

## 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.

Located in Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, the CWPA staff is comprised of a Commissioner (Dan Sharadin), a Director of Communications (Ed Haas) and a Coordinator of Officials (Ed Reed). The staff oversees 280+ teams on the varsity and club level for both men and women to place the Collegiate Water Polo Association among the largest collegiate 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 inside five-meters, 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 approximately three seconds of free time to throw the ball to another teammate or swim it up the pool. A player cannot shoot a free throw unless outside the five-meter line and without hesitation. If the ball is not put into play within this time, 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.

## 2024 Division III Championship Bracketing

1st Position: Augustana College

5th Position: Washington & Jefferson College

2nd Position: Macalester College

6th Position: Penn State Behrend

3rd Position: Austin College

7th Position: Carthage College

4th Position: Connecticut College

8th Position: Grove City College

9th Position: Wheaton College

### 2024 Division III Championship Schedule

#### Friday, April 19, 2024

		vs.		Game
1:00	8th—Grove City College		9th—Wheaton College	1
2:30	2nd—Macalester College		7th—Carthage College	2
4:00	3rd—Austin College		6th—Penn State Behrend	3
5:30	4th—Connecticut College		5th—Wash. & Jeff. College	4
7:00	1st—Augustana College		Winner Game 1	5

#### Saturday, April 20, 2024

		vs.		Game
10:00	Loser Game 3		Loser Game 2	6
11:30	Loser Game 4		Loser Game 1	7
1:00	Winner Game 2		Winner Game 3	8
2:30	Winner Game 5		Winner Game 4	9
4:00	Loser Game 6		Loser Game 7	10
5:30	Winner Game 7		Loser Game 5	11

#### Sunday, April 21, 2024

		vs.		Game
9:00	Winner Game 10		Loser Game 11	7th Place
10:30	Winner Game 11		Winner Game 6	5th Place
Noon	Loser Game 8		Loser Game 9	3rd Place
1:30	Winner Game 9		Winner Game 8	1st Place

*Award Ceremony immediately following Championship Game*

*Teams listed first wear dark caps and are home on the scoreboard. Host team always wears dark caps and is listed first on the scoreboard regardless of bracket position.*

### Previous CWPA Division III Champions

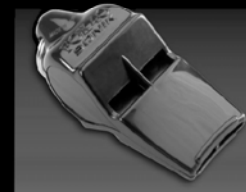
<i>Year</i>	<i>Champion</i>	<i>Runner-Up</i>
2023	Augustana College	Austin College
2022	Austin College	Augustana College
2021	Austin College	Wittenberg University
2020	COVID-19 / Championship Canceled	
2019	Macalester College	Austin College
2018	Macalester College	Connecticut College
2017	Macalester College	Washington & Jefferson College
2016	Connecticut College	Washington & Jefferson College
2015	Connecticut College	Washington & Jefferson College
2014	Connecticut College	Washington & Jefferson College
2013	Connecticut College	Grove City College
2012	Grove City College	Washington & Jefferson College
2011	Grove City College	Washington & Jefferson College
2010	Grove City College	Carthage College

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**KAP SEVEN**

W A T E R P O L O

## Team Information

**Head Coach:** Ryan Pryor

**Assistant Coach:** Peter Ollis

1	Lizzie Pelzman	Jr.	Roseville, Calif.
1A	Natalie Abril	Fr.	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
1B	Susan Palmentera-Reid	Fr.	Chicago, Ill.
2	Waiahuli Akau	Fr.	Pana'ewa, Hawaii
3	Sophie Arceneaux	Jr.	Wildwood, Mo.
4	Charlotte Newport	Jr.	Baytown, Texas
5	Ocean Akau	Jr.	Pana'ewa, Hawaii
6	Jillian Hagmann	Jr.	San Jose, Calif.
7	Abbey Ellis	Jr.	Fresno, Calif.
8	Maggie Callendo	Jr.	Orland Park, Ill.
9	Annie Opal Dickson	Jr.	Imperial Beach, Calif.
10	Summer Chalmers	Sr.	Imperial Beach, Calif.
12	Lauren Dickinson	Jr.	La Habra, Calif.
13	Jersey Merrick	So.	Chicago, Ill.
15	Annelie McGhee	Fr.	Windermere, Fla.
16	Casey Barragan	Jr.	Commerce, Calif.
18	Olivia Parry	Fr.	Wilsonville, Ore.
20	Abigail Gattlin	Fr.	Pearland, Texas
21	Anita Rodgers	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
22	Alayna Ickert	Fr.	Flower Mound, Texas
23	Mary King	So.	Bakersfield, Calif.
24	Carli Udovich	So.	Mokena, Ill.
25	Hailey Sherman	Fr.	Jenison, Mich.



### AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

*Location: Rock Island, Ill.*

*Mascot: Vikings*

Defending CWPA Division III Champion Augustana College (16-3, 8-0 CWPA Division III) will aim to continue a pattern of repeat champions following Grove City College (2010-12), Connecticut College (2013-16), Macalester College (2017-19) and Austin College (2021-22)...The Vikings equaled the highest mark for a team in its inaugural CWPA Division III Championship by placing second behind Austin College in 2022 at Grove City College via an 18-7 final score...The mark equaled the one established by Austin in 2019... Last year at Macalester, the Vikings avenged their 2022 title game defeat by pocketing a 16-8 victory over Austin...The Vikings have arguably the most experienced Division III Championship coaching staff at the 2022 event as head coach Ryan Pryor served as assistant (2013) and head (2014) coach at Connecticut College during the first two of the Camels' four consecutive CWPA Division III titles...Assistant coach Peter Ollis previously served as head coach at Monmouth College and led the Fighting Scots to Sixth (2016), Fifth (2017), Seventh (2018) and Third (2019) place marks during his tenure.

**Head Coach:** Mark Lawrence

**Assistant Coach:** Will Koelzer

1A	Emily Engberson	Sr.	Copper Canyon, Texas
1B	Michaela Hautzinger	So.	Aubrey, Texas
1C	Ashley Easley	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas
2	Bianca Gallegos	So.	Albuquerque, N.M.
3	Alyssa Ross	Sr.	San Jose, Calif.
4	Joslyn Dimitri	Fr.	Couer d'Atene, Idaho
5	Ashley Chand	Jr.	Southlake, Texas
6	Caroline Armstrong	Fr.	Houston, Texas
7	McKenna Malone	So.	Flower Mound, Texas
8	Morgan Evans	Fr.	Houston, Texas
9	Mikhaela Torres	Fr.	Cypress, Texas
11	Sofia Guzman	Fr.	Aubrey, Texas
12	Kylee Noble	Sr.	Argyle, Texas
13	Grace Kettler	Fr.	Alvin, Texas
18	Emma Boyce	Jr.	Simi Valley, Calif.
19	Cory McGrath	Sr.	Flower Mound, Texas
23	Xytali Silkey	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas



### AUSTIN COLLEGE

*Location: Sherman, Texas*

*Mascot: Kangaroos*

The two-time (2021-22) CWPA Division III Champion Kangaroos of Austin College (6-10, 6-2 CWPA Division III) have never missed a CWPA Division III Championship game. In 2019, the squad downed Penn State Behrend (19-7 W) and Carthage College (7-2 W) before falling to Macalester College (8-5 L) in the title game at Connecticut College. Following the COVID-19 shortened 2020 season, the 'Roo's rolled past host Carthage (17-7 W) before upending Wittenberg University (20-6 W) for the 2021 crown. In 2022 at Grove City College, the team

topped Carthage (20-1 W) and Macalester (13-4 W) prior to turning back Augustana College (18-7 W) to repeat as champions...Last year at Macalester, Austin defeated Grove City (21-4 W) and Connecticut (19-11 W) before taking a 16-8 setback versus Augustana College in the title tilt to become the first Division III champion to not three-peat following Grove City (2010-12), Connecticut (2013-16) and Macalester (2017-19).



