

# The SOCAL Spotlight

Fall 2018



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SOCAL Spotlight

Published Quarterly

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## What's New in the Pool?

### Welcome to Winter!

Welcome to the Winter Quarter for SOCAL Water Polo that begins in December and ends in February. And Happy Holidays!!! The boys have just wound down their high school seasons as the girls start theirs. Many of our high school girl seniors have committed to colleges. We look forward to welcoming back our boys to club training for this Quarter. The Youth Boys, the Youth Girls and the 10's keep their winter schedules. Our swim conditioning program steps up its offerings and intensity. I, like many of your Coaches, recommend that all our Youth take advantage of Winter Swim Conditioning.

SOCAL's reputation extends far beyond California and into the college world. With our success in the recent Champions Cup in Bloomington, Indiana, SOCAL has cemented its dominance in this second decade of the 21st century by being the best club in the USA for most of these years.

Many college Coaches see "SOCAL" on a resume and their interest perks. The same is true on the Coaches' side. For our Coaches, sometimes SOCAL is a launching pad for their careers. One recent example is Shane Unger who began with SOCAL about a decade ago. I am confident the "SOCAL" on his resume helped earn him the Head Coach job at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. Coach Shane packed up his family and enjoyed a driving adventure to Erie just a couple of weeks ago and he is already on deck heading the program! We will miss Shane's geniality and contributions to SOCAL. I like his long drives on the golf course. Don't be surprised if Coach Shane seeks out SOCAL to fill his Gannon rosters. We are excited to follow your success Coach Shane!

Every year, the good families of SOCAL contribute to a Fund that provides gifts to the homeless, ill, homebound, lonely and downtrodden. Over the last five years more than \$40,000 of direct gifts have directly lifted up our Tustin community in this Holiday time of need. It brings tears to your eyes to see the gratefulness of the families when Santa and his tribe of elves show up at their doorstep. We will seek your donations again and thank you in advance for anything you give (even laundry detergent!).

The USA Men's National Team will play Italy at Foothill High School on Friday, December 28. The last time the National team came to our pools our attendance was overwhelming and USA Water Polo was beyond pleased. I hope you will put this match on your calendar.

2018 has been a terrific year for SOCAL. And in this Holiday time of reflection, I cannot help but to be grateful to my wife Joan who puts up with all the water polo activities, Robin Baia, our Coaches, our volunteer parent administrators, the Board, our families who sacrifice to be part of us, and the players. May you have a joyous Holiday and a Happy New Year!!!

- Andrew Rowe, SOCAL President and General Manager



**Remember to renew your 2019 Water Polo Memberships at USA Water Polo**

**If you renew prior to Dec 31, 2018 you will lock in the 2018 rate**

**There are prizes available through USA water polo for early renewal**

**Memberships expire on Dec 31, 2018**

# High School Highlights

## SOCAL Athletes make it to High School CIF Finals:

Foothill High School Wins Division II CIF Finals against Mira Costa 6-4. Foothill had lost to Mira Costa earlier in the season so this was a big win!!! SOCAL Players include Whittaker Worland, Jakob Tallman, Liam Harrison, Noah Rowe, Avery Stovner, Jack Matos, Gavin Nelson, Tristan Gallardo, Colin Morgan, Jagger McMannis, Ian Staniford, and William Bennett. Congrats Knights!



Tustin High School made history by making it to the CIF finals for first time since 1982!! They came up just a little bit short in winning the title in Division VI CIF. It was an exciting game and Tustin was so close to pulling out the victory but Valley View edged them out at the last min to win 10-9. SOCAL Players include: Scott Olsen and Aiden Caporicci. Great Season Tillers!

**Congrats Cesar! Coach Cesar 12U Boys and Head Coach for Tustin was named Division VI Coach of the Year!**

## SOCAL Athletes Make College Commitments

Congratulations to these SOCAL athletes who recently committed to play water polo in college-



Annie Rankin  
University of Michigan

Go Annie and the Wolverines!!



Kili Skibby  
University of California, Irvine

Go Kili and the Anteaters!!



Meghan Lopez  
Cal State University,  
Northridge

Go Meghan and the  
Matadors!!



Haiden Lang  
Saint Francis University

Go Haiden and the Red Flash!!

Congrats Girls!!! Way to represent SOCAL!!

We will announce others in next newsletter.

# PCA Players of the Quarter

Congratulations to our SOCAL PCA Players of the Winter Quarter

These athletes were chosen by their coaches for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication.



