

WATER POLO SASKATCHEWAN

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For immediate release

Water Polo Saskatchewan achieves historic result at National Championship Finals.

Water Polo Saskatchewan won a gold and two silvers at Canadian National Finals this weekend, the best showing of any club at the tournament. The U16 boys ended up the best team in the country for their age group, beating DDO 26-25, in a heart stopping gold medal game. The U16 girls won silver, losing to Fraser Valley in the final by a heartbreaking 6-7 score. The U19 women came away with a silver medal, losing to CAMO in the final. These results are historic for Water Polo Saskatchewan making it the best development club in the country this season. Blaire McDowell was named Most Valuable Player for the U16 girls' and Victor Bautista was named Most Valuable Coach for the U16 boys'.



The top four U16 and U19 teams in the country gathered this weekend at the Olympic pool in Montreal for age group National Finals. This tournament would decide who would be the top team in the country in each age/gender category. Water Polo Saskatchewan had already had an impressive showing at both Western U16 and U19 Conference Championships, where three teams (U16 girls, U16 boys, U19 woman) qualified for National Finals.

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The U16 Saskatchewan girls started off the National Final weekend in the best way possible with a win, 12-9, against CAMO (QB), the top team in the East, in the semi-final. The U16 boys followed with a nerve-wracking semi-final game against the Mavericks Water Polo Club (ON), the second team in the East, where the boys were able to hang on to a tight 17-16 win. Finally, the U19 girls completed the day by clinching a spot in the gold medal game with a strong 18-13 win against Golden Horseshoe (ON).

The next day was a busy day for Water Polo Saskatchewan with three teams in a gold medal game. The first game from the U16 girls was a heartbreaker, with a 6-7 loss to the undefeated Fraser Valley (BC). However, the U16 boys got Team Saskatchewan right back into a winning mood with what many said was the most exciting game of the tournament against DDO (QB). The boys were able to fight back to tie the game 19-19 after being down by three goals with two minutes remaining. A tie meant the gold medal would be decided through a shoot-out, after nine rounds of shots the Saskatchewan boys clinched a win with a goal by Team Sask Bruno Marunica and a miss by DDO. In the next game, the U19 girls finally ended their winning streak with a loss to a strong CAMO team, but with pride at capturing the silver medal.

At the awards gala that evening Blaire McDowell won Most Valuable Player for the U16 girls' category and Victor Bautista won Most Valuable Coach for the U16 boys' category. Water Polo Saskatchewan ended the weekend and the year as the best development club in the country with one gold and two silvers in the age group National Finals.

For further information please contact:

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