

OLYMPIC TEAM PERFORMS AT CHANEL FASHION SHOW

Spring 2008 Volume 16 Number 1

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synchro

SWIMMING USA

OLYMPIC TEAM MODELS FOR RADAR

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R E S P E C T

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Members of the U.S. National Team pose with stylist Brian Primeaux on the set of the Radar Magazine shoot. *Photo by Jill Greenberg.*

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On the cover: Members of the U.S. National Team pose in black and white for Radar Magazine. Photo by Jill Greenberg.

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NOTE FROM PRESIDENT GINNY JASONTEK



Dear Friends,

It has been a great season thus far with excellent performances at the U.S. Collegiate, SPEEDO Junior and the U.S. National Championships. Trials have been held and swimmers have been selected for both Team II and the Junior World Team so we wish the best for these athletes as they go out to represent us in the international arena. AND – Beijing is rapidly approaching. Our U.S. Olympic Team is hard at work every day and looking forward to joint training with the Russian Olympic Team in June in California. We are excited that the Olympic Team will be with us in Binghamton at the Age Group National Championships so we can share the journey and view the fabulous routines. It will be wonderful to see the debut of our 13-15 National Team this summer as well.

In Tucson, we were privileged to meet Cheryl Furjanic, producer of the wonderful documentary, Sync or Swim – the story of the 2004 Olympic Team. I hope you will all be able to see this documentary in the months to come. The Board of Directors had a full agenda for the June Board Meeting which was held June 7 and 8 in Charlotte, N.C. Fundraising efforts (including funding of the National Team program), the Collegiate Program, Championship Sites, Marketing and Promotion, Athlete Programs, Coaching and Judges Education, and Membership Initiatives were some of the topics covered.

Preparations are already underway for the USAS Convention held in September in Atlanta, Georgia. There will be an important Town Hall meeting led by Athlete Development Chair Myrna Hagedorn. Elections will be held for many important positions, and the Nominating Committee is hard at work preparing the slate of candidates. As always, your leadership and attendance in committee meetings is essential. Your role at Convention is vitally important and I look forward to working with you in Atlanta.

Thank you so very much for all that you do all year long for USSS. We on the Board are grateful to the volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and energy. Thank you to the judges, scorers, sound managers, meet hosts and all volunteers for all that you do. I am sure I speak for the athletes and coaches when I say that we are fortunate to have such a devoted group of folks to work on our behalf. And as always, thanks to the staff for your excellent work in so many areas.

Looking forward to seeing you in Binghamton, St. Petersburg, Cleveland, Beijing, and/or Calgary. Have a great Summer in Synch!

*Ginny Jasontek,
President on behalf of the Board of Directors*

2008 Rocky Mountain Synchro Association All-State Teams

12 & Under Age Group Team

Olya Martin	Alpine Angelfish**
Elizabeth McNichols	Alpine Angelfish
Quinn Fawcett	Northern Colorado Orcas
Erica Wiens	Northern Colorado Orcas
Cara Milton	Colorado Novas
Kiera Pitts	Alpine Angelfish
Rachel Klein	Alpine Angelfish

13-15 Age Group Team

Erika Guillbault	Rocky Mountain Splash**
Kaylin Darst	Rocky Mountain Splash
Hannah Sphatt	Rocky Mountain Splash
Kelsey Moretti	Rocky Mountain Splash
Kelsey Welter	Rocky Mountain Splash
Morgan McKean	Rocky Mountain Splash
Sarah Stevenson	Colorado Novas
Rachel Wertz	Rocky Mountain Splash
Kaitlyn Strutt	Alpine Angelfish
Cassie Herndon	Rocky Mountain Splash

16 & Up Age Group Team

Sami Davis	Boulder Aquateens**
Teagan Darst	Rocky Mountain Splash
Audrey McMahon	Rocky Mountain Splash
Victoria Burdon	Rocky Mountain Splash
Taylor Kitayama	Boulder Aquateens
Rebecca Vickers	Boulder Aquateens
Taylor Daniels	Rocky Mountain Splash
Haley Suby	Rocky Mountain Splash
Michelle Tillman	Boulder Aquateens
Sandy MacDonnell	Boulder Aquateens

*Swimmers are listed in the order of finish

**High Point Winners

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Asst. Editor
Melissa Linder

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ATTENTION COACHES

You can now get your safety credentials online through the USSS and the Red Cross. Please click on the Coaches Page of the website and click on the Red Cross online training logo for the easiest and most convenient way to stay current on your safety credentials.

