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**COLLEGIATE WATER POLO
ASSOCIATION
DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP**

**APRIL 24, 2021
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**

**HOSTED BY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

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CWPB Coordinator of Officials

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History of the Collegiate Water Polo Association

The Collegiate Water Polo Association originally began as the Mid Atlantic Conference, founded by Dick Russell (Bucknell University swimming & water polo coach) in the 1970's. Its founding membership included teams from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

The leadership and management of the organization relied on volunteer coaches until 1990, when it hired a commissioner to perform basic scheduling for the 15 member teams. Officiating assignments at the time were performed by an independent organization called the Eastern Water Polo Referees Association (EWPPRA).

The next major milestone occurred in 1993, when the Southern and New England Conferences merged into the Mid Atlantic. The new structure combined all of the varsity teams in the East, along with the few sport clubs in existence at that time.

During the 1995 season, the conference received its first major challenge, as the organization experienced a strike by its officiating core. This strike ultimately resulted in the organization establishing its own officiating bureau, assuming responsibility for all of its officiating assignments.

The CWPA's office is located in Bridgeport, Pa., and is comprised of a Commissioner (Dan Sharadin), a Director of Communications (Ed Haas), a Coordinator of Officials (Ed Reed) and a Director of Multimedia (Justin Cypert). The staff oversees approximately 300 teams on the varsity and club level for both men and women to place the CWPA among the largest sports organizations in North America.



Understanding the Game of Water Polo

Water Polo can be a confusing game for spectators. The whistle is constantly blowing and the play never stops, even when someone is ejected for a penalty. In addition, there are many misconceptions about the game, including how the players keep their horses swimming. Well hang in there, because the following information should help to make the picture much clearer.

General Information

1. Each team has six field players and a goalie.
2. Field players can only use one hand to touch the ball, goalies two.
3. The game consists of four quarters and the clock stops on the whistle. If the game is tied at the end of regulation, the teams play two three-minute overtime periods. If it is still tied, the game goes into sudden victory. A typical game lasts about an hour and ten minutes.
4. The object of the game is to score by placing the ball completely in the goal. Players may move the ball by swimming or passing.
5. Teams may substitute after a goal is scored, during a time-out, or during the play from the ejection area.
6. Each team receives three time-outs and one 30-second time-out per game.
7. Shots blocked out of bounds by defensive players result in the defensive team receiving possession. If a defender uses two hands to block a shot, the offensive team receives a penalty shot.

Types of Fouls

When an infraction of the rules occurs, the referee will point in the direction of the team taking possession, while blowing his whistle. The ball is put back into play with an action called a free throw. This means the player gets three seconds of free time to throw the ball to another teammate or swim it up the pool. A player cannot shoot his free throw unless outside the five-meter line. If the ball is not put into play within three seconds, the other team takes possession.

Fouls can be ordinary or major. Ordinary fouls are best understood as minor fouls. For example, a defender may reach over an opponent's back to get at the ball while facing away from the goal. The penalty for an ordinary foul is a free throw for the opposing team.

Major fouls are more severe and are penalized accordingly. For example, when a defender fouls an opponent too aggressively, or from behind when the opponent is facing the goal, the defender is ejected for 20 seconds (players may reenter if their team recovers the ball before the ejection time is up, or if the opposing team scores). When the foul occurs within five meters of the goal and the referee believes the player had a high chance of scoring, the opposition shoots a penalty shot. Major fouls can also occur through disrespect to the referee or when a player interferes with an opponent's free throw. Players may only receive three major fouls before elimination.

If all of this has you totally confused, just sit back and enjoy the game. The easiest way to follow the play is by watching the scoreboard. If your team is ahead at the end, great! If not, well consider that you have expanded your horizons. When the game is over, you can at least explain to your friends that the horses never get wet.



*Official Ball of the
Collegiate Water Polo Association*

2021 WOMEN'S CWPA CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 24, 2021			Game #	Score
10:00	1st Seed — University of Michigan	vs.	4th Seed— Mount St. Mary's University	1
1:00	2nd Seed — Bucknell University	vs.	3rd Seed— Saint Francis University	2
4:00	Loser Game 2	vs.	Loser Game 1	3rd Place
7:00	Winner Game 1	vs.	Winner Game 2	1st Place

