

The SOCAL Spotlight

Volume 28, Issue 2

Summer 2015

SOCAL WATER POLO

Inside This Issue

What's New in the Pool	1
SOCAL in the Community	2
Junior Olympic News	3
PCA Players of the Summer Session	4
Oh the Places You'll Go!	5

WHAT'S NEW IN THE POOL?

Was that the shortest summer on record or what? I hope you all are taking a well-deserved break. It's the sign of a remarkable community when your General Manager can be called away suddenly overseas and everyone rallies to keep the club running smoothly. Thank you to all of you who have pitched in. Autumn is upon us. SOCAL's 8th graders begin high school, our Seniors apply to colleges, and our high school and college men's seasons get underway

Everyone has a few weeks to recharge batteries, clear their heads and hearts and prepare for the next water polo campaigns. August is SOCAL's traditional period for pause and reflection. From what I gather, participating in

the "home" Orange County Junior Olympics was a great way to further build our community. Thank you, parents for your investments beyond the dues you pay -- the carpools, the team parties, the positive cheering, and more. This may have been better than an "away tournament" and the hotel stays. Next year we are back in Northern California.

Please remember how dedicated and committed your Coaching staff is to their players and SOCAL. Coaches need breaks too. And what would we be without our administrators? Thank you. How about that Summer Picnic in Peppertree Park, all the goodies that got distributed and the improvements in

communication? Thank you, administrators.

You should know that up at the Boy Scout Camp, we have had over 60 young Splash Ballers in the water falling in love with the "magic of the ball" in the pool. Our little 10s program is working well under the leadership of Tom McLain. Our girls made their 10U debut in JO's earning 5th place.

As we walk away from the pool decks year after year, the medal counts fade. The memories that stick are the times of community, togetherness, and the fun times together.

Good luck this fall and go SOCAL!!



Andrew Rowe
SOCAL General Manager

SOCAL 2ND ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF PICNIC A SUCCESS

The SOCAL Water Polo family came together on June 13th to celebrate the accomplishments and efforts of all athletes. More than 300 athletes and parents joined for family fun that included old fashioned picnic games such as three legged races, a water balloon toss, and ball tosses as well as bounce houses and a classic catered barbeque. Awards were given to athletes to recognize their achievements and good sportsmanship.

Congrats to the following athletes for earning recognition for their hard work:



Spirit of Black and Gold

Deirdre Murphy-10 Mixed
Noah Rowe- 12U Boys
Colin Morgan-12U Boys
Ana Pearson-12U Girls
Garret Bruening- 14U Boys
Thomas Dempsey- 14U Boys
Lauren Watkins- 14U Girls
Paige Goemer- 14U Girls

Player's Player

Nick Eagan- 10U Mixed
Jace Rodriguez- 12U Boys
Guillermo Ocasio-12U Boys
Laine Hourigan - 12U Girls
Sophie Zener- 14U Girls
Natalie Tuerk- 14U Girls
Vince Matos-14U Boys
Jordan Zak- 14U Boys

Most Improved

Corrine Salzman- 10U Mixed
Sydney Inouye- 12U Girls
Jakob Tallman- 12U Boys
Benjamin Mink- 12U Boys
Sarah Woesner- 14U Girls
Delaney Demsher- 14U Girls
Solan Kedzie- 14U Boys
Eli Schwartz- 14 U Boys



ANOTHER GREAT FINISH FOR SOCAL AT USCCS

Congratulations to all the SOCAL teams that placed well in the United States Club Championships! Eight SOCAL teams made it to the medal games, and one team, the 16U Boys Black team, won the gold medal!

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10U Mixed- 2nd | 16U Boys Gold- 7th | 14U Girls Gold -15th |
| 12U Boys- 2nd | 16U Boys Black- 1st | 16U Girls-Black 4 th |
| 12U Girls-4th | 18U Boys- 2nd | 16U Girls- Gold 12th |
| 14U Boys- 5th | 14U Girls Black- 4th | 18U Girls-4th |



16U Boys take gold

Then AND Now



This photo was taken at the 2010 14U Champion's Cup in Shenandoah, Texas. This year, many of these athletes graduated in the class of 2015 and will be heading off to college. We wish them the best and thank them for their time in the SOCAL family!

SOCAL IN THE COMMUNITY

16u Boys White Team's Wesley Ruby is an accomplished classical guitarist who was recently selected to play the national anthem at a CSUF home baseball game. It was an exciting day with a "thank you to our military" theme. Before Wesley performed, a helicopter landed on the field, and a veteran stepped out and threw the first pitch. Wesley then got to perform the national anthem on his guitar. Well done Wesley!



Congrats to the Black and Gold!