ZONE ALL-STAR TEAMS

The Zone All Star Teams and training camps will be held July 20-25, 2008 at Keuka College. Each Zone has put together their own criteria for selecting their 11-12 and 13-15 All-Star Teams. Gail Pucci, National Team Coach, will be heading up the camp and two coaches from each Zone for each team will attend. Registration applications for the camp can be found at www.keuka.edu. If you have any questions please contact your Zone Education Chairperson.

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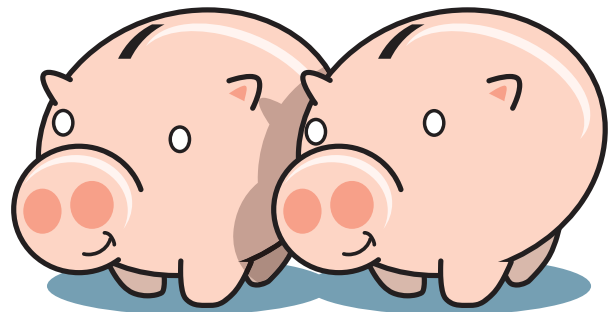
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For each year through 2009, Speedo will provide a contribution of \$250 to the Foundation, for every individual outside contribution equal to or in excess of \$250, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per year.

NBCOLYMPICS.COM

Did you know that Brooke Abel used to make birdhouses with her grandpa? Or, what about Becky Kim's famous banana bread? Check out NBCOlympics.com for more fun facts and even baby pictures of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team.



2008 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
March 27-29	U.S. Collegiate Championships	Columbus, Ohio
April 10-12	SPEEDO Junior Championships	Clermont, Fla.
May 1-3	U.S. National Championships	Tucson, Ariz.
June 23-July 5	U.S. Age Group Championships	Binghamton, N.Y.
July 13-19	U.S. Open	Cleveland, Ohio
August 18-23	2008 Olympic Games	Beijing, China
Sept. 21-28	USAS Convention	Atlanta, Ga.
Oct. 9-12	U.S. Masters Championships	Las Vegas, Nev.

NATIONAL TEAM IN THE NEWS

Check out the July issue of Fitness Magazine that features the U.S. National Team.



COACHING POSITION OPEN

Los Gatos seeks a Head Coach for its competitive and recreation synchronized swim program. This exciting and broad program offers synchronized swimming for its competitive and recreation program for girls from 8 to 18 years of age and includes a competitive team of 20 athletes from 10 to 18 years of age. The Head Coach is a part-time paid position that coaches the team and administers the program. The team practices in a large, up-to-date, high school pool and has great support from parents and the community. Swimming and/or coaching experience preferred. Please send resume or contact us with interest or questions at steve@lgsrecreation.org.



Get In Synch!





ON THE RADAR

photos by Jill Greenberg

Earlier this Spring, the 2008 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team took a break from training to model some of the season's hottest swimsuit trends at a photo shoot for Radar Magazine. Jill Greenberg, who has photographed the likes of Gwen Stefani, Cameron Diaz, Christina Aguilera, Drew Barrymore and many other celebrities, served as the underwater and on-deck photographer. Thanks to the styling of Brian Primeaux, the Team modeled several high-end designer suits as well as the latest fashions from Speedo. The photos appear in the May/June issue.



STANFORD SWEEPS TO WIN FOURTH CONSECUTIVE COLLEGIATE TITLE

It's four in a row for Stanford University, with a victory at the U.S. Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships held in Columbus, Ohio at the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion.

Stanford finished with 94 points, followed by The Ohio State University with 87, Canisius College in third with 70, the University of the Incarnate Word with 65, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham in fifth place with 56.5 points.

Stanford's Sara Lowe made it a three-peat for the second year in a row, winning the solo title as well as being a member of the duet and trio champions.

Ohio State won the team title, after finishing second to Stanford in 2007 by just less than seven-tenths of a point.

Lowe and Courtenay Stewart paired to win the duet title, while Melissa Knight joined Lowe and Stewart for the trio championship.