- Teams listed first wear dark caps and are home on the scoreboard. Host team always wears dark caps and is home on the scoreboard regardless of bracket position.
- Streaming coverage of all four games available for \$10 per game or a day pass for \$25 at CWPA-TV.com
- Seeding for the championship is based on the Wolverines, Bison, Red Flash and Mountaineers regular season league records as Michigan (6-0), Bucknell (4-2), Saint Francis (2-4) and Mount St. Mary's (0-6) will play out of the No. 1-to-4 spots, respectively.
- The victor of the CWPA Championship earns the league's automatic berth to the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Water Polo Championship slated for Wednesday, May 12, and Friday-Sunday, May 14-16, at the University of California-Los Angeles' Spieker Aquatics Center.
- In the history of the league championship, half of the field has played for the league crown as Michigan holds nine titles (2002, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019) and four (2004, 2006, 2011, 2013) runner-up finishes, while Bucknell has twice (1991, 1994) finished second at the league championship tournament. Saint Francis has never advanced to the league championship title game in three prior appearances (2017, 2018, 2019) and Mount St. Mary's is in the first year of varsity competition for the program.

COLLEGIATE WATER POLO ASSOCIATION COMMISSIONER

Dan Sharadin

CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS

Alex Stankevitch, Igor Mernenko, Chad Packer



TEAM INFORMATION



SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

Saint Francis University (9-11, 2-4 CWPA) will compete at the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Championship for the fourth time as the Red Flash...In 2017 at Indiana University under then head coach Pat Beemer, the Red Flash burned George Washington University 11-10 before falling to the University of Michigan (22-2 L), Indiana University (16-6 L) and Brown University (12-3 L) to earn an Eighth Place finish in the nine-team field...At Bucknell

University in 2018, Saint Francis fell to Harvard University (11-3 L), the host Bison (16-4 L) and George Washington (12-6 L) to take Ninth Place...In 2019 at Brown University, the Red Flash dropped a game to Princeton University (12-3 L) prior to upending George Washington (11-7 W) and falling against Bucknell (13-8 L) to take sixth in a seven-team field...This year, Saint Francis went 2-4 in league play against Michigan (13-5 L at SFU, March 21; 20-3 L at Bucknell, April 11), Mount St. Mary's University (18-7 W at SFU, March 21; 19-5 W at Mount St. Mary's, April 17) and Bucknell (11-8 L at Bucknell, April 11; 14-9 L at Mount St. Mary's, April 17)...Overall, the Red Flash finished 3-5 versus league schools as the squad fell at Michigan (13-2 L, February 21) and managed Mount St. Mary's (17-7 W at Villanova University, March 6)...Fourth year Saint Francis head coach Jay O'Neil will aim for its inaugural conference championship this weekend...A 1997 graduate of Bucknell University, he coached the Bison women's team for one-year as an assistant coach. He then took over as Salem International University's head coach for men's and women's water polo from 1999-2001 earning notice as the 2000 CWPA Women's Southern Division-West Region Coach of the Year. Following 10 years as the aquatics director and head swimming coach at Somerset High School, he returned to the intercollegiate ranks by assuming duties as head men's and women's coach at Washington & Jefferson College from February 2012 until November 2015. He led the Presidents of W&J to a combined record of 104-100, including an impressive 56-38 mark on the women's side, and earned the 2012 CWPA Division III Women's Water Polo Coach of the Year honor. O'Neil appeared in four title games with the W&J women's team during his tenure in Washington, Pa., helping the squad reach the 2012, 2014 and 2015 CWPA Division III Championship tilts...Freshman Emese Szucs has made an impact during her inaugural season in Loretto and should be a "Player to Watch" as the SFU program continues to rise in the league standings over the next several seasons...The Red Flash have been among the Top 25 teams in the National Poll this year as Saint Francis was ranked at No. 24 two weeks ago prior to dropping into the "Receiving Votes" list earlier this week.

Head Coach: Jay O'Neil
Assistant Coach: Allison Rocha

1	Rosalinda Rivera	Jr.	Hatfield, Pa.
1A	Heather Jacobson	So.	San Jose, Calif.
1B	Haley Sanko	So.	Drums, Pa.
4	Rebecca Pendleton	Jr.	Maple Glen, Pa.
6	Haiden Lang	So.	Placentia, Calif.
7	Abbie Carter	So.	Abbotsford, Canada
8	Taylor Halbauer	So.	Edmonton, Calif.
9	Addison Williams	So.	Clovis, Calif.
11	Emese Szucs	Fr.	Budapest, Hungary
12	Julia Bradford	Jr.	Edinboro, Pa.
15	Madeleine Voss	So.	Hatfield, Pa.
16	Katelyn Meagher	Fr.	Palos Heights, Ill.
17	Chloe Ryan	So.	Chicago, Ill.
18	Jenna Handali	Fr.	Greenwich, Conn.
20	Emma Allamian	Fr.	St. Charles, Ill.



