

# The SOCAL Spotlight

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September 2016

**SOCAL**  
**WATER POLO**

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## SOCAL Launches New Website

Check out the new SOCAL Water Polo Website-  
<http://socalwaterpolo.org>

Redesigned for easier navigation

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE POOL?

Dear SOCAL Community,

For many of us, autumn represents a time of new beginnings. Following our 2015 win, SOCAL once again maintains a solid lead in the race for the 2016 Chairman's Cup for Best Club in the United States. Thank you for your support, investment, hard work and positivity as we press forward. Congratulations to our athletes: your hard work is paying off on the scoreboard. Thank you to our administrators like Robin Baia. A lot goes on behind the scenes here at SOCAL, and you allowed us to focus on Coaching rather than logistics at the Stanford Junior Olympics. The Black and Gold of SOCAL is alive and well!

Congratulations to our Olympic Teams that have just returned from Rio de Janeiro. How about that Gold Medal for the U.S. Women's team? SOCAL had a tremendous influence on both teams as the birthing ground for many Olympians. I am proud to announce that Dan Klatt, an Olympian in his own right, and recently the Assistant Coach for the Women's Olympic Gold Medal Team will return to SOCAL to head our high school boys' program. As you may know, I assist Dan with the UCI women's water polo program. It's great to have Dan back in the SOCAL fold! In addition, two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, National Champion, and Cutino Award winner Melissa Seidemann has joined our Coaching staff with the youth Girls. These two are fabulous additions to our team of more than 30 coaches striving to give all our players great opportunities to grow. Melissa is available for private lessons.

The autumn brings lots of changes, new faces and new beginnings as the season changes. Good luck to SOCAL's college bound freshmen athletes and the high school boys starting their seasons.

SOCAL WATER POLO FOUNDATION, INC.

Andrew Rowe  
President and General Manager



Olympian and Gold Medal Olympic Coach Dan Klatt

## SOCAL Welcomes Dan Klatt and Melissa Seidemann

Klatt joins SOCAL as the director of the high school boys program and head coach for the 18U HS Boys team. Melissa Seidemann joins the Youth Girls coaching staff.

SOCAL is excited to announce the addition of these amazing water polo leaders to the SOCAL coaching team!



Two Time Gold Medal Olympian Melissa Seidemann

# Meet the Coach- Lyric Soto

Though Coach Lyric is entering her tenth year of water polo, she's only been coaching for a little over a year. She began coaching by helping Molly Andrews coach at Tustin and Mrs. Wijnbelt at swim conditioning, eventually becoming the girls' 16U Gold Assistant Coach and traveling to JOs with them. Lyric currently coaches SOCAL's first 10U all-girls team and swim conditioning, and will start as the Head Coach of the freshmen girls' team at Foothill in the winter.

Coach Lyric began playing water polo when she was 10 years old, playing on SOCAL's coed 10U team. She went on to play for 8 more years with SOCAL and

for four at Foothill, winning state and national championships along the way. Lyric now plays for Orange Coast College and is looking to transfer next year.

Lyric says she loves coaching with SOCAL. "I love the atmosphere around it. SOCAL has given me my best friends and memories." Lyric also finds it rewarding watching her players grow and progress, and loves to see the girls starting out in the same place she did.

When she's not coaching, Lyric finds herself still involved with water polo, whether she's watching it or playing it. She also enjoys reading and watching documentaries – she says she finds something comforting about them.



**Coach Lyric Soto and her 10U Girls team**

Lyric hopes to someday attend UCLA and become a special education teacher. Best of luck to Lyric in all her future endeavors!

## SOCAL Recognized at City Council Meeting for Chairman's Cup Honors

SOCAL Water Polo was honored by the City of Tustin Mayor John Neilson and the City of Tustin council members on August 16th for being the best water polo club in the United States. Additional recognition was given by County of Orange Supervisor Todd Spitzer and Congresswoman Mimi Walters.

SOCAL Water Polo was named 2015 recipient of the USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup for excellence in Men's, Women's & Overall club performance. This award is given to the water polo club that accumulates the most points for winning and placement at a variety of nationally sanctioned events. SOCAL consistently ranks high due to the success of our programs that range from those for elementary age, middle school, high school and all the way up to our Masters Program. SOCAL has earned this prestigious award 7 out of the last 10 years.



Pictured Left to Right: Campbell Gorlinski, Brooke Maxson, Val Ayala, Dani Ayala, Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Mayor John Neilson, Riley Pittman, Jack Matos, Solan Kedzie, Noah Rowe, Dylan Patist, Guillermo Ocasio



10U Ava Rowe holds the County proclamation that is almost as big as she is!

# PCA Players of the Quarter

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

## 10s- Logan Colman

Logan joined the 10U group in the winter last year. He quickly learned that his swimming skills (Logan swims on the swim club) proved an important ingredient to his success in the pool with water polo. His tremendous attitude and hard work paid off as he was a contributor in his first year to the team's finish at Junior Olympics last summer. Logan has now moved up to the 12U boys group.



## 12 Boys - Tristan Gallardo

Tristan joined SOCAL in the spring as a 12 year old. He had skills but needed to improve his endurance. He had a great attitude, treated everyone with respect and worked hard. Tristan is now a member of the 14U boys group.



## 14U Boys -Eli Schwartz

Eli has shown tremendous improvement throughout the summer. He has become a true asset for the team both defensively and offensively. He has led the team and helped his teammates in all situations in order to win. Eli also started to communicate more in the water to guide his teammates. He truly became a decision maker when his team needed him.