Overall Team Point Standings

1. Stanford University	94.0
2. The Ohio State University	87.0
3. Canisius College	70.0
4. University of the Incarnate Word	65.0
5. University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB)	56.5
6. University of Arizona	44.0
7. Keuka College	39.5
8. Wheaton College	37.0
9. University of Florida	36.0
10. University of Michigan	26.5
T11. Carleton College	22.0
T11. College of William and Mary	22.0
13. University of Richmond	15.5
14. George Mason University	13.5
15. University of Pennsylvania	11.0
16. University of Minnesota	7.0
T17. Boston University	6.5
T17. University of Mary Washington	6.5
19. Miami (Ohio)	3.5
20. Pennsylvania State University	1.5
21. University of Illinois	0.0

Team finals

1. Ohio State Synchro	98.500
2. Stanford University	96.833
3. Ohio State Synchro	95.333
4. University of the Incarnate Word	94.167
5. Canisius College	90.833
6. UAB	90.333
7. Gator Synchro	86.250
T8. Keuka College Storm	84.833
T8. Arizona Splashcats	84.833
10. Wheaton College	84.333
11. University of Minnesota	82.750
12. William and Mary Mermettes	82.667

Solo finals

1. Sara Lowe – Stanford University	96.833
2. Natalia Tarasova – Canisius College	95.167
3. Barbara Nesbitt – Ohio State Synchro	94.833
4. Yulia Shepeleva – Canisius College	93.167
5. Lyssa Wallace – University of Incarnate Word	92.000
6. Margareta Jakovac – UAB	90.333
7. Dayli Sepulveda – Arizona Splashcats	87.667
8. Talia Scatliff – UAB	85.833
9. Coreen Cookerly – Keuka College Storm	84.667
10. Shannon Crowder – Keuka College Storm	83.833
11. Emily Terwelp – Michigan S.S. Club	82.833
12. Laura Montes – Weaton College	82.500



Photos by Kenny Krug, Start to Finish Photography

Duet finals

1. Sara Lowe, Courtenay Stewart – Stanford	97.333
2. Natalia Tarasova, Yulia Shepeleva – Canisius	96.000
3. Poppy Carlig, Melissa Knight – Stanford	95.000
4. Caitlin Stewart, Michelle Theriault – Ohio State	93.833
5. Lyssa Wallace, Emily Van Vleck – Incarnate Word	92.333
6. Meryl Grandia, Margareta Jakovac – UAB	90.500
7. Liz Chinoransky, Natalie Chase – Incarnate Word	89.333
8. Dayli Sepulveda, Alexandra Sala – Arizona	84.667
9. Nicole Cardinale, Laurie Wakelam – Canisius	84.500
10. Emily Terwelp, Rochelle Ross – Michigan S.S. Club	83.667
11. Alceste Laurenti, Marian Hartman – Gator Synchro	82.833
12. Annie Stickney, Megan Sturm – Mason Synchro Club	82.333

Trio finals

1. Knight, Lowe, Stewart – Stanford	96.500
2. Nesbitt, Stewart, Theriault – Ohio State	95.000
3. Bell, Carlig, Durand – Stanford	94.167
4. Moraes, Pinette, Shim – Ohio State	93.167
5. Van Vleck, Calle, Stensby – Incarnate Word	91.500
6. Chinoransky, Chase, Dunne – Incarnate Word	89.833
7. Boe, Grandia, McCauley – UAB	87.500
8. Cardinale, Wakelam, Christman – Canisius	86.333
9. Cookerly, Crowder, Kaminska – Keuka College	84.833
10. Laurenti, Hartman, Ross – Gator Synchro	84.500
11. Terwelp, Ross, Muma – Michigan S.S. Club	83.333
12. Swinkin, Montes, Ryen – Wheaton College	83.000

Junior Championships

By Melissa Linder



AQUAMAIDS EDGE AQUANUTS BY TWO POINTS **TO WIN** SPEEDO JUNIOR NATIONAL TITLE



The Santa Clara Aquamaids narrowly held off the Walnut Creek Aquanuts to win the 2008 Speedo Junior National Championships in Clermont, Fla., April 9-12. The two-point margin of victory gave the Aquamaids their second consecutive title.

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts finished second with 60 points, the New Canaan Y Aquianas were third with 17, the Arizona Aqua Stars placed fourth with 15, and the Riverside Aquettes rounded out the top five with 12 points.

Santa Clara claimed champions in the solo and duet events. Mary Killman won the solo title and paired with Nadia Rais to take the duet title. In 2007, Killman placed third in the solo event and was a member of the trio championship team.