TEAM INFORMATION



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

No. 4 seed Mount St. Mary's University (0-13, 0-6 CWPA) will appear in its inaugural Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Championship as the first-year program continues to seek its inaugural victory...The Mountaineers went 0-6 in league competition as Mount St. Mary's dropped games to the University of Michigan (21-1 L at Bucknell University, March 20; 15-2 L at Saint Francis, March 21), Bucknell (21-5 L at Bucknell, March 20; 20-3 L at Mount St. Mary's, April 17) and Saint Francis (18-7 L at SFU, March 21; 18-5 L at Mount St. Mary's, April 17)...The squad is 0-7 overall against league foes in 2021 as the Mountaineers fell to Saint Francis by a 17-7 count on March 6 at Villanova University in non-conference competition..This marks the greatest distance the Mountaineers have traveled for a game this year as the program's entire season was competed in Pennsylvania at Villanova (Villanova), Bucknell (Lewisburg) and Saint Francis (Loretto) or at home in Emmitsburg, Maryland...Mount St. Mary's head coach Alyssa Diacono came to the institution's men's and women's programs after working as a graduate assistant coach at Mercyhurst University. She arrived in the Keystone State of Pennsylvania by way of her native California after earning a degree in Public Health from San Diego State University. In between her stops, she played professional water polo in international waters for the University of Western Australia Team, based in Perth, and The Exiles Sports Club in Malta from 2017-2019. While competing for the Aztecs, Diacono earned SDSU's Female Student-Athlete of the Year Award in 2017, and was a two-time Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) All-American, garnering Honorable Mentions in 2015 and 2016. During Diacono's time with the Aztecs, the team went 76-60 with an unblemished 26-0 record in the Golden Coast Conference. Her career totals include 158 goals, 90 steals, 23 assists and 17 saves. Additional coaching stops on her résumé include an eight year stint as an assistant with Tesoro High School – a member of the Capistrano Unified School District – and an internship with the Mission Viejo Nadadores Swim Team. At Tesoro, she was instrumental in creating a perennial playoff contender at both the conference and state levels...She is assisted on the bench by Justin Vink—who joined the Mountaineers after serving as a graduate assistant at Salem University for three semesters. Before his time in West Virginia, Vink worked a series of coaching jobs in California and Pennsylvania. He worked with the club teams at the University of Southern California, assisted at Harvard Westlake Upper School and served as head coach for swimming and water polo for John F. Kennedy High School in Los Angeles. While in Pennsylvania, he spent a season coaching Fairview High School. Vink also worked as program director and head club coach for Westside Aquatics and as an age group club coach with Los Angeles Premier Water Polo. A 2015 graduate of Penn State Behrend, he played driver for the Lions from 2011-2014 compiling 82 goals with 57 assists and 56 steals.

Head Coach: Alyssa Diacono
Assistant Coach: Justin Vink

1	Rebekka Williams	Gr.	Poway, Calif.
4	Madison Szczublewski	Fr.	Henderson, Nev.
5	Mackenzie Zenk	Fr.	Salinas, Calif.
6	Ana Luisa Cotta	Fr.	Orlando, Fla.
7	Lauryn Thomas	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif.
9	Mara Davis	Fr.	Oceanside, Calif.
12	Toria Peterson	Fr.	Alvin, Texas
13	Lily Pullen	Fr.	Brisbane, Australia
14	Emily Van Kerckhove	Fr.	Montgomery, Ohio
16	Riley Thompson	Fr.	Murray, Utah



PREVIOUS CWPA CHAMPIONS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Runner-Up</i>
1988	Slippery Rock University	Bucknell University
1989	Slippery Rock University	Bucknell University
1990	Slippery Rock University	Harvard University
1991	Slippery Rock University	Bucknell University
1992	Slippery Rock University	University of Maryland
1993	Slippery Rock University	Harvard University
1994	Slippery Rock University	Bucknell University
1995	Slippery Rock University	Harvard University
1996	Slippery Rock University	University of Maryland
1997	University of Maryland	Slippery Rock University
1998	University of Massachusetts	University of Maryland
1999	University of Massachusetts	University of Maryland
2000	Princeton University	University of Massachusetts
2001	Brown University	Princeton University
2002	University of Michigan	Hartwick College
2003	Indiana University	Brown University
2004	Hartwick College	University of Michigan
2005	University of Michigan	Indiana University
2006	Hartwick College	University of Michigan
2007	Hartwick College	Princeton University
2008	University of Michigan	Hartwick College
2009	University of Michigan	Hartwick College
2010	University of Michigan	Indiana University
2011	Indiana University	University of Michigan
2012	Princeton University	University of Maryland
2013	Princeton University	University of Michigan
2014	Indiana University	Princeton University
2015	Princeton University	Indiana University
2016	University of Michigan	Indiana University
2017	University of Michigan	Princeton University
2018	University of Michigan	Princeton University
2019	University of Michigan	Princeton University
2020	Canceled—COVID-19	

