for the JO tournament. Our 16U boys finished 3rd in the gold division!

That impressive performance came on the heels of their

visit to my homeland of Croatia, where they attended a water polo camp in preparation for the JOs.

On the swim side, our summer session athletes competed in a swim meet held at our Beckman pool in all strokes (25 and 50-yard lengths) as well as 100 yard freestyle. Our high school swimmers also competed in the SOCAL and AZOT swim meets. New athletes joined us for conditioning as well as for lessons, and some have continued to stay with us into the fall. Our swim club currently has 55 age group swimmers from ages 5-14 and 22 high school swimmers.

Did you know that our board of directors has introduced a referral program for our members? If your family and/or friends join our Patriot family after being referred by you, you will receive a \$100 cash reward!

As the club director, I am proud to report that Patriot Aquatics athletes are role models who not only excel in their sport, but also in school. Nine of our water polo players were recently named as Academic All-Americans by USA Water Polo! Our club also emphasizes being a part



Club director Duje Grubisic

of our surrounding community and giving back to those who need it most. Stay tuned for future service opportunities in our community!

This year, Patriot Aquatics will continue to host swim meets with other local teams, as well as participate in water polo tournaments on a monthly basis. We are also starting a foreign exchange student program with a team from Croatia (see details on the pages to follow), and will be taking teams to Croatia again for summer 2019 ... and 2020 ... and beyond! Have a fabulous fall session, and I will see you on the pool deck!

Sincerely,
Duje Grubisic
Head Patriot Aquatics Coach &
Board President

Fall Session Runs from August 20 - November 15





Congratulations to our 16U Boys ... 3rd Place Medal Winners at JOs!



Patriot 16U medal-winning team (front row, left to right): Dylan Gambill, Joe Waltz, Marcus Yoon, AJ Marsh, goalie Vaughn Bui, Eli Schwarz and Keanu Pascual; Back row: Coach Duje Grubisic, goalie Sam Monette, Richard Yun, Max Abravanel, Bradley Clansen, Cameron An, Elijah Clark, Chris Pukszta and Nathan Monette

JUNIOR OLYMPICS RESULTS

PATRIOT TEAM	PLACEMENT & DIVISION
10U BOYS	24TH, PLATINUM
14U BOYS	14TH, GOLD
16U BOYS	3RD, GOLD
16U GIRLS	41ST, GOLD
18U BOYS	18TH, GOLD
18U GIRLS	5TH, GOLD

Six Patriot Teams Competed on National Stage in 2018 Junior Olympics

Patriot Aquatics is proud of its six teams who competed in this year's Junior Olympics, which were held in San Jose in July. Each team fought hard, competing against teams from all over the United States. All our teams competed in the gold division except the 10U team, which competed in the platinum division. The table to the left shows placement results.



Julian Amakasu (10U) goes up for a shot on day one of the JOs

Meet Patriot Aquatics' Five New Coaches!

AJ Bialik – 12U Boys' Water Polo

Coach AJ started playing water polo at the age of 13 at Split OC (now OCWPC). He quickly fell in love with the sport, and continued to consistently play through college. AJ attended Dana Hills High School, where he was a four-year letter varsity player. In his senior year, he made 2nd team All American and 2nd team All CIF honors while leading the Dolphins to two South Coast League titles. After high school, AJ played at Golden West Community College, where he won two back-to-back state titles. From there, he transferred to Concordia University where he played with Coach Duje for two years, winning back-to-back NAIA titles while being ranked top 10 in the nation. AJ is now a licensed realtor in Orange County and has been working in both residential and commercial real estate for four years. In his free time he enjoys being at the beach, hiking, snowboarding, or watching sports.



Vicky Ochoa – 12U Girls' Water Polo

Having first learned to swim at three months old when her mother signed her up for infant swim lessons, Coach Vicky has been competing in water sports since age five. In 2012, after earning high-point trophies for three years in a row, she was named to the All-American junior team by USA Water Polo. With a spot on the U.S. Olympic Development Team as a high school freshman, Coach Vicky was considered one of the top female water polo players in the state. While competing with the SoCal Water Polo Club, Coach Vicky was named a first-team All-American at the 2016 Junior Olympics. At Santa Margarita Catholic High, she was also an All-CIF Southern Section Division 1 third-team selection and two-time All-Trinity/Moore League first-teamer. During her senior year, she served as the team captain before graduating in 2017. Coach Vicky currently attends and plays water polo for Cal Baptist. "I just love sports – I love to be moving around and in action," she said. "I'm happiest in the water."