Walnut Creek won the team event title, and Maria Koroleva, Seyeon Min and Emily Burkhart combined to win the trio crown.

The top routines from the Junior National competition went on to compete in the U.S. National Championships in Tuscon, Ariz., in May.

Speedo Junior National Championships

Overall Team Point Standings

1. Santa Clara Aquamaids	62
2. Walnut Creek Aquanuts	60
3. New Canaan Y Aquianas	17
4. Arizona Aqua Stars	15
5. Riverside Aquettes	12
6. Nevada Desert Mermaids	5
7. Seattle Synchro Swim Team	4
8. Indy Synchro	1

Team finals

1. Walnut Creek Aquanuts	81.209
2. Santa Clara Aquamaids	79.771
3. Arizona Aqua Stars	78.518
4. Santa Clara Aquamaids	77.965
5. New Canaan Y Aquianas	77.894
6a. Honor Olympium Synchro (Canada)	77.866
6b. Honor Durham Synchro (Canada)	75.667
6. Nevada Desert Mermaids	75.638
7. Santa Clara Aquamaids	75.427
8. Indy Synchro	74.873

Solo finals

1. Mary Killman - Santa Clara Aquamaids	82.229
2. Betka Dufkova - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	81.863
3. Seyeon Min - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	79.853
4. Olivia Morgan - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	79.560
5. Lauren Nicholson - Riverside Aquettes	78.508
6. Ashley Bennett - Riverside Aquettes	78.341
7. Lisa Hazelton - Riverside Aquettes	78.172
8. Khadija Zanotto - Santa Clara Aquamaids	77.507

Duet finals

1. Mary Killman, Nadia Rais - Santa Clara Aquamaids,	81.029
2. Maria Koroleva, Olivia Morgan - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	80.493
3. Margo Sargent, Khadija Zanotto - Santa Clara Aquamaids	78.836
4. Megan Azebu, Wendy Lu - Santa Clara Aquamaids	78.768
5. Madison Crocker, Megan Hansley - New Canaan Y Aquianas	77.907
6. Lauren Nicholson, Paige Ramsey - Riverside Aquettes	77.829
7. Alex Bollaidlaw, Kellie Stump - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	77.614
8. Emily Burkhart, Alex Sominsky - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	76.001

Trio finals

1. Maria Koroleva, Seyeon Min, Emily Burkhart - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	79.220
2. Megan Azebu, Wendy Lu, Katie Wellman - Santa Clara Aquamaids	78.824
3. Colleen Courtmanche, Madison Crocker, Megan Hansley - New Canaan Y Aquianas	78.188
4. Alex Bollaidlaw, Kellie Stump, Raena Sumiyoshi - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	77.557
5. Shelby McDaniel, Katie LaBounty, Liane Lovitt - Seattle Synchro Swim Team	76.989
6. Alexandra Beckett, Jamie Flanery, Jessica Webb - Arizona Aqua Stars	76.519
7. Leigh Haldeman, Caitlin Hoffman, Heidi Liou - Arizona Aqua Stars	75.927
8. Casey Aion, Marina Hoffman, Kelsey Smith - New Canaan Y Aquianas	75.889



Photos by Kenny Krug, Start to Finish Photography

STANFORD, SANTA CLARA SHARE U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



For the first time in the event's history, Stanford University and the Santa Clara Aquamaids tied at 40 points to share the 2008 U.S. National Title on May 3 in Tucson, Ariz.

Santa Clara won the title in 2007 with a 23-point victory at the event despite Stanford's sweep of all events. Just as in 2007, Stanford swept the team, solo and duet titles. Sara Lowe repeated as solo champion, as did Lowe and Courtenay Stewart in the duet finals.

Natalia Tarasova of Canisius College took the silver in the solo event, and Kenyon Smith of Santa Clara won the bronze. Smith won the silver in the solo event in 2007.

Santa Clara took silver and bronze in the duet finals, with Bianca Van Der Velden and Sonja Van Der Velden taking second and Kenyon Smith and Layla Smith in third place.