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### 2024 Championship Officials

**Collegiate Water Polo Association Commissioner:** Dan Sharadin

**Officials:** Joe Peila; Michael Francis; Alex High; Martin Murray

*Thanks to the Connecticut College administration and staff, for hosting the 2024 Collegiate Water Polo Association Division III Championship.*

## Team Information

**Head Coach:** Alana Burgess  
**Interim Head Coach:** GT Ladd

1	Amelia Brown	Fr.	Acton, Mass.
2	Izabella Agraz	Jr.	Moraga, Calif.
3	Josephine Basco	So.	Painesville, Ohio
7	Issabel Babikova	So.	South Portland, Maine
8	Sophia Romo	Fr.	Jupiter, Fla.
13	Piper Rakiip	Fr.	Shirley, Mass.
14	Marina Greenwood	So.	Davis, Calif.
21	Allie Taylor	Jr.	Raleigh, N.C.
22	Savannah Sedlock	So.	Fairfax, Va.
23	Ava Biancheri	Fr.	Westborough, Mass.



### WHEATON COLLEGE

*Location: Norton, Mass.*  
*Mascot: Lyons*

The newest member of the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA), the Lyons of Wheaton College (0-10, 0-8 CWPA Division III) will seek to make their initial mark at the league championship against some familiar foes following a regular season in which the squad faced Connecticut College (19-3 L,

17-4 L, 19-3 L), Washington & Jefferson College (15-5 L), Penn State Behrend (15-5 L), Grove City College (19-4 L), Austin College (22-4 L), Macalester College (18-3 L), Augustana College (27-2 L) and Carthage College (10-5 L)...This marks the second time the Lyons will compete at Connecticut as the team dropped a 19-3 game on April 3...Assistant coach GT Ladd will serve as head coach for Wheaton during the weekend. Ladd is no stranger to New England water polo as he was a four-year starter with the University of Massachusetts Minutemen men's water polo team from 1987-1991 under CWPA head coach Russ Yarworth. Further, he coached the Boston College men's water polo during in the early 1990's when the Eagles were a varsity program. An Associate Professor in Psychology at Rhode Island College, Ladd was a 1990 All-New England Region Honorable Mention selection. He holds both Masters and Doctorate degrees from Boston College along with completing post-doctoral work at the Alcohol Research Center at University of Connecticut School of Medicine...Wheaton's addition to the women's Division III ranks continues a tradition of institutions that have unique pool names. The Lyons compete in Balfour Natatorium—named for the class and championship ring/awards company. Carthage College, located in Kenosha, Wis., competes in HARIBO Pool at the Koenitzer Aquatic Center—named for the confectionary company famous for gummie bears. This weekend's host facility—the Jane Cadwell Lott '36 Natatorium—is named for the 1932 100-yard breaststroke AAU National Indoor Champion who also broke the world record in the 50-yard breaststroke and earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team. One of the youngest competitors at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, she reached the finals of the 200-meter breaststroke and finished seventh among the world's top swimmers. Following her success at the Olympics, Cadwell entered Connecticut College for Women and graduated as a member of the class of 1936.

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**[www.collegiatewaterpolo.org](http://www.collegiatewaterpolo.org)**

## Team Information

**Head Coach:** Seth Hughes  
**Assistant Coach:** Lauren Olivier

1	Ella Selman	So.	Naperville, Ill.
1A	Rylee McGee	Jr.	Schaumburg, Ill.
1A	Rachel Meilinger	Fr.	Arlington Heights, Ill.
1A	Gabrielle Pavesich	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.
1A	Alexandra Venturi	Fr.	Barrington, Ill.
2	Alyssa Sayatovic	Sr.	Berwyn, Ill.
3	Emily Steingard	Fr.	Des Plaines, Ill.
5	Faith Harris	So.	Gurnee, Ill.
6	Yamila Areizaga	So.	Chicago, Ill.
7	Victoria Hodges	Sr.	Oxford, Mich.
8	Taylor Woitsek	Sr.	Glenview, Ill.
9	Brenna Carstens	So.	Coronado, Calif.
10	Abigail Karpluk	So.	New Lenox, Ill.
11	Grace Steinberg	So.	Arlington Heights, Ill.
13	Kylie Hemming	Sr.	Huntington Beach, Calif.
14	Piper Dooley	So.	Wilmette, Ill.
16	Sarah Lowery	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.