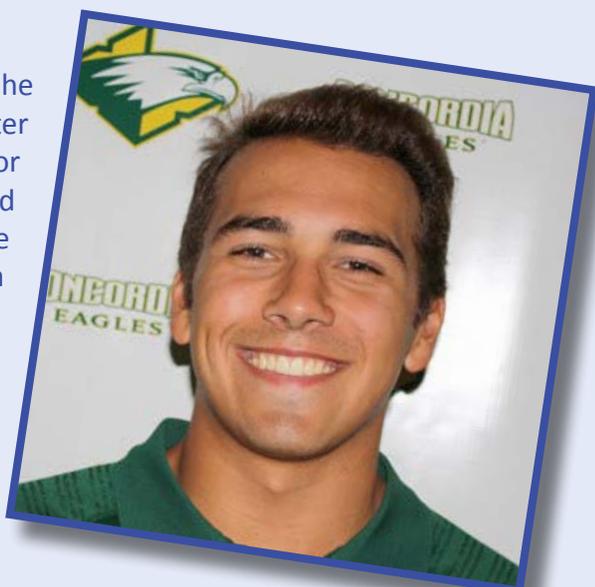
Bailey Dillard – 14U Girls' Water Polo

Coach Bailey has been a swimmer since a very young age and was introduced to water polo at the age of nine, when she joined and spent two years at the Northwood Water Polo Club before switching to SET to be with her sister. After two years with SET, she switched back to Northwood, where she spent the rest of her club career. For high school, Coach Bailey attended Northwood High for her freshman year before transferring to Orange Lutheran for her final three years. At OLu, Coach Bailey had the honor of taking part in the development of what was then their new water polo program, which won Division 1 CIF in their fourth year of existence. Coach Bailey played varsity water polo and swam all four years of high school. While in college in Arlington, Texas, Coach Bailey served as vice president of her school's club team for a year and a half, and also coached with the Thunder Water Polo Club for a year. Last summer, she began coaching at Costa Mesa Aquatics Club. Coach Bailey loves being an influence on both the athletic and character development of her players!



Cristiano Tomassetti – Swimming

Coach Cristiano was born and raised in Riverwoods, Illinois, where he started swimming and playing water polo at age 11. He played club water polo for the Northern Illinois Polo Club, with whom he attended the Junior Olympics four times. He attended Stevenson High School, swimming and playing varsity water polo all four years. In his junior and senior years, he earned All Conference, All Sectional, and All State honors, and won team MVP in his senior year. He led his team to three 2nd place finishes and one 4th place finish in the Illinois water polo state finals during his high school career. He is currently a junior at Concordia University, where he plays collegiate water polo. In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar, listening to music and doing anything outdoors-related.



Dan Maleski – Swimming

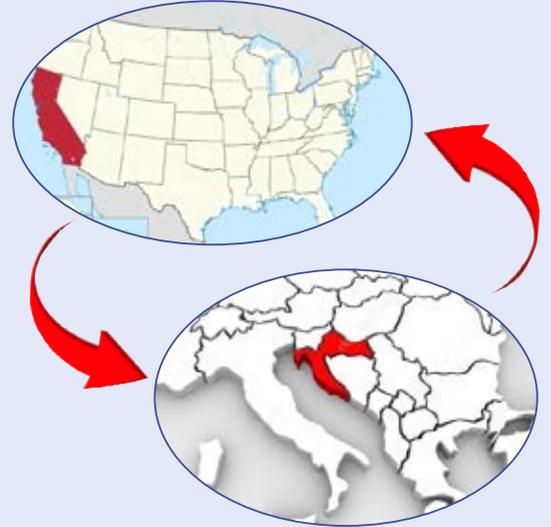
Coach Dan is from Long Grove, Illinois, and has been swimming and playing water polo for the last eight years. He played water polo for Stevenson High School in Illinois, where his team went undefeated during his senior year, ultimately winning the state championship. Coach Dan had the honor of twice being named on the All American teams (junior and senior years), and on the Illinois All-State teams three times (sophomore, junior, and senior). Currently, Coach Dan is a sophomore at Concordia University, where he is majoring in business management and continues to play water polo. Prior to joining Patriot Aquatics, Coach Dan had coached at the Northern Illinois Polo Club (NIPC), and he hopes to continue coaching for as long as he can.



Water Polo News

Athlete Exchange Program Applications Being Accepted

Patriot Aquatics' Athlete Exchange Program between our club and the Galeb water polo club from Makarska, Croatia is currently accepting applications from interested candidates. Candidates must be high-school aged student athletes who demonstrate excellence in the classroom, have exceptional behavior, and are adept water polo players. A personal essay and teacher recommendations are a part of the application process. The selection committee will review applications in mid-November, and the winner(s) will be announced in January. The exchange is slated to take place next summer, when the winning candidate(s) would spend one month in Croatia to spend time training and getting to know the culture, while players from the Galeb club would come to California to train with Patriot and get to know our culture and people. We hope that this will turn into a lasting partnership and provide our athletes valuable opportunities to get to know different countries and cultures, and hopefully create lifetime friendships!



16U Team Takes Pre-JO "Trip of a Lifetime" to Croatia



Patriot 16U players pose in front of the sign welcoming them to Sibenik, Croatia, where they spent 11 days training and touring.

