

Swamp Things

The University of Florida
Women's Club Water Polo
Seasonal Newsletter

Spring 2016

Gainesville, FL



2016 Season Schedule:

January 30-31	Knights Open Invitational , Lake Brantley High School, <i>Altamonte Springs, FL</i>
February 13-14	1st CWPA Regional Seeding Tournament , Florida Gulf Coast University, <i>Ft. Meyers, FL</i>
March 11-13	Foothills College Tournament , <i>Los Altos, CA</i>
March 19-20	2nd CWPA Regional Seeding Tournament , Emory University, <i>Atlanta, GA</i>
April 16-17	Southeast Regional CWPA Championships , Florida State University, <i>Tallahassee, FL</i>

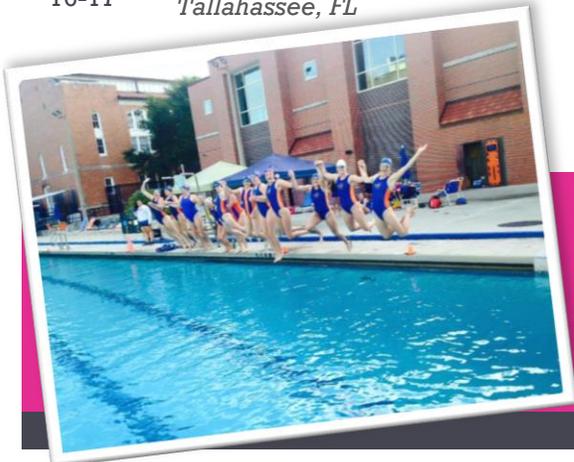
No Broken Hearts for the Gators at FGCU

This past Valentine's weekend, the Gator girls had a romantic date with polo and the pool. UF showed up in Fort Myers at the beautiful Florida Gulf Coast University aquatic center to provide some serious competition. Each team played 3 games this tournament; A team played against UGA, FGCU, and FSU while B team competed against FSU, Emory, and UCF B. A team demolished their opponents, finishing the tournament with 3 big wins. This included a particularly satisfying 14-4 victory against FSU. After a heartbreaking loss to them at Champs last May, it was rewarding to finally come back and defeat FSU once again. While B team suffered 3 losses this tournament, they were nearly tied in all games at half time. This shows that our young B team has the talent and perseverance to grow into a cohesive, strong team. After such a solid performance from both teams at our first CWPA tournament, we can't wait to see what the rest of season has in store!

Check out the next page to read more about this tournament!

We are so fortunate to have as strong of a foundation as we do, and one that is ever growing. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our alumni, family, and friends in the loop about all things UF Women's Water Polo.

Please enjoy it and then pay it forward!





More 1st CWPA Tourney Details

The weather was perfect at the Florida Gulf Coast University Aquatic Center for our tournament weekend – high 70s and not a cloud in the sky, a refreshing change of pace from Gainesville's chilliness. Even though our games were later in the afternoon and evening, both days started early with breakfast and a team meeting at the hotel to prepare for competition.

A team started off the tournament with a meeting to review their team goals, including better 6-on-5 percentages, coming out harder in the first quarter, and better communication in the water. This served them well in their first quarters. Hard conditioning in practice also proved to be

beneficial as the Gators won most of their swim-offs and were able to outswim their competitors in the water. UF A also improved on their man-up scoring opportunities, making most of the 6-on-5 shots. Seniors Shannon McNeil and Kathleen Arnold were the weekend's top scorers. While freshman, Jessie Modrak, and sophomore, Jackie Palmer, created innovative movement in the water. UF A is excited about competing against their big opponents UCF A and Emory in upcoming tournaments.

Although UF B lost their 3 games, they came out each time with an intensity that scared their competitors. Senior, Hannah Zeffren, proved to be a big leader in the water, playing almost all of every

game. Freshman, Mariana Lombello, was also a top scorer. Lots of cheers were had when Jessica Waters, a junior exchange student from England, scored her first American goal. Freshman goalies, Daniela Ortiz and Shannon Komisarchik, also impressed with some major blocks.