Future CWPA Championship Sites (tentative):

2021—Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.)
2022—Saint Francis University (Loretto, Pa.)
2023—Princeton University (Princeton, N.J.)
2024—Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.)



TEAM INFORMATION



BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

No. 2 seed/No. 20-ranked Bucknell University (7-3, 4-2 CWPA) enters the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Championship seeking to crack the Top Three for the second time in as many trips to the event..In 2019 at Brown University in Providence, R.I., the Bison downed George Washington University (12-7 W), fell to Princeton University (11-5 L) and turned back Harvard University (11-9 W) to garner a Third Place finish. It marked the best all-time mark for Bucknell this century...Since 1999, the team has placed third (2019), fourth (2006), fifth (2010, 2016, 2018), sixth (2008, 2014, 2017), seventh (2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2015), eighth (2003, 2012), ninth (2000) and 11th (2002) in the many versions of the CWPA/Eastern Championship with the 2020 event scrubbed due to the cancelation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) season due to the COVID-19 pandemic...The Bison last appeared in the league title game during the 1994 season against former varsity program Slippery Rock University...Overall, Bucknell has played for the league title four times (1988, 1989, 1991, 1994), falling to "The Rock" each time...No team from the Keystone State of Pennsylvania has won the CWPA Championship since those Slippery Rock teams...Since Brown captured the CWPA Championship in 2001, only the University of Michigan (2002, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), former league member Indiana University (2003, 2011, 2014), former varsity team Hartwick College (2004, 2006, 2007) and Princeton (2012, 2013, 2015) have claimed the league title, a trend the Bison wish to terminate in 2021...This year, Bucknell has dominated in its games against Mount St. Mary's University (21-5 W at Bucknell, March 20; 20-3 W at Mount St. Mary's, April 7) and Saint Francis University (11-8 W at Bucknell, April 11; 11-8 W at Mount St. Mary's, April 7), while suffering a pair of home losses to the host Wolverines of Michigan (16-5 L at Bucknell, March 20; 15-6 L at Bucknell, April 11)...Bucknell head coach John McBride recently experienced a championship—as the Bison leader guided his men's program to the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference (MAWPC) title on March 7 via an 11-3 defeat of La Salle University at home in Kinney Natatorium. The victory was bitter-sweet for Kali Hyham, who is the daughter of Explorers' head coach Tom Hyham...No institution has won both either a MAWPC or Northeast Water Polo Conference (NWPC) title in men's competition and taken home a CWPA women's crown in the same academic or calendar year...The last team to achieve the feat was Princeton as then head coach and current U.S. Naval Academy headman Luis Nicolao led the Tigers to the 2015 women's CWPA crown versus Indiana before taking the 2015 men' CWPA title—prior to the formation of two conferences—against Johns Hopkins University...In terms of a single academic year, Princeton won both the men's and women's crowns during the 2011-12 academic year with the the men topping the U.S. Naval Academy prior to the women taking down the University of Maryland.

Head Coach: John McBride
Assistant Coaches: Hannah Sunday, Arturo Villapando

1	Georgia Lewis	Jr.	Redwood, Calif.
2	Marcela Herrera	Sr.	Windermere, Fla.
3	Abbie Coscia	So.	Holyoke, Mass.
4	Paige Furano	Jr.	Stamford, Conn.
5	Larissa Hodzic	Jr.	New Rochelle, N.Y.
6	Ally Furano	Sr.	Stamford, Conn.
7	Chloe Smith	So.	Newport Beach, Calif.
9	Bella Moynihan	So.	San Anselmo, Calif.
10	Sheila Tomlin	So.	Coronado, Calif.
11	Megan Lacroix	So.	Saratoga, Calif.
12	Bertina Tapiero	Fr.	Greenwich, Conn.
13	Sam Gove	So.	Rockport, Mass.
14	Olivia Dey	Fr.	Oshawa, Ontario
15	Celia Foster	So.	Manhattan Beach, Calif.
18	Kirstin Hayduchok	Fr.	Houston, Texas
20	Isabelle Monaghan	Fr.	Lawrenceville, N.J.
21	Emma Molaski	Fr.	Eugene, Ore.
22	Kali Hyham	Sr.	Garden Grove, Calif.

