

The SOCAL Spotlight

Volume 27, Issue 4

Fall 2015

SOCAL WATER POLO

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE POOL?

Happy Holidays!

I hope you all enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for!

The new school year is in full swing and SOCAL's members are again juggling busy schedules. As our Mission Statement affirms, "SOCAL WPF supports the notion of scholar-athletes who excel in the classroom, in their communities, in their families, and in the swimming pool." As you will see in this newsletter, our scholar athletes are finding success in and out of the pool. 23 High School SOCAL sophomores and juniors qualified as USA Water Polo Academic All Americans. Well done!

Our HS Seniors have been busy writing essays and completing College applications. Several High School girls can breathe a sigh of relief as they signed early college commitments to play water polo. We look forward to hearing of more college commitments over the next few months. Good luck SOCAL High School Seniors!

Keeping with the holiday spirit and thanks to your generous donations, SOCAL Santa and his merry elves will visit deserving Tustin community families soon during our 4th annual adopt a Tustin family project.

SOCAL continues as one of the top clubs in the United States, with success in the pool from youth through high school and college. Thank you to all of the SOCAL community that works so hard to make us a success. It definitely "Takes a Village" to soar above. I am grateful to our players, families, administrators and coaches for your support and hard work.

Thank you all for your dedication this year.

Andrew Rowe

President and General Manager



14 Whites take bronze at Evan Cousineau Memorial Cup



12U Girls Take Home Gold at SPA

Val Ayala, Grace Thawley & Brooke Maxson won Gold with Team USA at the Pan Am Youth And Water Polo Championships in Jamaica-



Great Job Ladies!



14 Gold Team Wins Gold at the SPA Championship



Splash Ball Kids Having Fun!

USA Water Polo Academic All Americans Announced

Congratulations to the following 23 SOCAL Athletes who have been recognized for 2014-2015 as Academic All-Americans. Student-athletes, 10th grade and older, needed a 3.6 GPA on a scale of 4.0 to qualify, those that received a 4.0 GPA were honored as outstanding achievers. (*)

Lili Aguirre-Murray*
 Danielle Ayala
 Abbey Blake*
 Amy Castellano*
 Sara Dempsey*
 Troy Furniss*

Lana Gorlinski*
 Campbell Gorlinski*
 Julie Harrison*
 Juliann Hilovsky*
 Kelsey Holland*
 Chas Hornecker

Rachel Jaffe*
 Brett Leiter*
 Brooke Maxson
 Ryan Melosini*
 Sachin Okuma*
 Ally Perkins*

Gracie Pevehouse
 Reagan Pittman
 Hannah Rodriguez
 Jeffrey Sherer*
 Jared Tanielu*

SOCAL PLAYERS CLAIM BACK TO BACK CIF CHAMPIONSHIPS AT FOOTHILL HIGH

Congratulations to the Foothill High School Boys water polo team who just won the Division II CIF Championship for the second year in a row. Of the 18 boys on the team, 15 are SOCAL players. The CIF Championship series culminated in an epic final game against Dana Hills High School. The game was tied at the end of regulation and went to two 3-minute overtime periods that finished in ties- then the game went to 3 sudden victory overtime periods that finally ended when Mikey Miller scored a cross-cage goal on a pass from Bobby Lee. Most in attendance would agree that the game was one of the most exciting and hardest fought games they had seen in some time.

Congrats to the SOCAL Foothill Players and to Coach Brumm , Coach Lynch and Coach Lozano on a successful season!



TROY FURNISS NAMED OC VARSITY SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Troy Furniss manages to hold a 4.65 GPA with a heavy load of AP coursework while contributing to several community service organizations and playing Varsity High School and SOCAL club water polo. For his excellence in the classroom, in the water and the community, Troy was named OCVarsity Scholar Athlete of the Week November 9th.



Congratulations Troy!

SOCAL SCHOLAR-ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGE!

November 12th was a very exciting day for SOCAL Water Polo athletes- Congratulations to the following players who signed early college commitment letters:

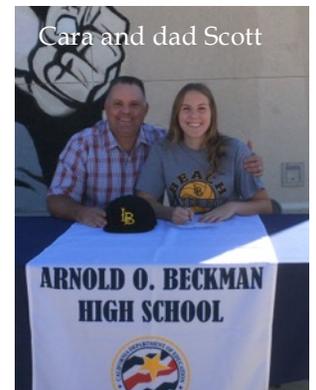
- Brooke Maxson- UCLA
- Katie Quon- Cal Baptist
- Kenzi Snyder- UC Santa Barbara
- Cara Vejsicky- Cal State Long Beach



Katie



Kenzi and Brooke



Cara and dad Scott

REMINDERS

SOCAL Winter Registration is Open!
 Register online at SOCALWATERPOLO.ORG

Also

It is time to renew your annual USA Water Polo membership at USAwaterpolo.org



PCA Players of the Quarter

Congratulations to our SOCAL PCA Players of the Fall Quarter! These athletes were chosen by their coaches for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication.

14U Boys Black- Solan Kedzie

Coach Brian Weathersby says- "With his hard work and dedication he made the team work as a unit. He is an amazing teammate and student of the game. I am lucky to have gotten the chance to know and coach him."

14U Boys White- Tanner Beasley

Tanner has shown true knowledge of the game. He understands when to stay back and be patient in the lane and when to attack the cage with a cutoff. He is well on his way to moving up if he continues with his enthusiastic efforts.

