

Vice President Olympic International

Irene Hawes

Sept 2023

What a year it has been for USA for our National Teams and our Clubs. What wonderful performance by all. The future looks bright.

Since Convention of last year there has been a lot going on.

October 2022- **Argentina Open**

Melody Wallace attended as an unaffiliated judge
I attended as the Evaluation at the request of Argentina.

December 2022 – **FINA Judges School**

This was an international school for all of our FINA/AQUA judges. It was hosted by the US in Colorado Springs with many international judges in attendance.

January 2023 - **Youth Trials**

This was hosted by Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas by the University and Sara Lowe Lilly. The athletes were selected to the next phase at the Youth National Championships in Buffalo, NY.

March 2023 – **World Cup**

Our National Team traveled to Markham, Canada for the 1st World Cup in the series. Outstanding performances by our National Team. Our officials were Shannon Korpela and Shari Darst. I was nominated by Aqua to be the AQUA evaluator, the first to do so under the new scoring system. Bill May was selected to be a Technical Controller. USA was well represented.

<u>Technical Duet</u> - Fields, Liu	5th place
<u>Acrobatic</u> – Alvarez, Coletti, Czarkowski Davidson, Hunter, Kwon, Ramirez, Vega	3 rd place
<u>Technical Mixed Team</u> Alvarez, Czarkowski, Field, Kwon Liu, Luu, Ramirez, Vega	2 nd Place

April 2023

This month had the Youth Team selection trials in Buffalo New York and the Junior and Senior National Team Trials in Oro Valley, Az took place. Athletes were selected for the Youth Athletes to attend the Youth World Championships in Greece, the Junior Athletes to do a training camp in Spain, and the athletes who wished to try out for the World National Team who were not already qualified.

May 2023 – **World Cup**

Our National Team traveled to Montpellier, France. Another outstanding performance. Our official in attendance was Heidi Lurenz.

<u>Technical Duet</u> - Fields/Liu	4 th place
<u>Acrobatic</u> – Alvarez, Brunel, Czarkowski	2 nd Place

Hunter, Kwon, Liu, Luu, Ramirez	
<u>Technical Mixed Team – Alvarez, Czarkowski</u>	3 rd place
Davidson, Field, Kwon, Luu, Ramirez, Vega	
<u>Male Tech Solo - Gaudet</u>	5th place

May 2023

World Cup

Svetlana Malinovskya was selected to be the technical controller for the World Cup stop 3 in Soma Bay, Egypt. After much consideration our National Team elected not to participate in this World Cup.

World Championship Team Trials -

The final selection of the 12 athletes to represent the US was conducted at the UCLA pool in May. Every athlete who participated whether selected or not should be proud of their performances. It was a hard and difficult selection. Our AQUA judges Shari Darst and Eugenia Gallin along with our coaches had the hard task of narrowing down the selection to just 12 athletes. Ultimately 12 were selected and a special invitation to Kenny Gaudet to represent the US in Japan as the USA Male Soloist.

The athletes selected were:

Anita Alvarez, Megumi Fields, Keanna Hunter, Audrey Kwon, Calista Liu, Jacklyn Luu, Dani Ramirez, Natalia Vega, Ruby Remati, bNikko Dzurko and Bill May. Many tears and hugs happened after the announcement and there was much excitement for those returning to the national team.

June 2023

June was a quiet month internationally for our National Teams. Club options were well attended by Pirouettes of Texas at the Cancun Open, Walnut Creek and New Canaan both went to the Primorje Synchro Cup in Croatia, Santa Clara to the Hungarian Open. AQUA USA officials were Svetlana Malinovskaya to the Cancun, Sheila McNabb and Krista Karowsky to Croatia.

July 2023

World Championships in Fukuoka Japan, had another fantastic showing by our National Team. This meet should have been renamed the base mark championship. USA was represented again by AQUA judge Heid Lurenz. This was her first Senior World Championship.