2008 U.S. National Championships

Overall Team Point Standings

T1. Santa Clara Aquamaids	40
T1. Stanford University	40
3. The Ohio State University	27
4. Canisius College	12
5. University of Incarnate Word	10
6. Walnut Creek Aquanuts	7
7. Arizona Aqua Stars	1

Team finals

1. Stanford University	96.083
2. The Ohio State University	95.833
3. Santa Clara Aquamaids	95.417
4. University of Incarnate Word	93.083
5. Walnut Creek Aquanuts	91.667
6. The Ohio State University	91.417
7. Santa Clara Aquamaids	89.000
8. Arizona Aqua Stars	86.833

Solo finals

1. Sara Lowe - Stanford University	95.667
2. Natalia Tarasova - Canisius College	94.167
3. Kenyon Smith - Santa Clara Aquamaids	93.583
4. Barbara Nesbitt - Ohio State University	93.083
5. Layla Smith - Santa Clara Aquamaids	90.750
6. Mary Killman - Santa Clara Aquamaids	90.667
7. Lyssa Wallace - University of Incarnate Word	90.583
8. Olivia Morgan - Walnut Creek Aquanuts	89.000

Duet finals

1. Sara Lowe, Courtenay Stewart - Stanford University, 96.000
2. Bianca Van Der Velden, Sonja Van Der Velden - Santa Clara Aquamaids, 95.667
3. Kenyon Smith, Lalya Smith - Santa Clara Aquamaids, 94.000
4. Yulia Shepeleva, Natalia Tarasova - Canisius College, 93.917
5. Poppy Carlig, Melissa Knight - Stanford University, 92.583
6. Caitlin Stewart, Michelle Theriault - Ohio State University, 91.750
7. Leah Pinette, Hannah Shively - Ohio State University, 91.250
8. Debbie Chen, Taylor Durant - Stanford University, 90.833



Photos by John Migliore, Migz Photography

GETTING TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES: Advice from the U.S. Olympic Synchro Team

What does it take to get to the Olympic Games? It's a question vexing many a synchro swimmer this summer, as they watch the Summer Games in Beijing.

To get the answer to this and other questions, *Synchro Swimming USA Magazine* went directly to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team; specifically team members Janet Culp, Meghan Kinney and team co-captain Kate Hooven. Here's what they told us:

Synchro Swimming USA (SSUSA): First, please tell us a bit about yourself and your own synchro career:

Janet Culp (Janet): My twin sister, Jennie, and I always loved swimming, and spent many summers swimming and diving at our local pool before my mom suggested we try synchronized swimming lessons. I enjoyed the combination of swimming, dance, and gymnastics, and I fell in love with the sport quite quickly!

I started swimming competitively when I was about 10 for a local club in Denver, Colorado - the Rocky Mountain Splash. I made some really good friends, and I enjoyed doing something original that let me express myself creatively, while at the same time doing an athletic sport and competing. When I graduated from Littleton High School in 2000, I decided to continue swimming with one of the top clubs in the nation, the Santa Clara Aquamaids. I swam for that club until I made the Olympic squad in late 2006, winning three national championships and qualifying for two national teams.

Kate Hooven (Kate): I am 23 years old and have been swimming for 12 years. I started later than normal (age 12-13) but knew immediately I wanted to go to the Olympics.

Meghan Kinney (Meghan): At 18 years old, I am the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic Team. When I was nine, I first tried synchro because I liked to dance. I was a good

swimmer, and the costumes and makeup really caught my attention. As I kept swimming, the competitiveness drew me in even more and I liked working hard and accomplishing personal goals. I swam on the Riverside Aquettes for six and a half years and started to take it more seriously.

SSUSA: Did you always plan/hope to get to the Olympic Games?

Meghan: I wouldn't say I always planned on going to the Olympics, however, I feel like once I realized my talent in this sport, I made competing at an Olympics a goal to strive for.

Kate: Yes, ever since the 1996 Olympics, I knew I wanted to experience that feeling!

Janet: Qualifying for the team has been more of a recent goal, rather than something I've planned on my whole life. I remember watching the 1992 Olympic synchronized swimmers and thinking that going would be really exciting. However, I didn't fully pursue this dream until I graduated from high school, and I decided that I really wanted to see how far I could go in the sport.

When I made my first national team, I hoped that I might make the Olympic Team. But more importantly, I have always tried to practice and compete with no regrets and work really hard every day. I knew that if I did that, I would go as far as I could possibly go, and I couldn't be disappointed with any results.

SSUSA: What events in your career helped bring you to the Olympic level?