### CARTHAGE COLLEGE

*Location: Kenosha, Wis.*  
*Mascot: Firebirds*

Led by first-year head coach Seth Hughes, the Firebirds of Carthage College (4-12, 3-5 CWPA Division III) will seek their second title game appearance...The runner-up at the inaugural Division III Championship in 2010 (8-7 L vs. Grove City College at Utica University), the team snapped a two-year cycle of fifth place finishes in 2011 and 2012 at Macalester College and Grove City, respectively, by placing fourth in 2013 via a 6-5 loss to Washington & Jefferson College in the Third Place game at Connecticut College...In 2014, the

team finished third as Carthage outlasted host Macalester, 8-7 OT SD...In 2015, Carthage was again involved in a sudden death overtime game as the squad wrapped up the season with an 11-10 defeat of host Grove City in the Third Place game...In 2016, the squad finished in Third Place via a 14-11 defeat of Penn State Behrend at Connecticut...At Macalester in 2017, the squad stopped Connecticut by a 9-5 final score to place third...Carthage managed Washington & Jefferson by an 11-6 count to again take third in 2018...In 2019, the squad fell to Monmouth College at Connecticut in the Third Place game...In 2021 at home in Kenosha, the team succumbed to Grove City (17-9 L) to finish in Fourth Place...In 2022 year at Grove City, the Firebirds topped Penn State Behrend (13-12 W) to take Seventh Place...Last year at Macalester, the squad dropped a 13-11 game to Grove City to earn Eighth Place...Assistant coach Lauren Olivier helped Austin College claim first (2022) and second (2023) place finishes at the CWPA Division III Championship during her playing days in Sherman, Texas.

**Head Coach:** Matt Anderson  
**Assistant Coach:** Hannah Ellett

1	Maddie Baybeck	Fr.	Ann Arbor, Mich.
1A	Grace Isola	Fr.	San Mateo, Calif.
2	Ainsley Cornwall	So.	San Mateo, Calif.
3	Sarah Franco	Sr.	Weston, Conn.
4	Gigi Sandull	So.	Kenilworth, N.J.
6	Brooke Brandenburger	So.	Sacramento, Calif.
7	Jada Keen	Fr.	Kailua-Kona, Hawaii
9	Emma Luna	So.	Wahiawa, Hawaii
10	Meiling Bottan	Jr.	Lexington, Mass.
11	Kendall Foley	Sr.	Sammamish, Wash.
13	Anna Taylor	So.	Pleasanton, Calif.
16	Gicel Zuniga	Sr.	Norwalk, Conn.
19	Melia Lorch	So.	Encinitas, Calif.



### CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

*Location: New London, Conn.*  
*Mascot: Camels*

Connecticut College (7-6, 4-4 CWPA Division III) enters the 2024 CWPA Division III Championship seeking the team's fifth title and sixth title game berth...The 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 champions and 2018 runner-up, the Camels enter the championship on a four-game skid as the squad fell to Augustana College (19-6 L), Carthage College (12-8 L), Austin College (15-14 L) and Macalester College (15-4 L)...Head coach Matt Anderson, who took over

the Camels prior to the 2015 season, coached the University of Michigan to four National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament berths and CWPA Championships (2005, 2008, 2009, 2010)...In the history of the CWPA Division Championship, the Camels have finished first (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), second (2018), third (2012), fourth (2017, 2019, 2023), fifth (2010), sixth (2011) and ninth (2022).

## Team Information

### Head Coach: Jocelyn Bernhardt

1	Lea Steen	So.	Schaumburg, Ill.
2	Kamryn Kerr	Jr.	E. Grand Rapids, Mich.
5	Riley McCullough	Jr.	Spring, Texas
6	Kiley Sill	So.	Virginia Beach, Va.
7	Carolyn Marks	Fr.	Milford, Ohio
8	Katie Goodwill	Sr.	Mogadore, Ohio
9	Mikayla Zablocki	Jr.	Kittanning, Pa.
11	Sam Logue	Jr.	Hollister, Calif.
15	Clarie Lochstet	Sr.	Ambler, Pa.
16	Candace Scalise	So.	Clarence, N.Y.
17	Shastyn Tihansky	Fr.	Hazleton, Pa.



### GROVE CITY COLLEGE

Location: Grove City, Pa.

