

# Local youngsters have a splash at water polo clinic

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The Shaunavon Swimming Pool was the site of some high-energy action last Wednesday as a small crowd of local swimmers tried their hands at the sport of water polo.

Close to 20 kids and 1 adult came out to take part in the Summer Active Sports Exposure clinic held on the sport that afternoon. Facilitated by Cyril Dorgigne and Lambry Stamatinos of Water Polo Saskatchewan, the hour and a half-long clinic offered an introduction of water polo to participants, teaching them the basic skills required and the general rules of the sport.

"It has gone really well," commented Stamatinos during the clinic. "The kids seem to be enjoying themselves and are doing really well. And they've really been trying hard. Many of them have mastered using just one hand, which often doesn't

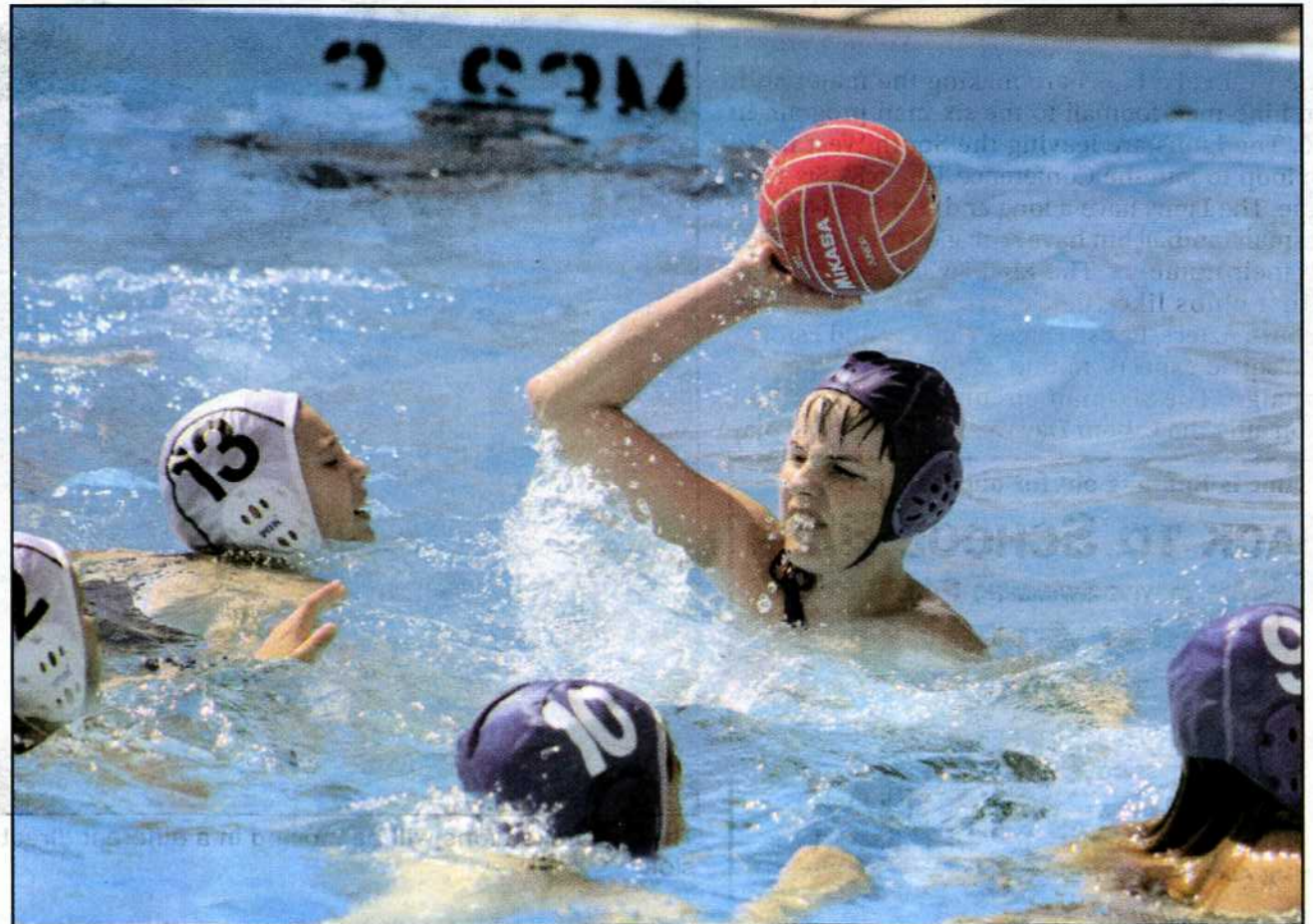
happen at these clinics."

The clinic was comprised of a variety of activities in the water. First, participants played two games called blob tag and sharks and minnows. They then worked on some of the basic water polo skills, including the head up front crawl and spinning using the ball with one hand. After being split into two teams and assigned numbered caps, participants also spent a large portion of time in the

deep end scrimmaging and putting their new skills to use.

"I hope this clinic has brought some awareness about water polo, as our numbers are down. And I just hope it gives the kids a better understanding of the sport," said Stamatinos.

Following their brief time in Shaunavon, Dorgigne and Stamatinos also traveled to Gull Lake to offer a water polo clinic there.



Above: Nathan MacNeil tries out his newly learned skills during a scrimmage at last week's water polo clinic, held at the Shaunavon Swimming Pool.