

Swamp Things

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

Spring 2015

Gainesville, FL



2015 Season Schedule:

January 24-25	The Knights Open Invitational, Lake Highland, Orlando, FL
February 14-15	1 st CWPA Seeding, UCF , Orlando, FL
March 21-22	2 nd CWPA Seeding, Emory University , Atlanta, GA
March 28-29	Irish Invitational, Notre Dame University , South Bend, IN
April 11-12	Southeast Regional Championships UF , Gainesville, FL

Nationals on the Horizon

It's hard to believe that spring semester is nearly over, but even harder to believe that Champs is less than two weeks away! With a jam packed March, filled with two tournaments and spring break, it's no wonder the weeks seemed to fly by. It's crunch time in Gainesville as the girls prepare themselves mentally and physically for the Southeast Regional Championship - the third and final CWPA tournament of the regular season. The stakes are high, and the winner will receive a bid to the Club Nationals tournament which will be held at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.

Going in to the big weekend, the rankings are as follows:

1 st Seed	University of Florida 'A'
2 nd Seed	Emory University
3 rd Seed	University of Central Florida
4 th Seed	Florida State University
5 th Seed	University of Florida 'B'
6 th Seed	University of Georgia



We are so fortunate to have as strong of a foundation as we do, and one that is ever growing. However, we feel a gap has risen between our present team and our support. 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!



Gators on the Move!

Having two travel tournaments this month really kept the girls busy! The club enjoyed the privilege of having the Larson duo there to coach them to success at both Emory and Notre Dame. We would like to extend a big congratulations to freshman, Marcella Gallardo, for earning a spot on the A-team! Keep up the good work!

Atlanta, Georgia
The B-team capitalized on their opportunities to refine their game, coming together beautifully as a team. Sierra Leete, sophomore, came up big for the Gators in the goal, inspiring everyone on the

pool deck with her performance, denying shot after shot from the competition.

After losing their goalie to a broken finger, the A-team called on a familiar face to help them out over the weekend. Brooke Bohlken, a fifth year mechanical engineering student, was the starting goalie for the Gators last year, and it's safe to say she's still got it! Bohlken played a crucial role in securing the top seed in regionals, helping maintain the Gators undefeated record.

South Bend, Indiana
The Lady Gators – and Tim - braved the snow and ice (even some hail)

over the weekend as they travelled up to Notre Dame to compete in the 2015 Irish Invitational. The girls matched up with Michigan, Michigan State, Lindenwood, Grand Valley State, and Notre Dame, leaving the weekend with a 1-4 record. The games were all close, and showed just how tough, and unwilling to give up, our 2015 squad is. The weekend was a great learning experience and gave the girls a little taste of what to expect if they are to make it to the National tournament. If you are in Gainesville the weekend of April 11-12, come stop by, our club would love your support!

Senior Spotlight: *Rachel Werk*

Age: 21

Major: Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience

Ambition: Becoming a physician in a pediatric specialty seeing patients and doing research; traveling all over the world; ultimately, being surrounded by love, meaningful relationships, and purpose

Hobbies: Water polo, painting and drawing, hiking, eating delicious food, and singing at the top of my lungs

"I have been on the team since my freshman year and I am so thankful for it! My favorite part about being a member is the amazing relationships I have formed through it over these past four years. I have met such an inspiring group of girls, including some of my best friends and roommates, through water polo. Thank you so much to you all: you all who made these past four years so incredible by singing during shooting drills, pushing each other through swim sets, drowning each other during "Worst Enemy Swim," cheering each other on during games, studying together, partying together, living together, or just hanging out together. UF would not have been the same without my incredible teammates. I love you all!"



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. Here's why:

Here's how it works. At the end of every school year the club officers present a breakdown of our season to the UF RecSports Sports Club Council, which goes along with a budget request form we submit to receive a Student Government allocated fund for the following year. We are then required to fundraise at least 75% of our budget, as well as 75% of any special request funding (i.e. if we get to go to Nationals).