Duet Technical Fields & Remati	17 th Place
Duet Free Fields & Remati	7 th Place
Men's Technical Solo Gaudet	2 nd Place
Men's Free Solo Gaudet	3 rd Place
Acrobatic	2 nd place
Mixed Team Technical	3 rd place
Mixed Team Free	9 th place

Based on their performance if you add up the 3 Olympic events, we look strong heading into the Pan American Games which will qualify the team for the 2024 Paris Olympica. GO USA!!!!

World Masters

This was held a few weeks after the World Championship and it was held in Kyushu, Japan. This meet had many trials and tribulations. First 2 earthquakes, followed by a Volcanic warning and finally a Typhoon. All the athletes and our AQUA judge survived, but unfortunately due to the condensed schedule many of our athletes were unable to fully compete as their travel plans did not fit with the 2 days of delay due to the typhoon. Results are still not posted on the AQUA website, but USA did earn some medals. Cheryl Russell represented the USA as the AQUA official. This was her first World Masters Championship. The Masters who attended were MAC Synchro, DC Synchromasters, East Tennessee Dolphins, Nevada Desert Mermaids, Redwood Empire Synchro, Unsyncables of La Mirada, Santa Clara Aquamaids and the California Synchro Masters.

August 2023

Pan American Artistic Swimming Championship

USA hosted this competition at the remodeled International Swimming Hall of Fame. A big thanks goes out to our staff, PAQ Committee members who made this a great completion, although hot and humid for all. Since our National Youth team was training for the Youth World Championships in Greece and our Junior Training squad was training in Spain, a host of clubs were invited and accepted their invitation to this championship. Our athletes competed in the 12- under, Youth, Junior and some Senior Events. The results are on the USAAS web site. Congratulations to all the clubs in attendance, Cincinnati YMCA Synchrogators, Heartland Synchro, Scottsdale Synchro, Santa Clara Aquamaids, La Mirada Aquabelles, San Francisco Marionettes, Florida Elite Synchro, Blue Legend, Houston Synchro Stars and New Canaan YMCA Aquianas. In addition to a PAQ members, Betty Hazle, Ginny Jasontek and Denise Shively, we had AQUA judges, Kim Kohut and Erin King. Tammy McGregor was selected to be a Technical Controller and Irene Hawes as Evaluator.

Youth World Championship

This was held in Athens Greece. Another exciting event for Team USA. The athletes for the US are Kanako Fields, Ghizal Akbar, Michale Chan, Abigail Gallon, Samantha Chu, Hannay Ryu, Mona Schwickert, Sophia Shen, Sophia Tsives and Olivia Zhu.

Figures

Kanako Fields	1 st Place
Michael Chen	6 th Place
Olivia Zhu	21 st Place
Mona Schwickert	40 th place
Ghizal Ackbar	29 th place

This was out of 270 athletes; USA had the 3rd highest figure average. Great job to our USA Youth athletes. USA was also represented in Greece by AQUA Judge, Debbie Latchford. This was the best results for our Youth National team in the history of the Youth World Championships! The future is bright, go Team USA.

Male Solo

Michael Chen 3rd Place

Mixed Duet

Abigail Gallon/Michael Chen 3rd Place

Solo

Megumi Fields 2nd place

Duet

Ghizal Akbar/Kanako Fields 3th place

Mixed Team

Akbar, Chu, Field 3rd Place
Ryou, Schwickert,
Shen, Tsives, Zhu

Mixed Youth Combo

4th place

Akbar, Chan, Chu, Gallon
Ning, Ryou, Schwickert,
Shen, Tsives, Zhu

In the Overall medal count the USA Youth team **ranked 1st !!!!** with 5 total medals, 2nd was Japan and 3rd was Span. Way to go USA!!!

We have 3 AQUA officials that will be retiring from international competition on Dec 31, 2023, Shari Darst, Shannon Korpela and Eugenia Gillan. Also retiring on December 31, 2023 will be AQUA evaluator, Linda Loehndorf. Thank you for your service to AQUA/FINA and in representing the US on the world stage.

Finally, I would like to express my many undying and many thanks to Betty Hazle, she is the force behind this position and I could not do this job without her. Her wealth of knowledge is not matched by anyone.

Respectfully Submitted