14 Girls Gold- Hannah Miller

Hannah had a great Autumn Quarter free from injury and illness, which freed her to soar and apply 110% effort. Her quiet passion to learn water polo revealed itself in her attendance, high quality practices and performance in games. Hannah loves the pressure of competition where she readily volunteers for every high-pressure assignment and more importantly delivers. Mistakes? Who cares? Hannah inspires her teammates and coaches to higher performance. Hannah lives for the moment and has a fantastic future in water polo.

14 Girls Blacks- Michaela Strickland

Michaela can leverage her charisma to build team unity and inspire great performances. Michaela's dedication to conditioning has resulted in her achieving the fastest raw speed on the Youth Girls team. She completely respects all aspects of the game and is a great learner. Michaela has overcome her fear of making mistakes to be more daring on offense, play lights-out defense, and play well in high-pressure situations. Michaela has grown up before our eyes. She is resolved to continue her upward trajectory in the pool and her maturity as a fine, well-rounded young woman.

12u Girls Ellie Zener

Ellie's effort, enthusiasm and drive for competition have had a big impact on her game, as well as positively affecting our entire team.

Ellie works hard not only during games and polo practice, but also takes swim conditioning very seriously. She always has a smile on her face and takes all feedback in stride. When she is corrected on something during a game, she is eager to try it out and

continue moving her skill set forward. She is constantly asking questions on how to do this better, or what she can do to contribute to the team.

This is what makes her such a great, positive athlete to be around. She embraces all teammates and has formed many new friendships this quarter as we attacked 12u girls SPA, 12u mixed Rock-Tober, and 14u scrimmages in just 3 months. Always positive, hard working and always learning, that's what sets Ellie Zener apart this season!



SOCAL Helps in the Community!

SOCAL CONTINUES TRADITION OF HOLIDAY GENEROSITY WITH 4TH ANNUAL ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM

Due to the enthusiastic generosity of SOCAL families the last year, we were able to "adopt" four Tustin families and provide them with much needed items like clothing, jackets, and grocery store gift cards, as well as toys for the children.

A big thanks to all of the SOCAL families who helped! SOCAL will help more families in need this holiday season.

Santa's favorite helper Michael-Ann Pevehouse is busy at work coordinating the wish lists for the deserving families this year. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Santa and his two favorite elves are ready to deliver holiday fun!

SOCAL MAKES A SPLASH AT DINO DASH



SOCAL's Dani Ayala, Gracie Pevehouse, Lana Gorlinski and Lisa Gorlinski represent SOCAL well at the 25th Annual Dino Dash, held annually in November to raise funds for Tustin Public Schools.

"Water Polo- "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

SOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS FIND SUCCESS IN THE LONE STAR STATE

SOCAL 14U Boys Black and 14U Girls Black took home Silver medals from the annual TYR cup held in Dallas. They were joined this year for the first time by the SOCAL 14U Girls Gold team who battled to earn 6th place at this prestigious national tournament.

Dylan Patist- from the 14U Boys Black team was recognized as the Jody Campbell Sportsmanship Award Recipient and Celeste Wijnbelt of the 14U Girls Black and Mandy Brenner of the 14U Girls Gold were the Maureen O'Toole Sportsmanship Award Recipients.

The teams also found time to have fun between games with team bonding meals, birthday celebrations (Happy 13th Birthday Kelly Hungerford!) and even a visit to the stockyards where they saw real Texas longhorns- Yee Haw!



Texas size entourage



14U Boys Travel in Style



Gold team enjoying yummy Texas BBQ



Sportsmanship Awards-Celeste Wijnbelt and Mandy Brenner



Boys and Girls Black Teams Victorious Silver Medal Winners



SOCAL PARTICIPATES IN ROCK-TOBER 12U TOURNAMENT



Three SOCAL 12 U Boys and Girls teams played some great polo and had a lot of fun when they traveled to Mesa, Arizona to compete in the Rock-Tober Fest Tournament October 23rd to 25th. This was the second time SOCAL participated in the annual 12U competition sponsored by USA Water Polo and the Positive Coaching Alliance. The tournament was established to introduce competitive water polo opportunities to areas outside of polo-dominant California.

Coaches Derrick Lozano, John Bell, Alex Farraro and Molly Andrews led three SOCAL teams - Boys 12U, Girls 12U Black and Girls 12U Gold during the 3 day tournament. This was the first time for many of the kids to travel with a team to an out of town tournament. The athletes all had a great adventure as a team, sharing rooms at the hotel, building camaraderie and learning how to play travel games away from home.

In typical SOCAL fashion the boys and girls found time in between games for fun and team bonding that included some competitive laser tag games. The boys and girls teams challenged each other and even played a game against the parents.



In the water, the teams represented SOCAL well with their focused athletic efforts and great sportsmanship.

Like us on Facebook!
Send photos for Facebook to:
socialmedia@socalwaterpolo.org

GOT PICS? SOCAL is on Instagram!
@socalwaterpolo - <http://instagram.com/socalwaterpolo>

Send It In!
Student of the Month? Accepted to College? Helped your Community?
We want to know! We'd love to share the accomplishments of our athletes outside the pool. Send your news to Lisa Gorlinski @ lisagorlinski@socalwaterpolo.org
While we can't promise we'll print it, we'll sure try!

SOCAL Spotlight Published Quarterly
Lisa Gorlinski- Editor
Lana Gorlinski- Assistant Editor
Michele Scott, Ed Reynolds, Robin Baia -Contributing Editors

Printing courtesy of the
THE REYNOLDS GROUP
Restoring the Earth and Groundwater
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