

Hello USA Synchro!

First, Congratulations to our Collegiate Champions, Junior National Champions and U.S. National Champions! We have had three successful 2010 national championships and I would like to thank Toby Smith, Vice –President of Competitive Operations for helping to run these competitions. Also, thank you to Jenny Claypool, Stanford University, and the Stanford University Synchro “family” for hosting the Collegiate National Championships, to Cheryl Cook and the Austin Angelfish as well as Ann Nellis and the University of Texas at Austin for hosting the Junior National Championships, and to Tracy Barron and Anna Kirkland along with the Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatics for hosting the U.S. National Championships. Another thank you to Monte Johnson for running scoring at the Collegiate Championships and to Dave Olson for running scoring at the U.S. Junior and Senior Championships.

The competitive season has drawn to a close for some of our junior and senior athletes while our age group season is underway. For all the retiring athletes, I would like to say thank you for the years of sacrifice and hard work that you have put into synchro and for the wonderful performances we have enjoyed. As you move ahead in your lives, I hope you will stay connected to USA Synchro and I know you will draw on the lessons you have learned from training and competition in your future endeavors.

Our next national event, the eSynchro Age Group Championships in Tonawanda, N.Y., will be our largest competition of the year. I wish all of our swimmers good luck in qualifying competitions and I look forward to seeing you in Tonawanda. I know the Tonawanda Aquettes have a very special event planned.

The U.S. Open has become an international event and we are expecting the same this year in Irving, Texas. Please show your support by competing in the event and making it a well-attended high-caliber competition. This summer competition is a great opportunity for junior and senior level athletes to hone their skills and compete against international swimmers.

Our new logo is launched and the reception has been very positive. You may have noticed that the new logo is a part of all of our championship logos. The clean, professional and athletic look of the new logo is designed to help move us forward in this second decade of the new century. Its appeal to the modern era is essential in attracting 21st century athletes and attention.

The website has been updated again with the new logo and a new look, and the staff is continually working on making the site more user-friendly. With the addition of web based education for coaches and judges, online registration for events, facebook and twitter links, we are moving ahead with the vision of a 21st century sport.

As some of you may have heard, I have been challenged with a serious illness. After an extended hospital stay at the beginning of the year, I have been recuperating and have regained much of my strength. I would like to extend a thank you to the many people who sent their well wishes, thoughts and prayers my way. During this time, I have stayed connected with much of the USA Synchro business but have not traveled under doctor's orders. I apologize for missing our three 2010 national championships that have occurred but I know that they have been successful competitions. I look forward to seeing you at a synchro competition soon!!

All the best,
Duke