To give you an idea about how much we have to fundraise, one travel tournament for our two UF teams can amount to over \$2000 with tournament fees, hotels, and money for gas. We also have CWPA membership fees to pay each year.

We must also invest in our equipment. We purchase new balls every year, and new caps every couple of years- definitely check out what our practice caps look like these days! Eventually we will have to replace those dreadfully heavy metal goals (Alumni, you can relate!).

Keeping with the Times

This spring the Women's Water Polo Club implemented a new form of fundraising, one that is more accessible to all. Shannon Macneil, junior and fundraising chair, started a GoFundMe page which is a website that allows online users to donate instantly through a Paypal account. Our page features a brief bio and shows guests our fundraising goal, as well as an area for comments and well wishes. This method allows us to share our cause with hundreds of people instantly via social media sites like Facebook.

In addition to the GoFundMe page, our annual letter drive envelopes have gone out! The letter drive is our biggest and most successful fundraiser and we are hoping to see some big results!

New Equipment

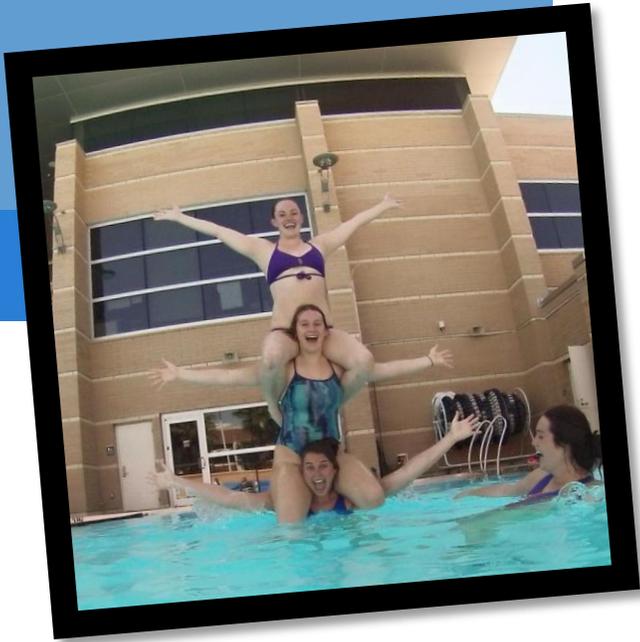
Hooray, hooray! We have finally bit the bullet and cleaned out the

water polo bins! This chore has been long overdue; we deflated and threw away over thirty balls, some of which were older than the freshmen! (UNC trip 1995, anybody?) The crusted and cracked balls have been replaced with 12 brand new ones, making practice a treat.

Our new cages have also been laced up, and will make their debut for the club at the April tournament!

O'Dome Renovations Postponed

In a surprising, and relieving, turn of events, the renovations to the O'Connell Center have been postponed! The full restoration has yet to be determined, but will take up to a year to fully complete. The O'Dome was closed for the entire month of March to update the liner on the bottom of the pool, which had begun to tear. As we close out March the pool will be reopened for recswim and the girls will be able to continue with their extra swim practices...and just in time for champs!



Comments? Questions? We would love your feedback!

We want to give a big shout out to alumni, family, and friends who made it out to our Annual Alumni Weekend Event and those who have shown their support from afar! We count on you!

This newsletter stands as a trial run; therefore 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:

Sarah Hall
E-mail: Sarah.Hall@ufl.edu
Phone: (954) 805 3163

Alternative Contacts:

Kaylee Petik
E-mail: kpetik@ufl.edu

Kathleen Arnold
E-mail: kathleearnold@ufl.edu

Tina Papadopoulos
E-mail: cpapadopoulos@ufl.edu

Or reach us via snail-mail:

Attn: Women's Club Water Polo
3150 Hull Road
Gainesville, FL 32611