Meghan: I definitely think that my commitment and sacrifice helped bring me to the Olympic level. I used to commute to practice every day for six years and was home schooled so I could train more. I knew that even though I was doing this sport for fun, I was also doing this because I wanted to accomplish something in the end.

Janet: The first big step in pursuing the Olympics was moving to California to join one of the top synchro clubs in the



Team USA poses with its gold medals after the Pan American Games in 2007.

nation, the Santa Clara Aquamaids. Once here, I continued to work hard to improve and make National Teams and finally the Olympic team.

Kate: Well, every year has always been a learning experience. Even in the last years of my career, I still am amazed that I can still improve and learn a great deal. I think also having years in your training that aren't always optimal experiences help you push through to the next year. And usually that next year is even better!

SSUSA: How did you get a slot on the Olympic team?

Kate: Well, trials started about two years ago. I qualified for the World Cup Team, which took 12 girls to Japan. After many trials and tribulations later, I ended up at the Olympic Trials in Indianapolis. After one of the hardest trials of my life, I was relieved to say that I was named to the team. And we all have our names on the wall of the IU Natatorium to prove it!

Meghan: In 2007 there were a series of trials where all the athletes had to swim the same routine about seven times. I was named the 10th athlete for the Olympic Team.

Janet: Our trials consisted of about six phases of competition. The first element of competitions to qualify for Olympic Trials were in April of 2006, and we had to pass our splits in order to proceed in the competition. In December of the same year, we had a routine trial where everyone learned the same routine and swam both individually and in groups for the judges to compare swimmers.

After one more phase of elements, the top 12 athletes were named to the training squad. The 12 of us trained together and traveled to Melbourne for the World Aquatic Games in March 2007. Finally in May 2007, we had our last phase of trials where two athletes were cut to form the final 10 athletes on our Olympic team.

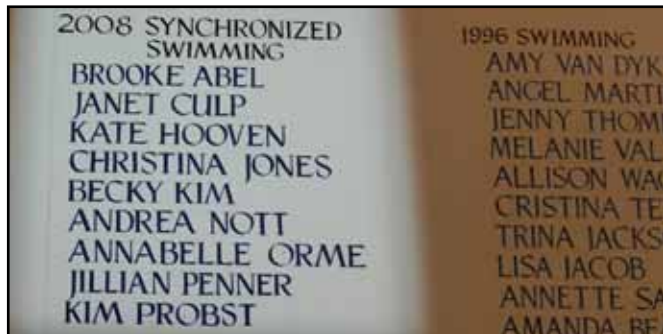
SSUSA: Now for the Big Question: What does it take to get to the Olympics?

Kate: It takes day-in and day-out dedication. You have to be willing and WANT to go through all the ups and downs that involve daily training. But most of all, you have to be willing to strive for perfection and settle for nothing else.

Janet: Making an Olympic Team requires a combination of natural ability and determination. Everyone is born with qualities that can make them great at any number of things, and those who are in the top tier of what they do have balanced their natural abilities with hard work. At the same time, you have to be able to enjoy the good times so much that they help you through times that aren't as good.

Meghan: It takes hard work and dedication, of course; passion and patience for the sport, a competitive spirit, and a certain eagerness to never give up and keep pushing through every day.

SSUSA: Finally, what advice would you have for other up-and-coming synchro swimmers wanting to get to the Games?



Photos by Jeff Nott

TOP: Kate Hooven gets a lift from her teammates at the 2007 Pan American Games. BOTTOM: The names of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team members were painted on the wall at the IU Natatorium. The "Wall" holds the names of all 230 athletes (swimmers, divers and synchro swimmers) who have been named to an Olympic Team at the IU Natatorium. This facility has a strong tradition with USSS, as it has named its Olympic Teams at the IU Natatorium in 1984, 1988, 1996 and 2008.

Meghan: My advice would be keep your dream in sight, because when you get on an Olympic Team you feel so proud to be competing for your country, and you realize that all of those hard years climbing to the top of this sport was worth it!

Janet: It is easy to answer the question, "What are your goals in synchro?" with an excited, "Go to the Olympics!" But getting there is a lot of work! Work hard at practice to improve every day, even if it is just one little thing that you're improving. Surround yourself with friends, family, and coaches that believe in you. And make sure you enjoy your journey along the way, because after the competitions are all over, those are the moments that will stick in your memory. Good luck!

Kate: Just keep on truckin' :) If you work hard and believe in yourself you can make anything possible, even when it seems far from it.