TEAM INFORMATION



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The four-time defending Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Champion Wolverines of No. 1 seed/No. 7-ranked the University of Michigan (19-4, 6-0 CWPA) rated alongside Slippery Rock University (1988-1996) as the only women's varsity teams that have four-repeated as league champion in the CWPA...The Wolverines are 46-12 all-time at the championship, including a 40-11 mark since 2001...A nine-time Western Division (2004-to-2012) and two-time Southern Division (2002, 2003) Champion, Michigan stands at 7-0 against the rest of the 2021 championship field with prior league games versus Bucknell University (16-5 W at Bucknell, March 20; 15-6 W at Bucknell, April 11), Saint Francis University (13-5 W at SFU, March 21; 20-3 W at Bucknell, April 11) and Mount St. Mary's University (21-1 W at Bucknell, April 20; 16-2 W at SFU, March 21) and a non-conference game against Saint Francis at home in Canham Natatorium (13-2 W at Michigan, February 21)...In the history of the CWPA Championship, Michigan has finished Fifth (2001), First (2002, 7-6 W OT SD vs. Hartwick College at Princeton), third (2003), second (2004, 5-2 L vs. Hartwick at Bucknell), first (2005, 8-7 W at Indiana University), second (2006, 11-8 L vs. Hartwick at Brown University), fourth (2007), first (2008, 10-7 W vs. Hartwick at home), first (2009, 12-6 W vs. Hartwick at Harvard University), first (2010, 7-5 W vs. Indiana at University of Maryland), second (2011, 5-3 L at Indiana), third (2012), second (2013, 7-5 L vs. Princeton at home), third (2014), fourth (2015), first (2016, 9-2 W vs. Indiana at Harvard), first (2017, 5-4 W vs. Princeton at Indiana), first (2018, 11-8 W vs. Princeton at Bucknell) and first (2019, 10-6 W vs. Princeton at Brown) since 2001...No active team has appeared in more CWPA title games than Michigan with 13, shattering the previous league record of 10 title berths held by Slippery Rock University (1988-to-1997)...Since women's water polo became a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sponsored varsity sport, no varsity team (men's or women's) had ever won more than three consecutive CWPA crowns. The Wolverines 2019 crown shattered the program's own women's record (2008-10) and exceeded the men's record of three set by the United States Naval Academy (2006-08)...In the history of the championship, the quintet of the Michigan Wolverines, Indiana Hoosiers, Hartwick Hawks, Princeton Tigers and Brown Bears have combined for every women's title game appearance since the University of Massachusetts fell to Princeton in 2000.

Head Coach: Dr. Marcelo Leonardi
Assistant Coaches: Sydney Sonoda, Josh Hower

1	Heidi Ritner	Gr.	Newport Beach, Calif.
1A	Alex Brown	So.	Clayton, Calif.
1B	Sophie Jackson	Jr.	West Yorkshire, England
2	Kayla Barone	Jr.	Mechanicsburg, Pa.
3	Abby May	So.	Lake Forest, Calif.
4	Emily Byrne	Gr.	Orinda, Calif.
5	Anne Rankin	So.	Newport Beach, Calif.
6	Sammi Monroe	Fr.	Pleasant Hill, Calif.
7	Erin Neustrom	Jr.	Moraga, Calif.
8	Kathy Rogers	Sr.	New Forest, England
9	Emily Ritner	Sr.	Newport Beach, Calif.
10	Libby Alsemgeest	Fr.	Hamilton, New Zealand
11	Sofie Pontre	Sr.	Perth, Western Australia
12	Ella Abbott	So.	Corona del Mar, Calif.
13	Ava Marrant	Jr.	Maple Ridge, B.C.
15	Elise Walker	Fr.	Los Altos, Calif.
16	Jess Henningsen	So.	Moraga, Calif.
17	Sophie Tovani	So.	Danville, Calif.
18	Alison Lock	Fr.	Superior Township, Mich.
19	Lola Ciruli	Fr.	Lafayette, Calif.
20	Maddie O'Reilly	Sr.	Villanova, Pa.
21	Isabelle Rocco	Jr.	Naperville, Ill.
22	Grace Harbaugh	So.	Coronado, Calif.
23	Kata Utassy	Fr.	Budapest, Hungary
24	Kasey Umlauf	Fr.	Northfield, Ill.