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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Under 21 Water Ski Team Places Fourth  
At 2019 Under 21 Water Ski World Championships

Three U.S. athletes earn medals in individual events

POLK CITY, Fla. – The U.S. Under 21 Water Ski Team placed fourth and three U.S. athletes earned individual medals at the 9th Under 21 Water Ski World Championships, July 4-7, at Shalom Park in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Great Britain won the gold medal, its first U21 world team title, scoring 7,591.17 points. Canada earned the silver medal with 7,559.67 points and the Ukraine earned the bronze medal with 7,517.06 points. The United States (7,509.38 points) and Australia (6,396.91 points) rounded out the top-five placements at the biennial event, which featured teams representing 21 countries.

Members of the 2019 U.S. Under 21 Water Ski Team were: Ryan Canepa (Elk Grove, Calif.), Anna Gay (Winter Garden, Fla.), Quinn Haines (Avon, Conn.), Kennedy Hansen (Milton, Fla.), Sean Hunter (Dothan, Ala.) and Ben Leutz (Jacksonville, Ill.). Erin Kalkbrenner (Wichita, Kan.) was the team coach/manager. The team members were selected based on a performance criteria established by the International Activities Committee and approved by the American Water Ski Association board of directors. Canepa replaced Brooke Baldwin (Winter Garden, Fla.), who was originally selected to the team but had to withdraw while recovering from an injury.

Gay won gold medals in women’s tricks (10,530 points) and overall (2,663.50 points); Hansen earned the bronze medal in women’s tricks (8,570 points) and the silver medal in overall (2,528.4 points); and Leutz earned the bronze medal in men’s jumping (201 feet). Haines placed fifth in men’s jumping (198 feet) and 10th overall (2,126.61 points).

Gay advanced to the finals in all three events and won the overall title with top scores of 10,530 points in tricks (finals), 2 buoys at 38 feet off in slalom (finals) and 136 feet in jumping (preliminary round). Hansen also advanced to the finals in all three events and earned the silver medal in overall after
recording scores of 2-1/2 buoys at 38 feet off in slalom (preliminary round), 8,570 points in tricks (finals) and 132 feet in jumping (finals).

U.S. athletes competing as independents were: Bailey Austin (Buda, Texas), Ali Garcia (Winter Garden, Fla.), Kassidy Hawkins (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.), Garrett Reese (Walnut Creek, Calif.) and Griffin Stange (Sherman, Texas). Hawkins (4-1/2 buoys at 38 feet off), Austin (3 buoys at 38 feet off) and Garcia (4 buoys at 35 feet off) placed fifth, sixth and 11th, respectively, in women’s slalom, while Stange placed fifth in men’s slalom (1-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off).

Other gold medalists were: Great Britain’s Joel Poland, men’s slalom (1 buoy at 41 feet off), jumping (216 feet) and overall (2,957.47 points); Ukraine’s Danylo Fil’chenko, men’s tricks (11,520 points); Chile’s Valentina Gonzalez, women’s jumping (156 feet); and Canada’s Jaimee Bull, women’s slalom (2-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off).


For complete results, visit http://www.iwwfed-ea.org/classic/19CHI20/.

The 2019 Ski Nautique was the exclusive towboat of the 2019 Under 21 Water Ski World Championships. Nautique is a Premier Sponsor of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.

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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