Playing water polo with a club run by a Croatian has its perks ... like traveling to Croatia with the club director in the summer! Mere weeks before the Junior Olympics, Coach Duje and 13 Patriot players from the 16U team and their families embarked on the first annual Patriot trip to Duje's home country, situated on the beautiful Adriatic coast. While the focus of the trip was specialized water polo training at the Sibenik Water Polo Camp in the morning, afternoons were spent touring the local cities on foot, visiting national parks and waterfalls, exploring old fortresses and churches, and boating to nearby islands to explore their remote coves and beaches. One highlight of the trip for the parents was being granted access to front row seats in the town square to watch Croatia

compete in the World Cup! In addition to receiving high-level training from elite Croatian coaches, the team was challenged by scrimmaging against professional Croatian players, who play the game with a much higher level of physicality (one parent described the scrimmages as "fierce"). Coach Duje reports that our players responded well to the greater physicality, and that the experience carried over and was put to effective use at the Junior Olympics, where they succeeded in winning 3rd place in the gold division. Coach Duje sees the value of this trip going far beyond water polo by providing opportunities for players from different cultures and backgrounds to get to know each other. Coach Duje hopes you will join him on a future trip ... perhaps in summer 2019!

Croatia 2018

Water Polo, Adriatic Coast Style!



Members of the 16U team and their families traveled with Coach Duje to Croatia just weeks prior to the Junior Olympics. They trained at the Sibenik Water Polo Camp ... and came home to win 3rd place at the Junior Olympics!



Nine Patriots Named as Academic All-Americans

Top-Performing Student Athletes Honored by USA Water Polo

Patriot Academic All-Americans

*Kaleb Anderson**

*Elijah Clark**

*Trevor Grubb**

Aidan Miller

Alyssa Nguyen

Christopher Pukszta

*Eli Schwarz**

Joe Waltz

Travus Wilder

**outstanding achievers*

USA Water Polo has announced the Academic All-Americans for the 2017-2018 academic year, and nine of the 1,061 honorees are our very own Patriots! We proudly recognize these athletes for their work in the classroom and in the pool. To qualify for this honor, student-athletes need a 3.6 GPA; those who received a 4.0 GPA are honored as outstanding achievers. Below, six of our honorees are pictured. Not pictured are Aidan Miller, Alyssa Nguyen and Travus Wilder. Congratulations to all our Academic All-American honorees!



*Top row:
Kaleb Anderson,
Elijah Clark,
Trevor Grubb*



*Bottom row:
Christopher Pukszta,
Eli Schwarz,
Joe Waltz*

12U, 14U Girls' Water Polo Teams Added to Club Lineup

Patriot Aquatics is thrilled to announce that we now have two complete age group girls' water polo teams -- a 12U team and a 14U team! Coach Vicky Ochoa is the new 12U girls' head coach, and Coach Bailey Dillard has come on board to coach the 14U girls. Both teams will be competing in our fall tournaments, and we wish them a great start to this new season!

FALL TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT

DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL

SEPT. 22-23

FALL SPA LEAGUE

SEPT. 23

FALL SPA LEAGUE

SEPT. 30

FALL SPA LEAGUE

OCT. 7

EVAN COUSINEAU CUP

OCT. 13-14

FALL SPA LEAGUE

OCT. 21

FALL SPA LEAGUE

OCT. 28

SPA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

TBA

Patriot 12U Boys Win 3rd Place Medal in First Tournament of Season



Congratulations to our 12U boys' team, who combined forces with our 10U boys to capture 3rd place in the Back to School Tournament!

Patriot Swim Club

Age Group Swimming



Patriot Age Group Swimming is for athletes ages 5 - 14 who are interested in learning how to swim or improve their swimming abilities.

Multiple swim instructors are on deck during each practice to assist athletes in strengthening their endurance and technique.

Athletes in this program can participate in our bi-monthly swim trials, which focus on individual improvement and fun competition. Age group athletes can also compete in our monthly hosted swim meets, competing against other local swim teams.

Patriot has two age group swim teams:

Blue Team - for newer and younger swimmers

Red Team - for experienced swimmers under age 14

Practices are held Monday-Thursday afternoons. Please refer to our website for specific times based on athlete age.

USA Swimming-Sanctioned Meets on the Horizon

For any athletes who desire to compete in high-level swim meets and have official times recorded, Patriot Aquatics is in the process of arranging the opportunity for these athletes to compete in USA Swimming sanctioned meets.

High School Age Swim Group Doubles in Size

Showing a high carryover from swimmers who joined us for the summer continuing into the fall, the swim group for high school age athletes has nearly doubled in size compared to last year. Patriot welcomes all our new swimmers!

Year-Round Swim Lessons

Swim lessons are available all year, for all ages, and are one-on-one with a coach in the water.

Lessons are customized for each individual, and can focus on everything from beginner basics and water safety to learning new strokes to improving endurance and technique.

Packages of 8 20-minute lessons or 4 40-minute lessons are available, and can be scheduled between 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.

To sign up for private swim lessons, please go to the "Registration" menu at our website: www.patriotaquatics.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Duje Grubisic at dujepatriotwp@gmail.com.