Mascot: Wolverines

The 2010, 2011 and 2012 Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Division III Champion, Grove City College (3-13, 1-7 CWPA Division III) has finished first (2010, 2011, 2012), second (2013), third (2021), fourth (2015), fifth (2014, 2016, 2019, 2022), sixth (2017, 2018) and seventh (2023) in the history of

the tournament...The host of the 2012, 2015 and 2022 CWPA Division III Championships, the Wolverines have appeared in four CWPA Division III Championship title games by winning in 2010 at Utica University (8-7 W vs. Carthage College), 2011 at Macalester College (7-2 W vs. Washington & Jefferson College) and 2012 at home (10-3 W vs. Washington & Jefferson) prior to falling at Connecticut College in 2013 (6-3 L vs. Connecticut)...Head coach Jocelyn Bernhardt is unique among the head coaches this weekend as the 2015 Grove City graduate competed as an athlete in the CWPA Division III Championship, served as an assistant on the 2018 Wolverines' team prior to taking over the program as head coach in November 2019.

### Head Coach: Scott Reed

Assistant Coaches: Oriana Galasso, Bret Jackson, Sofia Shaw, Anya Phillips

1	Laurel O'Hare	Sr.	Evanston, Ill.
1A	Jayden Kratt	So.	Palo Alto, Calif.
2	Lorelei Bell	So.	Encinitas, Calif.
3	Hannah Fasi	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii
4	Kendall Coney	Jr.	League City, Texas
5	Gabriela Weiner	Sr.	Chicago, Ill.
6	Elizabeth Matlin	Jr.	Buffalo Grove, Ill.
7	Alana Nadolski	So.	Kentwood, Mich.
8	Sian Lewandowski	Jr.	North Haven, Conn.
9	Olivia Dimka	Jr.	Denton, Texas
11	Molly Lemmon	Fr.	Evanston, Ill.
12	Jess Palmer-Sammons	So.	Half Moon Bay, Calif.
15	Brooke Lane	Jr.	Meriden, Conn.
16	Pooja Bucklin	Fr.	Palto Alto, Calif.
18	Kendall Strauss	So.	Round Rock, Texas



### MACALESTER COLLEGE

Location: St. Paul Minn.

Mascot: Scots

The Scots of Macalester College (12-4, 7-1 CWPA Division III) will aim to tack another title onto their legacy after previously capturing the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) Division III crowns...In 2017, the team took out Washington & Jefferson College, 10-9 in overtime, at home in Riley Pool for the Scots first championship. A year later, Macalester claimed the 2018 title at the Hallman Aquatics Center in Erie, Pa., by outlasting Connecticut College 13-12 in sudden death

overtime...The Scots captured the 2019 title at Connecticut College by topping Austin College (8-5 W)...Following the 2020 COVID-19 terminated season and the Scots election to not compete in 2021, Macalester returned to the CWPA Division III Championship in 2022 and finished in Fourth Place with an 11-4 loss to Washington & Jefferson in the Third Place game...Last year at home in St. Paul, Minn., the Scots defended their facility with a 13-4 defeat of Connecticut in the Third Place game...Macalester has previously placed first (2017, 2018, 2019), third (2023), fourth (2011, 2013, 2014, 2022), fifth (2012, 2015), sixth (2010) and seventh (2016) at the CWPA Division III Championship with eight semifinal appearances...Head coach Scott Reed is no stranger to New England as the son of former Brown University/CWPA Hall of Fame coach Ed Reed competed in swimming and water polo for the University of Massachusetts prior to commencing a collegiate coaching career which has taken him to Eastern Kentucky University, Washington & Lee University, George Washington University and Macalester.

## Team Information

### Head Coach: Gina-Bella Mata'afa

1	Monica Villaseñor	Fr.	San Gabriel, Calif.
1A	Kieffer Beckman	So.	Wildwood, Mo.
2	Nic Darrell	Jr.	Perkasie, Pa.
3	Dylan Scherping	Fr.	Harleysville, Pa.
4	Scarlett Hall	Fr.	Carlsbad, Calif.
5	Calla Williams	Fr.	Longwood, Fla.
6	Makenzie Rickerd	Fr.	Rockford, Mich.
8	Lauren True	Fr.	Denton, Texas
9	Angelique Gadsby	Fr.	Salinas, Calif.
10	Olivia Wright	Sr.	Fairview, Pa.
16	Susie Carrillo	So.	Fresno, Calif.
19	Marley Persch	Jr.	Hudsonville, Mich.
20	Darragh Martin	So.	Green Lane, Pa.



