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CONTACT: Scott N. Atkinson, Director of Communications
satkinson@usawaterski.org (407) 466-4588 (mobile)

U.S. Elite Water Ski Team Earns Silver Medal
At 2019 Water Ski World Championships

Three U.S. athletes win medals in individual events

POLK CITY, Fla. – The U.S. Elite Water Ski Team earned the overall team silver medal and three U.S. water ski athletes won individual medals in respective events at the 36th Water Ski World Championships, Aug. 12-18, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The United States, seeking to win its 28th world team title, tallied 8,019.55 points in earning the silver medal. Canada scored 8,025.27 points to win the gold and France earned the bronze with 7,933.50 points. Athletes from 32 countries participated in the tournament.

Members of the 2019 U.S. Elite Water Ski Team were: Taylor Garcia (Winter Garden, Fla.), Anna Gay (Winter Garden, Fla.), Brittany Greenwood (Little Rock, Ark.), Regina Jaquess (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.), Erika Lang (Gilbert, Ariz.) and Adam Pickos (Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.). Jeff Surdej (Wilmington, Ill.) was the coach, Jody Johnson (Nashville, Tenn.) served as team captain, and Dr. Marc Aiken (Johnson City, Tenn.) was the team physician. Freddy Krueger (Winter Garden, Fla.), originally selected to the team, did not compete due to injury and was replaced by Greenwood.

Gay won the gold medal in women’s tricks, scoring 10,530 points in the finals. Peru’s Natalia Cuglievan-Wiese earned the silver medal (9,570 points) and Germany’s Giannina Bonnemann earned the bronze medal (8,740 points). Baldwin (8,260 points) and Lang (3,710 points) placed seventh and 12th, respectively. It was Gay’s second career (2015) women’s world tricks gold medal.

Jaquess, the three-time defending champion, earned the silver medal in women’s slalom following a runoff with France’s Manon Costard. After both skiers tied with 3 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off, Costard won the subsequent runoff and her first career world slalom title, scoring 2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off to Jaquess’ 1 buoy at 39-1/2 feet off. New Zealand’s Jaime Metcalfe earned the bronze (1 buoy at 39-1/2 feet off). U.S. independent athlete Brooke Baldwin (Winter Garden, Fla.) finished sixth (4 buoys at 38 feet off).

Jaquess earned the bronze medal in women’s jumping with a distance of 168 feet in the finals. Australia’s Jacinta Carroll won the gold medal for the fourth consecutive time, soaring 180 feet. Belarus’ Hanna Straltsova earned the silver medal (176 feet). Greenwood (155 feet) and Baldwin (144 feet) placed eighth and 12th, respectively.

Baldwin earned the bronze medal in women’s overall, tallying 2,448.92 points. Canada’s Whitney McClintock won the gold medal (2,569.21 points) and Straltsova earned the silver (2,465.71 points). Jaquess (2,431.33 points) and Gay (2,344.04 points) placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

In men’s slalom, Australia’s Joel Howley won the gold medal after a runoff with Great Britain’s Frederick Winter and Will Asher. After all three skiers tied with 2 buoys at 41 feet off, Howley won the subsequent runoff and gold medal, scoring 1 buoy at 41 feet off to Winter’s 5 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off and Asher’s 4-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off. U.S. independent athletes Dane Mechner (Charlotte, N.C.), Nate Smith (Winter Garden, Fla.) and Brian Detrick (Elk Grove, Calif.) placed fourth (0 buoys at 41 feet off), sixth (3-1/2 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off) and seventh (3 buoys at 39-1/2 feet off, respectively.

In men’s tricks, Mexico’s Patricio Font won the gold medal (11,740 points), France’s Pierre Ballon earned
the silver (11,550 points) and the Czech Republic’s Martin Kolman (11,310 points) earned the bronze. Pickos, the two-time defending champion, placed 11th (9,260 points) and U.S. independent Russell Gay (Winter Garden, Fla.) finished 12th (7,860 points).

In men’s jumping, Canada’s Ryan Dodd won the gold medal for the third consecutive time, soaring 223 feet. Chile’s Felipe Miranda earned the silver (215 feet) and Great Britain’s Joel Poland earned the bronze (211 feet). Garcia placed fourth (210 feet).

In men’s overall, Kolman (2,769.11 points) won the gold medal, the Czech Republic’s Adam Sedlmajer (2,728.49 points) earned the silver, and Poland earned the bronze (2,717.30 points).

For complete results, visit http://www.iwwfed-ea.org/classic/19IWWF02/.

The world-record breaking Ski Nautique was the exclusive towboat of the 36th Water Ski World Championships. Nautique is a Premier Sponsor of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports.

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports is affiliated with the International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (world governing body) and is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Pan-American Sports Organization as the national governing body of organized water skiing and wakeboarding in the United States. Note to media: This press release as well as additional information can be found at https://www.usawaterskiandwakesports.org/. To unsubscribe from future emails, please reply to this email with “REMOVE” in the Subject Line.