NYAC Wins 2012 US Open Crown

From July 20th through July  22nd, the NYAC women's water polo team
competed in one of the biggest tournaments of the year - the US Open
National Championships held in Irvine, California.  The 12 team
national championships included some of the best collegiate
competition the US and abroad has to offer, including collegiate teams
from UC Berkley and UCLA.  Entering as the reigning 2011 US Open of
Water Polo champions, coaches Mike Judge and Peter Felvegi had only
winning expectations for this incredibly dynamic team.

The NYAC A team, spearheaded by US national team veterans Lauren
Silver, Tanya Gandy, Anne Belden and Juliet Moss, cruised through the
first game of the round robin bracket with a resounding win against
Diablo B 20-1.  Feeling confident with their driving offense, NYAC A
team continued their strategy to out-pace opposing teams.  With the
help of 2011 World University Games silver medalist Leah Robertson and
UCLA standout KK Clark, NYAC A team continued their offensive assault
with impressive wins against SOCAL Gold, 8-3, and American River 20-5.

The final game of the round robin bracket, against Diablo A, would
decide what seed NYAC A had heading into the elimination portion of
the tournament.  Although national team veteran Forel Davies and 2011
World University Games medalist Stephanie Schnugg unleashed every
defensive tactic in the book, NYAC A team could not shut down the
Diablo A offense, loosing a hard fought game 10-12.

Undeterred, NYAC A team knew they still had a chance to defend their
2011 title - they just had to win their semi-final game against SOCAL
Black. Refocused, NYAC A team honed in on their defensive press with
the help of Olympic silver medalist Coralie Simmons and Stanford
standout Kelly Eaton leading the way with steals. Leaving little to
the imagination, NYAC A team beat SOCAL Black 11-6 to earn a spot in
the championship final.

The championship game was a rematch of titans: NYAC A team verses
Diablo A, one the reigning champions and the other with a perfect
record this tournament.
NYAC A team came out swinging with UC Berkeley
standout Melissa Wheeler converting fast breakaways into goals early
in the first quarters. Not to be outdone, NYAC goalie Cassie Wyckoff
reminded spectators why defense is just as important in water polo
with multiple blocks on Diablo A's offensive strikes.  Battling back and
forth for the entire game, NYAC A team put one final goal away in the
remaining minute to take the championship 8-7.

With the championship title safely back in the New York Athletic Club's
possession, the accolades kept pouring in with Lauren Silver winning
MVP of the tournament as well as Tanya Gandy and Juliet Moss garnering
first team recognition.

Coaches Mike Judge and Peter Felvegi were on double duty that weekend
as they also coached NYAC B team in this year's tournament. Playing
extremely aggressively throughout the weekend, NYAC B team also took
in wins against OMBAC 9-6 and Aztec 10-7.  Led by Junior National team
member Taylor Dunstan and UCLA veteran Molly Cahill, NYAC B team
displayed a solid offense throughout the tournament.  Also showing off
their defensive skills were whole-set Stacy Werner and goalie Marissa
Gaynor who worked diligently to keep the ball in NYAC B team's
possession. With hard fought losses against SOCAL Gold, 11-5, UC
Berkley, 12-6 and SOCAL Black, 12-4, the B team finished in a solid 6th
place - four places higher than last year.

With the US Open of Water Polo championship trophy resting in its
rightful home at the New York Athletic Club, the 2013 season is poised
to be an exciting one as the women's water polo team prepares to
defend their two-time national title.