### PENN STATE BEHREND

Location: Erie, Pa.

Mascot: Lions

The Lions of Penn State Behrend (4-15, 3-5 CWPA Division III) will seek to improve upon prior fourth (2016), fifth (2018), seventh (2013, 2015, 2017), eighth (2010, 2014, 2019, 2022) and ninth (2011, 2012, 2023) place marks at the CWPA Division III Championship. Penn State Behrend did not compete at the 2021 championship and the 2020 season was terminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic...Penn State Behrend will aim to make history in 2022 as the institution has never won a conference championship in either men's or women's water polo...Head coach Gina Bella Mata'afa was appointed head coach in the fall. A graduate of Lahainaluna High School and a native of Maui, Hawaii, Mata'afa was appointed the inaugural full-time assistant water polo coach at Penn State Behrend in 2021 and was elevated to interim head women's coach at the conclusion of the 2023 season. Prior to her arrival in Erie, Mata'afa spent four years in Italy, including three as a professional athlete and one as an assistant coach for the U-18 team. In 2017, she led the Rari Nantes Imperia to win the League Championship as their top goal scorer and starting center. Mata'afa also spent two years with the Rari Nantes Bologna team. She helped them to three championships playoffs and was in the Top 10 in the league for scoring. Mata'afa played four years at Notre Dame College in Ohio and graduated with a degree in public relation and communications in May 2015.

terminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic...Penn State Behrend will aim to make history in 2022 as the institution has never won a conference championship in either men's or women's water polo...Head coach Gina Bella Mata'afa was appointed head coach in the fall. A graduate of Lahainaluna High School and a native of Maui, Hawaii, Mata'afa was appointed the inaugural full-time assistant water polo coach at Penn State Behrend in 2021 and was elevated to interim head women's coach at the conclusion of the 2023 season. Prior to her arrival in Erie, Mata'afa spent four years in Italy, including three as a professional athlete and one as an assistant coach for the U-18 team. In 2017, she led the Rari Nantes Imperia to win the League Championship as their top goal scorer and starting center. Mata'afa also spent two years with the Rari Nantes Bologna team. She helped them to three championships playoffs and was in the Top 10 in the league for scoring. Mata'afa played four years at Notre Dame College in Ohio and graduated with a degree in public relation and communications in May 2015.

### Head Coach: Nikola Malezanov

Assistant Coach: Justin Kassab

1	Sky Wald	Jr.	Granada Hills, Calif.
1A	Alliey Cunningham	Jr.	Evanston, Ill.
1B	Emily Bringazi	Fr.	Amador County, Calif.
3	Rylee Mitchell	Fr.	Milan, Mich.
4	Laura Anthony	Jr.	Erie, Pa.
6	Emma Halle	Jr.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
8	Mekkiye Ergun	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.
10	Anastasiya Didovich	Jr.	Venice, Fla.
14	Hallie Ratcliff	Fr.	Friendswood, Texas
15	Sydney Neumann	Jr.	Long Beach, Calif.
17	Sabrina Estrada	Fr.	Pico Rivera, Calif.



### WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Location: Washington, Pa.

Mascot: Presidents

The Presidents of Washington & Jefferson College (6-10, 4-4 CWPA Division III) enter the 2024 CWPA Division III Championship seeking to make the championship game for the seventh time after six (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017) previous runner-up marks...The 2011 (7-2 L at Macalester College) and 2012 (10-3 L at Grove City) runner-up to the Wolverines of Grove City College, W&J placed fourth at the first Division III Championship in 2010 at Utica University with a 12-7 loss versus former varsity team Wheaton College (Ill.) in the Third Place game...In 2013, the Presidents topped Carthage College, 6-5, in the Third Place game...In 2014, Connecticut overcame W&J, 7-3, in the title game at Macalester...2015 saw W&J drop a 13-10 title game to Connecticut College at Grove City...In 2016, host Connecticut nipped the Presidents for the title, 13-9...Host Macalester claimed a 10-9 overtime win in 2017 during the Presidents most recent title game appearance...Nikola Malezanov, who led the W&J women's program to the title game in 2016 at Connecticut, continues to rebuild a program which finished Fourth (2018), 10th (2019) and Sixth (2022, 2023). The team did not compete at the championship in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.