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PRESS RELEASE

Water Ski Athletes Regina Jaquess, Jake Abelson
Earn USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Best Of May Honors

Athletes are now eligible for United States Olympic Committee honors

POLK CITY, Fla. – USA Water Ski & Wake Sports has selected Regina Jaquess (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.) as its Female Athlete of the Month and Jake Abelson (Holderness, N.H.) as its Male Athlete of the Month for May. Jaquess and Abelson are now eligible for the United States Olympic Committee’s Best of May Team USA Awards, presented by Dow.

Jaquess, the No. 4 seed for the finals of women’s slalom after scoring 1 buoy at 39-1/2 feet off in the elimination round, won her seventh career Masters women’s slalom title and first since 2016 by scoring 3-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off at the 60th Nautique Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament, presented by GM Marine Engine Technology, May 25-26, at Callaway Gardens’ Robin Lake in Pine Mountain, Ga. Jaquess also finished runner-up in women’s jumping with a distance of 178 feet. Jaquess also won the women’s slalom title at the 2019 Swiss Pro Slalom on May 12 at the Swiss Waterski Resort in Clermont, Fla. It was Jaquess' fifth consecutive Swiss Pro Slalom title. Jaquess and Canada's Whitney McClintock tied in the finals with a score of 4 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off. They tied again in the subsequent runoff (2-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off) before Jaquess won the title in the second runoff with a score of 2 buoys at 41 feet off to McClintock’s 3-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off.

Abelson, the youngest competitor in the tournament at age 11, placed second in junior men’s tricks at the 27th Nautique Junior Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament on May 24 at Callaway Gardens’ Robin Lake in Pine Mountain, Ga., scoring a personal best – and pending Boys 2 national tricks record – 8,850 points in the finals. Some of the world’s top junior water ski athletes – age 17 and under on Dec. 31, 2018 – competed for titles. Abelson earned the No. 3 seed for the finals by scoring 8,250
points in the elimination round. Abelson is the current Boys 2 national tricks record holder with a score of 8,580 points set in October 2018.

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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