Continuing SOCAL's Tradition of Success at JO's



16 U Black Team Earns Bronze!

2015 National Junior Olympics Results

Session 1: July 25th- July 28th

- 10 Girls- 5th Championship Division
- 12 Boys Black-1st Championship Platinum Division
- 12 Boys Gold- 8th Classic Silver Division
- 14 Boys Black- 18th Championship Platinum Division
- 14 Boys Gold- 7th Invitational Division
- 16 Boys Gold -2nd Championship Gold Division
- 16 Boys Black- 5th Championship Platinum Division
- 18 Boys-11th Championship Platinum Division

Session 2: July 30th to August 2nd

- 10u Mixed- 10th Championship Platinum Division
- 12 Girls- 1st Championship Platinum Division
- 14 Girls Black- 3rd Championship Platinum Division
- 14 Girls Gold- 20th Championship Platinum Division
- 16 Girls Black- 3rd Championship Platinum Division
- 16 Girls Gold- 12th Championship Platinum Division
- 16 Girls White- 7th Classic Silver Division
- 18 Girls Gold- 2nd Classic Silver Division
- 18 Girls Black- 5th Championship Platinum Division



12U Black Earns Gold

SOCAL Enjoys Junior Olympic Team Bonding Time

SOCAL teams may have been successful in the pool, but they also knew how to have a great time with team bonding in between games! Team kick off dinners, on deck picnic and just hanging out resting before games, SOCAL athletes and parents know how to have fun!



18U Gold Girls enjoying pre game nutrition



12U Black Team shows the team spirit that helped them earn gold!



14 Black Girls



18U Black Girls



12 Gold Boys



16 Black Boys



18U Boys



14 Golds having fun!

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.

12U Boys- Ethan Harlan



Is always positive hard-working, and a great teammate. His positive energy and hard work inspire his teammates to be better players themselves. Congratulations Ethan!

We Honor the Game Here



14 Boys Black- Riley Pittman.

Coach Mason Cox says: "Riley has demonstrated hard work as well as furious dedication and discipline. This past session Riley has really focused on what I've been teaching him and translating it into games. The desire to work harder and compete has exploded with you and I am very proud of you. That fire and craving to become the best water polo player that you can be needs to be there all of the time. While you sleep, while you train, and while you keep on striving for greatness in water polo."

14U Boys Gold- Whittaker Worland

For being a great role model and a leader to a team that needed someone to take the reins. Great job Whittaker!



12U Girls- Kristen Hemmila

has the perfect attitude for a goalie. Kristen is not afraid to move in front of the ball. She takes her goalie attitude beyond the pool and into life. She is one of the most positive, upbeat, energetic, enthusiastic, and wonderful teammates to be around. Kristen continues to put top effort into every shot she blocks, take the advice of and learn from the goalie coaches, and do what every goalie does -- shake off mistakes instantly, because goalies have no memory. This is one reason why Kristen and her teammates are National Champions.



14U Girls Black- Natalie Tuerk

Coach Ed says "Natalie is the consummate player who reminds us all of a golden retriever. Natalie is the unsung hero



of the Black Team. One doesn't notice Natalie because her assignments aren't high profile. Natalie is a defender. Natalie takes her assignments, who are usually the best players on the opponent's' teams, and relentlessly pursues them for four quarters. She continues to attack, and attack, and attack. Natalie is a student of the game and she rises above all pettiness to be a consummate leader and teammate. SOCAL Black led the JO's in least goals allowed and Natalie led the team in persistence and consistency"

14U Girls Gold-Sophie Zener, a

leader on the 14 Gold team, is a remarkable woman who is a sponge for learning. As a 7th grader, Sophie accepted and took on her role on the team with Coach Tom very seriously. Sophie played the most minutes because she had the biggest heart. Sophie was fully committed to attendance, put 100% effort into practices, and learned a tremendous amount this summer, to propel her into her final year with the Youth Girls.



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

Rachael Travels to Israel



This past June, Rachael Jaffe had the opportunity to travel to Tel Aviv, Israel. Over the course of Rachael's stay, she interned at a bioinformatics lab at the University of Tel Aviv, and performed various tasks such as redesigning the website. In the evenings Rachael practiced with the local water polo team, a Tel Aviv club associated with the Women's National Team. Rachael practiced with the team every night and, using her ability to speak Hebrew, formed close bonds with many of the girls. Rachael also found interest in learning the different style of play with the girls. Outside of the pool and the laboratory, Rachael explored much of Israel. Highlights included touring a local medical start up, spelunking in a cave, lounging on the Tel Aviv by her apartment, and visiting the West Wall, the original wall of the first temple and a site sacred to Judaism. In the face of all this adventure, though, Rachael still cited her times bonding with the girls over water polo as her favorites.

Congratulations to Brooke

Maxson and Val Ayala for their selection to the USA Youth National Team that participated in the U.S. Open July 17th -19th.

To top off a busy water polo summer, Brooke, Valerie and Grace Thawley will be traveling to Kingston, Jamaica in August to represent the United States at the UANA pan American youth competition in



Jamaica. We are eager to chat with the girls when they return to learn about all of their adventures!



SOCAL's 16U Joseph Molina and the Cadet Team USA are currently in Montenegro for training and then on to the International Water Polo Tournament 9th Darko Cukic Memorial from August 10 - 15, 2015 in Kragujevac, Serbia.

Good Luck Joseph!



Fun Photos



10U Mixed



High School Boys



SOCAL moms Rock!

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
www.reynolds-group.com

Like us on Facebook!

Send photos for Facebook to:
socialmedia@socalwaterpolo.org
GOT PICS? SOCAL is on Instagram!
[@socalwaterpolo](https://www.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 @