NYAC Women Win Third Consecutive Sonoma Title

The New York Athletic Club’s Women's Water Polo team traveled to the Golden State May 18th & 19th to compete for a third consecutive title at the Sonoma Open Water Polo Tournament.  Kelly Eaton (Stanford), Danielle Ingram (University of Hawaii), Courtney Mee (Princeton), Mackenzie Mone and Maggie Wood (both Iona College) represented the local AC contingent.  Joining the New York squad in California were former Olympian Coralie Simmons, 2009 World Champion Tanya Gandy, 2011 World University Games silver medalists Leah Robertson. Stephanie Schnugg and Forel Davies as well as Molly Cahill and Kally Lucas, UCLA and USC standouts, respectively.

In the opening game, NYAC competed against long-time rival Olympic Club to win back the Corporate Cup. The combination of Simmons’s whole-set steals and Robertson’s fast breaks paralyzed Olympic Club’s offensive plays from the very first quarter to prevail with a win, 11-7.  With little rest to the next game, NYAC matched up against Oakland Club for the second game.  Earning an impressive lead in the first half, AC players were able to rehearse new offensive plays in the second half that utilized Mone’s quick drives into 2-meter with a back-door release to wily right-hander Mee for goals to post a 14-5 win.  NNS was the final game of the day.  The NYAC women relied heavily on the defensive expertise of goalie Ingram and Gandy’s perimeter steals to prevent NNS offense from capitalizing on open shots. The NYAC finished the game with yet another win, 13-4.

Sunday morning left one final hurdle for the NYAC women to leap over to win the Sonoma Open Tournament title for the third time in as many years: Old Mission Bay Athletic Club. The Winged Foot women battled the entire game and finished on top with a deeply gratifying win, 11-2.  Attackers Cahill and Eaton led the team in forced ejections and open counter attacks while Schnugg capitalized on defensive steals.  Outstanding contributions from Ingram at the goal and impeccable defense from Wood and Lucas also proved to be key factors to the success in the final game.

Hopefully the weekend’s results act as a precursor to the final challenge of the summer: U.S. Open of Water Polo in Atherton, California from July 19th through 21nd.  With Coach Chris Vidale at the helm, NYAC Women’s Water Polo is poised to bring another consecutive Championship Title back to the New York AC.

In other exciting water polo news, the USA Women’s National Team took Bronze in the World League Super Final on June 6th in Beijing, China.  USA’s team had five NYAC players on the roster including 2012 Olympic Gold Medalists Betsey Armstrong, Courtney Mathewson and Kelly Rulon as well as Senior National Team Members Lauren Silver and KK Clark. Additionally, Mackenzie Mone has been selected to represent team USA in the 19th Annual Maccabiah Games later this summer.