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PRESS RELEASE

Nine Water Ski Athletes Win Titles
At 19th Junior U.S. Open Water Ski Championships

*Jake Abelson sets pending Boys 2 national tricks record*

POLK CITY, Fla. – Nine water ski athletes won titles in respective events at the 19th Junior U.S. Open Water Ski Championships, June 28-29, at Still Waters in Oconomowoc, Wis. The two-round, world-record capability event featured junior men and junior women (ages 17 to 21) and boys and girls divisions (ages 16 and under). Some of the world’s top junior water ski athletes competed for titles in slalom, tricks, jumping and overall.

Athletes winning titles were: Kennedy Hansen (Milton, Fla.), girls’ tricks (8,470 points) and overall (2,928.0 points); Kristen Baldwin (Winter Garden, Fla.), girls’ slalom (3 buoys at 38 feet off) and jumping (132 feet); Blaze Grubbs (Rio Linda, Calif.), boys’ slalom (2 buoys at 38 feet off) and overall (2,738.7 points); Jake Abelson (Holderness, N.H.), boys’ tricks (8,920 points); Brody Keller (New Hartford, Conn.), boys’ jumping (158 feet); Allie Nicholson (Gallatin, Tenn.), junior women’s slalom (2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off); Anna Gay (Winter Garden, Fla.), junior women’s tricks (10,150 points), jumping (130 feet) and overall (2,945.2 points); Ben Leutz (Jacksonville, Ill.), junior men’s slalom (4 buoys at 38 feet off) and jumping (190 feet); and Garrett Stallings (Rossville, Tenn.), junior men’s tricks (5,600 points) and overall (2,345.8 points).

Abelson’s winning score of 8,920 points in junior boys’ tricks is a pending Boys 2 national tricks record. He owns the current record of 8,850 points, which he set on May 24 at the 2019 Nautique Junior Masters Water Ski Tournament in Pine Mountain, Ga. Nicholson broke her own Junior U.S. Open junior women’s slalom record of ½ buoy at 39-1/2 feet off (2016) with her winning score of 2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off. Gay established a new Junior U.S. Open record of 10,150 points in junior women’s tricks, surpassing the former record of 8,530 points set by U.S. athlete Erika Lang in 2013.
To view the final scorebook, visit https://www.usawaterski.org/juniorusopen/19M047CS.HTM.

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports 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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