WHAT’S NEW IN THE POOL?

As I reflect on the 2016 SOCAL Water Polo year, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

SOCAL Water Polo continues to build excellence on the scoreboard while also mastering life lessons. Once again, we placed highly at the National Championships across all age groups in 2016 and won the Chairman’s Cup for the best Club in America. I could not be more proud of our ATHLETES and COACHES for all of their hard work and sacrifices.

How about our 18U girls’ team breaking through for Gold at JO’s?

Congratulation to the High School Boys for finishing up their season with great successes. Our new crop of High School Seniors has recently committed to colleges of their choice across the USA and we wish them all the best in the next stage of their lives. I’d like to wish all our High School girls good luck for the remainder of their season.

Congratulations to our 14u Boys and 14u Girls teams that just returned from Hawaii for their performances in the Champions Cup.

SOCAL could not sustain its high levels of excellence without the coaches and volunteer parents who commit their time to teach, administrate and support your student athletes. Thank you to our athletes who persist in their quests to improve and are team players. Thank you to our parents who sacrifice significantly to participate at SOCAL. Thank you to Tustin Unified School District for allowing us access to the great TUSD aquatic facilities, which are some of the best pools in the country.

To our entire SOCAL Family - Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2017!  
Go SOCAL!  –  Andrew Rowe  
President / General Manager  
SOCAL WPF

SOCAL Water Polo- The Early Days

Did you know that SOCAL water polo won the first older age group Junior Olympics in which they fielded a team? In the summer of 1989, Jim Brumm was coaching at Long Beach State, and a few SOCAL athletes were playing in a college-level league. Of the high school athletes, Brumm formed a 17-U team to play in the Junior Olympics that year; an eclectic mix of players, some of which had never played for SOCAL before, the group practiced together maybe twice before competing. Traveling to Florida for the championships, the boys were by no means the favorite. Yet they managed to secure a victory against the top-ranked Trojan Water Polo in the gold medal game. While the boys ended up performing well, former SOCAL player and team member Warner Griswold, whose children now swim with SOCAL, recalls, “We were out there to play some water polo and have fun.” Jim Brumm, who now heads both the boys’ and girls’ programs at Foothill High, agrees that the tournament was more enjoyable than stressful and described the guys as a “great mix of personalities”.

What a blast from the past! –Written by contributing editor Lana Gorlinski

Coach Jim Brumm and his gold medal SOCAL team
Val Ayala to play with USA Women's Youth National Team in New Zealand

Val Ayala was recently named to the USA Youth National roster for the FINA World Women's Water Polo Championships to be held Dec. 12-18 in Auckland, New Zealand.

After a 24-hour journey to New Zealand via Auckland then Melbourne then Canberra the team will train heavily to prepare for the tournament. We can’t wait to catch up with Val and find out all about her experience in New Zealand.

Congrats and Good Luck Val!

Four SOCAL Standouts Named OC Varsity Athlete of the Week

Congratulations to the following SOCAL High School players who were recognized during high school season by OC Varsity for being game changing players for their respective varsity teams.

Nick Ure- Aliso Niguel HS, September 12th
Brock Petersen- Santa Margarita HS, October 3rd
Leo Yuno- Marina HS, October 24th
Joe Shaw- Northwood HS, October 31st

Brett Leiter named OC Varsity Scholar Athlete of the week October 17th

Brett was recognized for his accomplishments in the classroom and his school community. Brett maintains a strong GPA with a rigorous academic load while participating in school leadership activities as well as endeavors that benefit the community.

Congratulations Brett on your well-deserved recognition!

SOCAL Scholar-Athletes Commit to College!

November 9th was a very exciting day for SOCAL Water Polo athletes- Congratulations to the following players who signed early college commitment letters:

Dani Ayala - UCI
Hannah Bradley - Azusa Pacific
Sara Dempsey - Cal State Northridge
Megan Falcon - UCI
Erin Goron - Long Beach State
Morgan Jones - UC Irvine
Vicky Ochoa - Cal Baptist
Grace-Ann Pevehouse – UCSD
Randi Reinhardt - USC
Christina Reyes - UC Irvine
Calysa Toledo - UC Irvine
Sophie Traversi – USC

Erin, Dani, Hannah and Gracie are all smiles on signing day

New on the SOCAL Website

Collegiate Athletes and SOCAL Olympians- under the “about us tab”. Read about our successful alumni who have gone on to play water polo in college or have played at the highest level as Olympians - at socalwaterpolo.org

REMINDER

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

Please renew your player at the Silver or Gold level membership. To play in most tournaments a Silver or Gold level membership is required.
SOCAL HELPS IN THE COMMUNITY

SOCAL Continues Tradition of Holiday Generosity With 5th annual Adopt a family program

SOCAL will help three families in need this holiday season.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

SOCAL SUPPORTS TUSTIN SCHOOLS

SOCAL Water Polo is proud to be a sponsor of the 19th annual Tustin Public Schools Foundation Dino Dash race to raise funds for Tustin Schools. This year’s event held on November 6th was a huge success with a record number of 13,000 participants.

SOCAL was given the honor of leading the stretching warm-up before the race. Coach Melissa Seidemann, Coach Jessy Cardey, Gracie Pevehouse and Dani Ayala were up at the crack of dawn to make sure the runners were in proper form for the race.

It was a great day for a great cause!
SOCAL BOYS AND GIRLS FIND SUCCESS AND ADVENTURE IN THE ALOHA STATE

SOCAL 14U Boys and Girls both earned medals at the annual Champions Cup that was held for the first time in Honolulu, Hawaii. The girls earned silver and the boys earned bronze. Congratulations to these great teams!

Jakob Tallman from the 14U Boys team was recognized as the Jody Campbell Sportsmanship Award Recipient and Jade Strickland of the 14U Girls was recognized as the Maureen O'Toole Sportsmanship Award Recipient. Congrats to Jakob and Jade!

The teams also found time to have fun between games with team bonding and sightseeing. We caught up with Coach Melissa Seidemann, Coach Raphael Krempp and Coach Jeff Rach who expressed that the trip to Hawaii was an amazing experience for the athletes and the coaches.

From Coach Melissa Seidemann-
“Champions Cup this year in Hawaii was a blast! The girls took 2nd place and gained some awesome game experience playing in two shoot-outs and a close fought championship game. Outside of the pool exploring Hawaii was magical. We made it up to Nu'uana Pali Lookout point and to the Pearl Harbor Memorial which both had some valuable history lessons. We also got to hike to a hidden waterfall, Manoa Falls, and an under-populated beach just before the North Shore where we braved the Portuguese Men of War (a local jellyfish). The best times were spent cruising in the vans listening to music and getting to try out the local cuisine, including the best poke in town and Waiola shaved ice. “

From Coach Jeff Rach-
“My two most memorable moments were our sunrise snorkeling trip at Electric Beach and playing in the water flo tubes, and body surfing at Makapu Beach at sunset with all the team and parents.”

From Coach Raphael Krempp-
“Hawaii was a great trip on many levels: athletic, touristic, team bonding, spiritual... We wanted the kids to not only compete with top teams but also take advantage of the location to enjoy side activities and create bonds with teammates. As ex-players, we always remembered the fun and good times with our teammates, not so much how the games went. As coaches, we enjoyed every minute spent with these daredevils. From games, to snorkeling, and hiking... An unforgettable trip overall.”