James Careless is a freelance writer and part-owner of TaggerWear Custom Swimsuits (www.taggerwear.com), which supplies competitive synchro teams in the United States and Canada.

an evening with **CHANEL**

On May 15, Chanel invaded Miami, Fla. for a fashion show debuting its 2009 Cruise Wear line. After building a runway that ran through the hotel pool, Chanel was only missing one thing - synchronized swimmers! And since we are on the brink of the next Olympic Games, it only seemed fitting to invite the 2008 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team to perform.

The event took place at the Raleigh Hotel, which featured the scallop-shaped pool built for Esther Williams. The famed pool, which features an "Old Havana" theme became the site of many of her movies as well as a gathering place for many movie stars of that era.

Team USA, complete in Chanel suits, caps, goggles and nose clips, performed as part of the grand finale. Those in attendance included Anna Kournikova, Zoey Kravitz and the Editor-In-Chief of Vogue Magazine, Anna Wintour.

The performance was such a hit with the audience, it caused Wintour to make the following quote:

"I love it. I thought it was really fun," Wintour said. "I loved the synchronized swimmers. They were my favorite."

The evening would not have been complete without a Team photo with Chanel designer and fashion icon, Karl Lagerfeld. The photo opportunity went so well, that the picture showed up in a recent issue of Vanity Fair and also will be featured in the July issue of Harper's Bazaar.



Photos by Taylor Payne

TOP: Team USA poses with Chanel designer and fashion icon Karl Lagerfeld. BELOW LEFT: The famed Raleigh Hotel pool was the site of many of Esther Williams' movies. BELOW, BLUE SUITS: Team USA gears up before rehearsal. BELOW, HEAD: Christina Jones models the Chanel cap, goggles and nose clips worn during the performance. BELOW, LAST: Team USA poses in the Chanel suits worn during the performance.



FORGING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

International Travel! What a great way to broaden the experiences of our athletes and our children! Today's world is becoming a close-knit community with instant communication via the Internet. However, pictures and wireless communication are no substitute for actual human connections and experiences. Synchronized swimming provides us with a common bond worldwide. Athletes are taking part in international competitions at increasingly younger ages. If you stop to consider, European countries are geographically close to each other, and have a very competitive program for the 12 and under athletes. Younger athletes in the Americas are also competing in neighboring countries.

This year United States Synchronized Swimming has received several invitations for competitions with our neighbors from Canada and from South American countries. We have also extended invitations to international federations – both for national competitions and for invitational meets. Clubs in Florida, Washington and New England will host international athletes at the invitational level. International competitors also joined us at the SPEEDO Junior National Championships held in April.

Our Age Group program will field the first self-funded National Team at the 13-15 Age Group level. This Team will represent the United States at the 2008 UANA Pan American Age Group Championships in Calgary, Canada at the end of the summer. Joining the National Team will be teams that applied through the club option program to fill slots in the 16-18 and 12 & under divisions. Other opportunities are listed at www.usasynchro.org/events for clubs to participate in competitions abroad.

Some clubs also receive invitations to other countries to take part in competitions or clinics. All clubs should contact the National Office of their intentions to participate in a synchronized swimming activity abroad. Many invitations are informal, but some require Federation permission to participate. All Federations like to know of the activities of their clubs abroad. This helps forge friendships and opportunities to increase our relations with those countries. It also provides our athletes with increased motivation to improve their synchronized swimming skills. More importantly, the athletes begin to forge personal relationships with people from other countries.

Collegiate teams often received invitations to train in other countries during their winter or spring breaks. They often take advantage of this opportunity to offer

clinics for athletes from the host country, or to attend a clinic and train at facilities in that country to improve their own skills. This has also helped United States Synchro to forge new friendships abroad. Just imagine, our athletes are ambassadors abroad! This also offers us information on synchronized swimming programs in other countries, which can help expand our programs.

Exchange programs also exist for coaches and judges. Opportunities to coach abroad are frequently advertised. These provide marvelous experiences for our coaches, and help to increase our influence with other countries. We have offered coaching education for our coaches and for coaches from the Americas for several years. This year we will expand the opportunities to attend the Coaches' College to other countries. This program has received high praise from all coaches. Our judges are often the first representatives to establish relations with other Federations as they travel and meet with other officials during the course of an international competition. It is important to include them in your

All Federations like to know of the activities of their clubs abroad. This helps forge friendships and opportunities to increase our relations with those countries. It also provides our athletes with increased motivation to improve their synchronized swimming skills.

travel plans for their knowledge and support, and as a resource and an integral part of your delegation.

