NYAC Wins Third Fisher Cup Title

The Fisher Cup/National Championships was held at the University of California-San Diego this year from May 18th-21st. The defending champion New York Athletic Club as well as highly regarded clubs from across the nation such as the Olympic Club and 2012 US Open winner Newport Water Polo Foundation competed.

NYAC started the competition with a big win against the Waves from Pepperdine University. The Winged Foot men’s offense proved to be unstoppable with persistent counterattacks led by Olympians John Mann and Wolf Wigo. Filip Sasic and Serge Kananovich were also successful with quick perimeter shots just outside the Wave’s goalie’s reach. USA National Team Goalie Andy Stevens recorded 8 saves and anchored the NYAC victory, 21-2.

In the second game against Olympic Club B team, Ross Sinclair’s outside shot and Steve Loomis’ skip shot gave NYAC a quick two goal lead.  Fast breaks by Griffin White and skillful set shots by 2008 Olympic silver medalist Adam Wright kept the Olympic Club B team shuffling for effective defensive plays. New USA National team additions Michael Rosenthal and Matt De Trane did not disappoint as they provided stellar defense with multiple steals at two and five meters.  Ultimately, NYAC kept the Olympic Club B team at bay with only 2 goals to NYAC’s 15.

The semifinal positioned NYAC against the top collegiate team in the country, Stanford University. NYAC Goalie and 2012 Olympian Merrill Moses proved why he is the top goaltender in the world with his 12 saves and 5 steals. The offense started slow on this beautiful Saturday morning but got some traction when Wright scored on a counterattack from Wig’s assist.  Additionally, the team really capitalized on man-up and man-down plays to pull ahead in the final quarter to win the game 10-9.

In the finals, the NYAC met the 2012 US Open winner Newport Water Polo Foundation. The game could not have started better for the team with Sasic opening the game with a perimeter short into the top left corner. 2012 Olympic Shea Buckner added to the lead with another shot from the wing and Adam Hewko scored from inside.  In the center position, Mann and US National Team member, Jeff Schwimer, delivered strong whole-set shots and strategic releases to NYAC drivers.  Meanwhile, NYAC defense remained impeccable with Wright securing our whole-defense and Moses in the goal to win the tournament 11-4.

The combination of new players, with potential 2016 Olympic team bids, as well as our season veterans on the US National team, NYAC could not be positioned better for the 2013 US Open of Water Polo held in Atherton, California from July 19th-21st.

Additionally, the USA Men’s National Team claimed 4th place in the FINA Men’s World League Super Final in Chelyabinsk, Russia on June 16th.  NYAC players on the roster included Andy Stevens, John Mann, Shea Buckner, Janson Wigo, Matt De Trane and Michael Rosenthal.  Also NYAC members Griffin White and Jeff Schwimer have been selected to represent Team USA in the 19th Annual Maccabiah Games later this summer.