## 14 Girls -Bailey Barlow

Bailey is the sole 14 girls recipient of the summer PCA Award. Bailey distinguishes herself by three attributes: unbelievably hard work, super respect for her teammates, and wonderfully fantastic positive attitude. Bailey has waited in the wings as an aspiring member of the 14U Black Team where she now resides. Bailey's tenacity, resilience (great mistake management), and learning make her the PCA Player of the Quarter.



## 12 Girls- Akemi Nakachi

Akemi is a fantastic competitor who strives to be the best she can, at everything in the pool. Constantly working to improve her shot and defensive techniques and taking in feedback. As a coach, you never have to question if she is working hard.



Another great thing about Akemi is how she embraces her younger teammates. She will go out of her way to make someone feel more comfortable at practice and you can always find her laughing on deck with friends. She has a bright future in and out of the pool!

## SOCAL Athletes Work Hard In the Pool and the Classroom

Laine Hourigan (YG14 Blacks) achieved a GPA of 4.0 including 4 A+ and 2 A's -- all year! She was also a member of the National Junior Honor Society.



Congrats to Laine on a job well done!

## USA Water Polo Academic All Americans Announced

SOCAL has a record 37 athletes named to Academic All American  
13 more than last year

Congratulations to the following 37 SOCAL Athletes who have been recognized for 2014-2015 as Academic All-Americans. Student-athletes, 10<sup>th</sup> 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. (\*)

Lilith Aguirre-Murray\*  
Danielle Ayala  
Isabella Barajas\*  
Emily Caraig\*  
Sara Dempsey  
Kalypso Fish\*  
Troy Furniss\*  
Charles Godwin  
Campbell Grolinski\*  
Ryan Griswold\*

Samuel Harrison\*  
Noah Hodge\*  
Kelsey Holland\*  
Jon Hornecker  
Gavin Jones\*  
Jooyoung Lee  
Brett Leiter\*  
Jessica Lynch\*  
Brooke Maxson

Haley Noorani\*  
Sachin Okuma\*  
Kaya Ortega  
Chasen Petersen  
Grace-Ann Pevehouse\*  
Tara Prentice\*  
Christina Reyes  
Heidi Ritner\*  
Kathryne Schmitt

Joseph Shaw\*  
Kyle Son  
Grace Thawley\*  
Sophia Traversi\*  
Alicia Vas\*  
Phillip Waldman  
Emma Walker  
Noelle Wijnbelt  
Brian Xu

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

**Congratulations to SOCAL's Noelle Wijnbelt, who recently won a silver medal while representing the USA with the Cadet National team at the UANA Pan American games in Edmonton Canada!**

It was a long road to Canada, spanning several rounds of cuts and a little less than a year of training. Noelle began training up with the Youth National Team but was asked to play in Canada at the younger Cadet level.

The tournament took place from July 14-21, but the girls arrived in Canada two days early, training twice a day. Noelle says adjusting to the style of play was challenging; the teams competed in 5 on 5 style instead of 6 on 6 and were much stronger than the girls were used to.

The girls ended up finishing well. They lost to Canada in the championship game after letting in a buzzer shot with 30 seconds left. But Noelle was happy with their finish: the first time they played Canada that tournament, they lost by 7; this time, they only lost by 1.

The trip wasn't all work; in between games, Noelle visited various sights around the area such as an indoor mall with a roller coaster inside. Her best memory was the last night, when the boys and girls teams had dinner together and ran through a fountain in all of their clothes!

**Congratulations to Noelle, and good luck in your future endeavors!**



## Congrats to the Black and Gold!

Continuing SOCAL's Tradition of Success at Junior Olympics and US Club Championships

### US CLUB CHAMPS

### JUNIOR OLYMPICS

10U Coed – 4<sup>th</sup>

12U Boys – 3<sup>rd</sup>

12U Girls – 2<sup>nd</sup>

14U Boys – 3<sup>rd</sup>

14U Girls – 2<sup>nd</sup>

16U Boys Black – 1<sup>st</sup>

16U Boys Gold – 14<sup>th</sup>

16U Girls – 6<sup>th</sup>

18U Boys – 8<sup>th</sup>

18U Girls – 3<sup>rd</sup>

10U Coed – 3<sup>rd</sup>

12U Boys Black – 7<sup>th</sup>

12U Girls – 2<sup>nd</sup>

12U Boys Gold – 4<sup>th</sup> (Bronze Division)

14U Boys Black – 2<sup>nd</sup>

14U Girls Black – 2<sup>nd</sup>

14U Boys Gold – 14<sup>th</sup> (Silver Division)

14U Girls Gold – 14<sup>th</sup> (Silver Division)

16U Boys Black – 4<sup>th</sup>

16U Girls Black – 4<sup>th</sup>

16U Boys Gold – 27<sup>th</sup>

16U Girls Gold – 2<sup>nd</sup> (Gold Division)

18U Boys Black – 14<sup>th</sup>

18U Girls Black – 1<sup>st</sup>

18U Girls Gold – 17<sup>th</sup>



Youth Boys Black team finishes with Silver medals



Gold Medals for 18U Girls Black Team



10U Mixed celebrate their JO Bronze

Like us on Facebook!  
Send photos for Facebook to:  
[socialmedia@socalwaterpolo.org](mailto:socialmedia@socalwaterpolo.org)

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

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

**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](mailto:lisagorlinski@socalwaterpolo.org)  
While we can't promise we'll print it, we'll sure try!

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