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PRESS RELEASE

USA Adaptive Water Ski Team Set To Compete At 2019 Disabled Water Ski World Championships

Biennial event will be held July 25-28 in Skarnes, Norway

POLK CITY, Fla. – The 2019 USA Adaptive Water Ski Team will compete in the 14th Disabled Water Ski World Championships, July 25-28, in Skarnes, Norway. The original team selections were announced by USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports following the conclusion of the 25th Barbara Bolding/Jim Grew Fund Adaptive Water Ski National Championships, Sept. 5-8, 2018, in Paducah, Ky.

Members of the 2019 USA Adaptive Water Ski Team are: Marco Bungert (Huntersville, N.C.) – Seated Men; Nicholas Fairall (Andover, N.H.) – Seated Men; Chad Guzman (Gilbert, Ariz.) – Seated Men; Elijah Hager (Alexis, N.C.) – Seated Men; Katie Mawby (Grand Haven, Mich.) – Vision Impaired Women; Elisha Nelson (Woodland, Calif.) – Standing Women; Robbie Parks (Lexington, N.C.) – Seated Men; Janet Paulsen (Acworth, Ga.) – Seated Women; Connor Poggetto (Carmichael, Calif.) – Seated Men; Mike Royal (Magnolia, Texas) – Vision Impaired Men; Gregg Stokes (Rocky Mount, N.C.) – Standing Men; Sarah Switzer (Madison, Ala.) – Seated Women; Craig Timm (Center City, Minn.) – Standing Men; and Chuck Wesson (Charlotte, N.C.) – Seated Men.
Geneva Brett (Los Banos, Calif.) will serve as manager; Jessica Van Dyk (Belding, Mich.) will be the assistant manager; Matt Oberholtz (Oroville, Calif.) will serve as the coach; Brian Detrick (Elk Grove, Calif.) will be the assistant coach; and Dr. Keith Barbour (Monroe, Mich.) will serve as the team physician.

Within each event (slalom, tricks and jumping) at the Disabled Worlds, athletes are grouped into the three categories of seated (paraplegics and quadriplegics), standing (arm and/or leg disabilities with or without prosthesis) and vision impaired (partially or totally blind). Each competitor in the three categories is awarded in each round of each event a certain number of points according to the relationship of his/her score to the minimum score needed to set or equal a world record in the event for the same disability category and gender as it stood on Jan. 1, 2019.

The U.S. Adaptive Water Ski Team has enjoyed unprecedented success at the world championships. It is the only team to have won four consecutive world disabled championships. In total, it has won eight team gold medals, four silver and one bronze. U.S. team members have earned 344 medals, including 156 gold. At the 2017 Disabled Water Ski World Championships, the USA Adaptive Water Ski Team earned the world team silver medal and seven U.S. team members won individual medals.

The 2019 USA Adaptive Water Ski Team is still raising funds to cover travel and training expenses. Tax-deductible donations are being accepted at www.usaadaptivewaterski.org.

USA Adaptive Water Ski & Wake Sports is one of nine sport discipline organizations of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, which is affiliated with the International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (world governing body) and is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and Pan-American Sports Organization as the
national governing body of organized water skiing and wakeboarding in the United States.

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