After the exciting games on Saturday the entire team retreated to freshman player, Emily Fennell's, house for a delicious pasta dinner made by her aunt.

Scores

UF A v. Georgia: 22-0

UF A v. FGCU: 20-1

UF A v. FSU: 14-4

UF B v. Emory: 4-12

UF B v. FSU: 7-14

UF B v. UCF B: 5-14

Senior Spotlight: *Shannon MacNeil*

Age: 22

Major: Business Management

Ambition: Shannon wants to play on a competitive water polo team until I am in my 40's.

Fun Fact: She has a pet snake and bunny.

"I go into every season with a new and refreshed spirit to play the sport I love. Our team has put in the effort this year to be great and I cannot wait to see where we go this season. Though this may be my last season playing for UF, I wouldn't have wanted to play for any other team."



We Depend on Your Support!

As a student-operated sports team, we would not be successful without the continuous support from our alumni, family, and friends. We rely on your help and are gracious for the generosity we have always received.

Synchronized Swimming and Marathon Running: Supported by UF WWP

To keep our outstanding club ranking with RecSports, we must spectate and support other club sports' competitions. We also have to complete 125 volunteering hours. This February, we were extremely busy completing both tasks!

On the beautiful Saturday morning of February 6th, we supported one of our fellow aquatic sports club teams: Synchronized Swimming! At home on the Florida Pool deck, we watched as the synchronized swimmers danced, swam, and flung themselves in the air to Beyoncé, Broadway show tunes, and intense orchestra pieces. We were thoroughly entertained watching our amazing synchro team win the meet.

For our volunteer event, we were presented with the opportunity to monitor the 11th Annual Five Points of Life Marathon Weekend. This

marathon is an event put on by LifeSouth Community Blood Centers to raise awareness of the need for lifesaving donations of blood, apheresis, marrow, cord blood, organs, and tissues. Our team woke up bright and early to set up our monitor stations all around Gainesville by 6:30 am. We stayed at our stations to ensure traffic control and participant safety, as well as cheer on the runners! We even got to encourage our very own president, Kaylee Petik, as she participated in the half-marathon. We stayed until the race finished at 1:00 pm, volunteering for a collective total of 80 hours.

Gators Getting Ready for CALI

This upcoming weekend, a select travel team of our girls have the amazing opportunity to compete in the 15th Annual San Jose Women's Water Polo Tournament at Foothills College in Los Altos, California. At this tournament our team will play

some of the best club teams in the nation, including California Polytechnic State, University of California: Davis, and California State. We are excited to face some more challenging competition than our region and hope this tournament will help prepare us for a successful Nationals in the future.

Check your Mailboxes!

At the end of February, our team sent out almost 200 letters for our annual letter drive fundraiser. Make sure to check your mailboxes for an up to date letter about our accomplishments, as well as a new surprise! We really count on the support of our alumni, family, and friends. Any amount of support is immensely appreciated by our team. If you have not received a letter and would like to support our team, please contact our secretary, Sierra Leete at s.leete@ufl.edu. Make sure to check out the upcoming issues of our newsletter for a special appreciation section for our support.



Comments? Questions? We would love your feedback!

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have such devoted alumni, family, and friends. Your support is priceless and we do our best to make you proud. Thank you for all you've done and for all that you continue to do.

We would deeply appreciate your thoughts and opinions. If you have any other questions about our club, upcoming dates, potential merchandise opportunities, etc., our officers are easy to reach!



Primary Contact:

Kaylee Petik

E-mail: kpetik@ufl.edu

Phone: (954) 529-5276

Alternative Contacts:

Katie VanDeventer

E-mail: kvandeventer1@ufl.edu

Kathleen Arnold

E-mail: kathleenearnold@ufl.edu

Sierra Leete

E-mail: s.leete@ufl.edu

Or reach us via snail-mail:

Attn: Women's Club Water Polo

3150 Hull Road

Gainesville, FL 32611

And make sure to check out our
website @
ufwaterpolo.wordpress.com