## 10U- Gavin Eagan

Gavin is a first time player and he constantly displays characteristics we like to see in our SOCAL players. He is kind to every teammate, never stops working hard and always comes with a smile. He also helped us with a key win in SPA Champs final game with the winning goal. We are excited to see what the future brings - *Coach Lyric Soto and Coach Natalie Seidemann*



## 14U Girls Black- Deirdre Murphy

Deirdre brings energy and enthusiasm to the pool daily. She is a pleasure to have on deck and is always positive and encouraging with her teammates. -*Coach Melissa Seidemann*



## 12U Girls Black- Sofia Del Villar

Sofia came to us at the beginning of the fall season looking for a more competitive team to push her to the next level. She has become a more dynamic attacker in the last few months. The special thing about Sofia is her tenacity and willingness to try new things. Being extremely coachable is one of her most valuable assets. We are happy to have her as a SOCAL teammate. She is a silent assassin finding her way at the Foothill pool! -*Coach Alex Farraro*



## 14U Girls Gold - Bridget Bevan

Bridget is a dedicated young player who is extremely coachable. She has made great progress since moving up to 14 U and we look forward to seeing her grow. -*Coach Melissa Seidemann*



## 14U Boys Black- Alon Elbaz

Alon is a committed athlete that shows leadership, work ethic and dedication to his team and sport. He asks questions, follows directions and is always willing to help. - *Coach Jeff Rach*



## 12U Girls Gold - Gianna Romero

Gianna is an extremely friendly and tenacious teammate we welcomed on the deck in September. She has great focus and non-stop effort. She swims her heart out on defense and is quick on the counter attack. What makes Gianna stand out is her ability to see the whole pool. Her awareness of her teammates and spacing makes her a very smart contributor with tons of potential. Gianna has a bright future in the pool and we are happy to have her at SOCAL! - *Coach Alex Farraro*

## 14U Boys Gold - Mikey Abshier

Mikey is a real go-getter. He gives 100% at all times and it has been paying off in the pool. He has an incredible work ethic and has taken over as the outgoing leader on the team. - *Coach Jeff Rach*



## 14U Boys White - Logan Colman

Logan exudes an air of diligent effort and openness to learn as much as possible with a positive outlook. - *Coach Jeff Rach*



## 12U Boys - Russell Lowe

Russell has shown true love for the game and great team work. He is a hard worker and he's always ready to learn during practice. - *Coach Cesar Altamirano*

# “Water Polo-“Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

The 14U Boys and Girls teams traveled to Indiana in November to compete in Champions Cup! The tournament takes place at Indiana University. The Girls finished in 1st Place!!!! The Boys finished in 7<sup>th</sup>! Both teams had a great time and plenty of time for team bonding with several fun activities. The Boys ate, ate, and ate their way through Indiana while doing a few other notable things besides playing water polo. They participated in an escape room and good thing they made it out so they could eat some more and play water polo!! They also did a self-tour of Indiana University which included some bookstore fun and ended on the Football field with a shirts vs skins game! The Girls ate and played some amazing water polo as well. They did an official sports tour of the campus which included basketball, football and of course the pool. They also had time to make the trip out to the Indianapolis 500 Race Track and participated in the Kissing of the Bricks. The girls had a fantastic time bonding and creating memories and came home with the Gold Medal!!

**Boys Jody Campbell Sportsmanship Award went to Riley Clansen**  
**Girls Maureen O’Toole Sportsmanship Award went to Ellie Zener**

The 12U Boys and Girls teams traveled to Arizona in October for the Rocktober Tournament. The tournament is centered on fun, rocking out and team bonding. The Boys spent their spare time together doing Lazer tag, eating at Cracker Barrel and playing in the hotel pool. The Girls created memories by touring ASU, eating at Cracker Barrel and also played Lazer Tag.

**Boys Sportsmanship Award went to Taylor Bell**  
**Girls Sportsmanship Award went to Makena Sauser**

These travel trips create some of the most amazing memories that your kids will share during their water polo career! Great job to all the athletes for representing SOCAL!!



