



MARCO PALAZZO

Boys 12U Coaching Staff

Water polo has been a lifelong endeavor for Marco. In 1989, at the age of 14, he made his professional debut in the Italian professional league; actually scoring in his first professional outing. His career endured for the next 18 years, and during that period, he recorded 196 caps (water polo lingo for games) and 298 goals. During his professional career, his team garnered the Italian Championship as part of the Pescara Water Polo Club.

Marco joined the USA Men's Senior National Team staff in 2011 after several years in Northern California working with the Stanford Water Polo Club and two area high schools.

In 1994, he joined the Italian National team, and won the World University Games in 1997. His stint on the national team lasted for 6 years. Coaching a sport he loves was a natural progression. He began his coaching career in his hometown of Catania, Sicily where his 16U Team won the 2005 Italian Championship. In 2007, Marco ventured to the United States and commenced his American career as the Age Group Head Coach at Stanford Water Polo Foundation where he coached until the Spring of 2011.

Marco was the USA Men's National Team Assistant Coach and was a member of the coaching staff for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Before landing in Newport Beach, Marco coached at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton where he led the JV and Varsity teams. As Assistant Varsity Coach, he led Sacred Heart in winning 3 CIF-CCS Division 2 Titles.

Marco has kept his proverbial feet in the water by continuing his playing career in the US. As a member of the NYAC (New York Athletic Club) Club team, he won 2 National Championships in 2006 and 2009.

His mentors include the best water polo player of all time, Manuel Estiarte; with whom he was fortunate to play in 1998, and his father, Alfio, whom Marco likes to call Al in homage to his favorite actor, Al Pacino. Marco's hobbies include snowboarding and reading.