Just as communication is vital in today's world, we must also communicate all of our international experiences to our Federation, so that we can develop and conduct a strong coordinated international program. Information on international opportunities is funneled through the Vice President, Olympic International to aid in this development. Reports of the experiences are shared with the International Relations committee to help guide them in the development of our international strategies. Please consider the opportunities for international participation in the future. I would like you to take advantage of this program and participate early and often!



SYNCHRO

*The mindless tug of air..
My legs twirling above me,
Forever in time with the music.*

*The mindless tug of air..
My teammates around me,
Synchronized in pattern.*

*The mindless tug of air..
The figure is eternity,
The only real thing.*

*The mindless tug of air..
The music echoing through the water;
Every note a thrust, a boost, a switch.*

*The mindless tug of air..
A movement is given all energy,
All dedication, determination, grace.*

*The mindless tug of air..
Always there, always there,
forgotten until the music ends,
Ends. Ends. Ends*

Bryce Anderson-Gregson

Boulder Aquateens, Age 11



Viviana Angelini

Suncoast Waterworks, Age 8



Sophia Angelini

Suncoast Waterworks, Age 5





Xana and Hannah Ferreira

Flagler County Synchro Belles, ages 8 and 10

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Tatiana Bouchard

ANA Synchers, Age 10

Remembering Jackie Douglass

By Judy McGowan

JACKIE DOUGLASS

June 14, 1949 - May 24, 2008

Jackie Douglass, World Champion and FINA "A" judge passed away on May 24th due to Stephen Johnson's disease. Jackie had a very varied, extensive and rich background in synchronized swimming, education, and as a performer. Her talents and inquisitive mind will be missed by all of us.

Jackie began her swimming career with Re Calcaterra. Later she moved to Santa Clara and trained with legendary coach Kay Vilen from 1967-1973. During those five years, Jackie won Junior National solo, duet and team titles, and she was a member of the team that won Senior National titles in 1970, 1972, and 1973. As an Aquamaid, her team also won international titles in Canada, Japan, and Germany. The highpoint of her competitive career was being a member of the USA team that won the first World Championship in 1973 in Belgrade. Afterwards, she retired only to return years later to compete in an international masters event in Belgium, where she won the solo event in her age group.

While swimming in Santa Clara, Jackie attended San Jose State University. She earned a BS in Dance ('72) and MA in Sports Psychology ('74). Jackie later earned a PhD in Measurement and Evaluation from the University of Wisconsin ('81). Jackie was a member of the faculty at San Jose State from 1974-1977, 1979-1982, 1983 and 1986.

Jackie was a member of the coaching staff of the Santa Clara Aquamaids from 1974-1977. She then went on to found the Connecticut Laurels, a team devoted to developing elite athletes. In

addition to winning numerous age group titles, her swimmers won the figures and duet titles at the U.S. Open. Upon dissolving the club, her swimmers went on to swim at Santa Clara, Walnut Creek and Stanford University, as well as on both the Junior National Team and National Team II. Jackie also coached in Egypt and Aruba. At one point, she was also on the coaching staff at Stanford University. Due to Jackie's artistic talents, she has served as a water show consultant, choreographer and director at Walnut Creek and with the National Team. Her final coaching work was done with the New Canaan Aquianas.

In addition to synchronized swimming, Jackie was quite the dancer. She danced with and choreographed for "Danceworks" of San Jose. She served as the Assistant Director of the San Jose State University Dance Theatre in 1982. Jackie also performed with University of Wisconsin Dance Repertory Company, the Madison Civic Light Opera, and the San Jose Civic Light Opera. She also studied modern dance in New York City for four years.

Margo Erickson, her best friend for nearly 30 years, summarized Jackie the person as follows: "a performer, philosopher, thinker, music editor, judge, writer, painter, photographer, reader — a great and inquisitive mind, always in search of more truth. Jackie always loved dance, the theatre, a good party, old musical hits, Judy Garland, adventure, cooking, reading, and travel ... Jackie was successful in any artistic expression she explored. She finally reached her Somewhere Over the Rainbow, and lives on with all of us in our fondest dreams."





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