PRESS RELEASE

American Water Ski Association Selects National Junior and Junior Development Teams

Selections based on 2018 tournament performances

POLK CITY, Fla. – Top junior water ski athletes from across the nation have been selected to the American Water Ski Association's National Junior Water Ski Team and the National Junior Development Water Ski Team for 2019. The 37 selections for the Boys/Girls 2 (13 and under) and Boys/Girls 3 (17 and under) divisions were based on performances during the 2018 tournament season.

Using selection criteria pre-approved by the American Water Ski Association's board of directors, the top-13 athletes were named as National Junior Water Ski Team members by the National Junior Development Committee, and then the top remaining 24 were named to the National Junior Development Water Ski Team. The respective teams will not represent the United States in any international competitions, but several of the athletes are expected to compete in the 2019 Nautique Junior Masters Water Ski Tournament and the 2019 Junior U.S. Open Water Ski Championships.

As an added bonus, the following sponsors have added their support by donating valuable goods and services to the 13-member National Junior Water Ski Team: Jack Travers' International Tournament Skiing, GOODE Ski Technologies, D3 Water Skis, Coble Water Ski School & Wakeboard Camp and Scot & Marion Ellis “Ski with the Rockets.”

The 2018 performances from the entire roster of Boys/Girls 2 and 3 are considered when applying the selection criteria. After all ranking list scores are compared to the Highest Performance Standards for slalom, tricks, and jumping in both Boys and Girls, the best seven three-event skiers are selected, limited to four of one gender. The remaining five members are chosen based on the best two-event scores. If a skier sets a benchmark score for any event but does not otherwise make the team, an extra team member is added.
Selected to the 2019 National Junior Water Ski Team were (alphabetical order): Jake Abelson (Holderness, N.H.), Kristen Baldwin (Winter Garden, Fla.), Brooke Boskus (Elkins, Ark.), Zachary Butterfield (Sherman, Texas), Ryan Gay (Winter Garden, Fla.), Bailey Grathwohl (Martindale, Texas), Blaze Grubbs (Rio Linda, Calif.), Kennedy Hansen (Milton, Fla.), Blake Keller (New Hartford, Conn.), Tianna Kosek (Buffalo, Minn.), William Roberts (Dow, Ill.), Brett Stackpole (Dow, Ill.), and Griffin Stange (Sherman, Texas).

Selected to the 2019 National Junior Development Water Ski Team were (alphabetical order): Will Blair (Mooresville, N.C.), Andrew Boskus (Elkins, Ark.), James Bryans (Acworth, Ga.), Matthew J. Carson (Micco, Fla.), Austin Collins (Murray, Ky.), Emma Davis (Milford, Va.), Alyssa Drake (Oconomowoc, Wis.), Emma Goldstein (Tuscaloosa, Ala.), Elizabeth Hall (Newnan, Ga.), Samantha Hill (Morris, Conn.), Tri Johnson (Lakeland, Fla.), Alana Jones (Church Point, La.), Sierra Klinchuch (Caldwell, Idaho), Ty Kosek (Buffalo, Minn.), Jonathan Leutz (Jacksonville, Ill.), Julie Mishler (Milford, Ind.), Kendra Nathan (Canyon Lake, Calif.), Charlsey Newman (McDonald, Tenn.), Caroline Parker (Martindale, Texas), Connor Pauley (Lutz, Fla.), Carter Reese (Walnut Creek, Calif.), Garrett Reese (Walnut Creek, Calif.), Brendan Schulz (Winlock, Wash.), and Makayla Todd (Carmichael, Calif.).

The American Water Ski Association’s National Junior Development Committee would like to congratulate all of the junior competitors and their families for the large amount of time, effort and dedication they have applied in their quest for excellence.

The American Water Ski Association 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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