# Results and Honors

## Junior Olympics July 2018 - Stanford, CA

Team	Result	MVP's	All- Americans	
10U Mixed	5th - Championship, Platinum		Connor Colman	Second Team
			Noah Dufrene	Honorable Mention
12U Girls Black	3rd - Championship, Platinum		Rachell Hemmila	First Team
			Peyton Paul-Pierson	First Team
			Emma Sosa	Second Team
12U Boys Black	13th - Championship, Platinum		William Griswold	Honorable Mention
12U Boys Gold	8th - Classic, Silver			
14U Girls Black	3rd - Championship, Platinum		Alexandra Love	First Team
			Madeleine Poissonnier	First Team
			Sydney Maccabe	Second Team
14U Girls Gold	5th - Classic, Silver			
14U Boys Black	2nd - Championship, Platinum		Jack Matos	First Team
			Jace Rodriguez	First Team
			Noah Rowe	Second Team
			Avery Stovner	Second Team
14U Boys Gold	21st - Championship, Platinum			
14U Boys White	13th - Classic, Silver			
16U Girls Black	7th - Championship, Platinum		Mallory Reynoso	Honorable Mention
			Celeste Wijnbelt	Honorable Mention
16U Girls Gold	3rd - Classic, Silver			
16U Boys Black	1st - Championship, Platinum	Riley Pittman	Riley Pittman	First Team
			Guillermo Andre Ocasio	First Team
			Garrett Griggs	First Team
			Dylan Patists	Second Team
			Whittaker Worland	Second Team
16U Boys Gold	1st - Championship, Gold			
18U Girls Black	1st - Championship, Platinum	Valerie Ayala	Valerie Ayala	First Team
		Isabella Baia	Isabella Baia	First Team
			Erin Tharp	First Team
			Grace Thawley	First Team
			Madison Stamen	Second Team
			Noelle Wijnbelt	Second Team
18U Girls Gold	3rd - Classic, Silver			
18U Boys Black	15th - Classic, Silver			

## US Club Championships 2018:

Team	Result	Team	Result
12U Boys Black	2nd Place	10U Mixed	5th Place
14U Boys Black	1st Place	12U Girls Black	1st Place
14U Boys Gold	8th Place	14U Girls Black	5th Place
16U Boys Black	1st Place	16U Girls Black	4th Place
16U Boys Gold	4th Place	18U Girls Black	4th Place
18U Boys Black	11th Place		

## Meet Coach - Cesar Altamirano



Anyone that knows Coach Cesar you know how hard he works. His can do attitude and willingness to help wherever is needed is one of the many things we love about him. Cesar moved from Mexico City to the United States when he was 12 years old with his family including his brother, Elias and sister, Viviana.

He started his Water Polo Career at Tustin High School as a freshman and fell in love with the sport. He also played at Cerritos College and keeps his skills fresh by playing at the Masters level.

He is the Head Coach at Tustin High for both the boys and the girls, he coaches our 12 boys at SOCAL, and has a full-time job running a car wash! He started his Coaching Career at Tustin High in 2012. He started with SOCAL in 2015 coaching the 16U Girls White Team. Then he moved on to coach the 18U Girls in 2016, 10s in 2017 and now this year he is the head coach for 12U Boys. Always looking to improve his coaching skills he helped out with the 14s when he could last year, so don't be surprised to see him on the pool deck every day of the week helping wherever he can. In his spare time, which who knows when that is, he does like to go to the movies. His favorite movie is Jungle Book and his favorite TV show is The Office. Cesar also likes hanging with his West Highlander Terrier, Kiwi!!!

Most recently Cesar won CIF Coach of the Year Honors for Division VI with Tustin High School. What he loves most about coaching is knowing he is making a difference in kid's lives and what a great job you are doing. Congrats Cesar and thanks for all you do!!

## SOCAL in the Community

**SOCAL Water Polo will be continuing in the Spirit of Giving back to our local community with our 7th Annual Adopt a Family.**

Over the years, SOCAL Water Polo families have provided the feeling of a true Christmas Miracle to several special families in our community. This Christmas SOCAL will provide a Magical Christmas to two families from our local community.

Please stay tuned for details regarding items needed, special requests and a list of family member's gender and age. If there is one thing I know for sure, it's that SOCAL Families ROCK. Over the past years it's been my pleasure to see the joy in the eyes of the children and parents as Santa magically arrives in their homes to deliver personalized gifts and knows the children by name!

This year Santa and his helpers will be making these deliveries on Saturday, December 22nd. Please stay tuned for details and give what you can. **TOGETHER** we can make a difference in our community. - Michael-Ann Pevehouse

SOCAL Water Polo is proud to be a sponsor of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Tustin Public Schools Foundation Dino Dash. The event held on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. It was fun to have the kids try their hand at throwing a WP ball and share information about the sport we love!!

**It was a great day for a great cause!**



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>

**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 Kerri Bennett [kerribennett@socalwaterpolo.org](mailto:kerribennett@socalwaterpolo.org) While we can't promise we'll print it, we'll sure try.