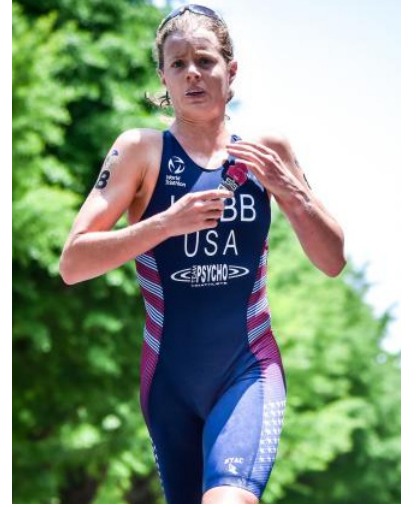




## Taylor Knibb Selected as NYAC Athlete of the Year

This week it was announced that Taylor Knibb, one of the USA's foremost triathletes, has been selected by the New York Athletic Club as its Athlete of the Year for 2022. Knibb's selection will be formally recognized at a gala dinner at the NYAC's Manhattan headquarters on April 19th. The NYAC supports world class athletes across multiple athletics programs; Knibb's selection by the NYAC's Athletic Committee is, therefore, especially notable. There are many highlights in her stellar career, thus far. In 2017, Knibb became the youngest woman ever to earn a spot on the podium at an ITU World Triathlon Series race, when she earned a silver medal in Edmonton, Canada. At the age of 23, she was the youngest woman ever to qualify for the US Olympic triathlon team, which she accomplished when she made the team for Tokyo 2020. At those Games, she placed 16th in the individual event and earned the silver medal in the mixed relay, alongside teammates Katie Zaferes, Morgan Pearson and Kevin McDowell. In 2021, Knibb finished with the silver medal in the World Triathlon Championship Series Rankings; and in 2022 she became the youngest woman to ever win the IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship, which she accomplished in St. George, UT. She also earned the bronze medal in the WTCS Rankings. In becoming the NYAC's Athlete of the Year, Knibb joins a roster of legendary Olympians that include Al Oerter, Eamonn Coghlan and Bruce Baumgartner.



## NYAC Men at Top of National Water Polo League Table

**Saturday, February 25th – Sunday, February 26th; Huntington Beach, CA** – The first week of competition in the 2023 USA Water Polo National League saw the NYAC and Olympic Club men's teams claim positions at the top of the table after playing three matches each. On Saturday, February 25th, the NYAC secured a dominant win over the Los Angeles Athletic Club, 14-4, before, later that day, defeating Riptide, 17-9. The following day, Sunday, February 26th, the NYAC defeated USA Water Polo JR, 11-6. With two points awarded for a win and one point for a shootout loss, the NYAC currently has six points, tied for first with the Olympic Club. The Los Angeles Athletic Club, USAWP JR and Riptide are tied with two points each, and the Nashville Channel Cats are in last place with zero points. The second week of the 2023 National League will be contested from Saturday, March 25th to Sunday, March 26th in Novato, CA. [Click here](#) for more information.

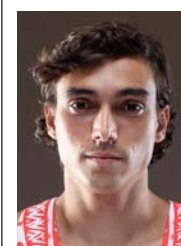
## Triathlon - Spivey Superb in Abu Dhabi

**Friday, March 3rd; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates** – At the 2023 World Triathlon Championship Series Abu Dhabi, the NYAC's **Taylor Spivey**, #4 ITU World Triathlete of 2019, secured a bronze medal with a finish of 58:27, clocking marks of 9:35 for the 750m swim, 29:55 for the 20K bike, and 17:18 for the 5K run. **Summer Rappaport** placed fourth in 58:35, and Kirsten Kasper finished 25th in 59:28. In her first post-partum race, **Katie Zaferes** finished 37th in a time of 1:00:21. Great Britain's Beth Potter won the women's race in 57:56 and teammate Sophie Coldwell took second in 58:14. In the men's race, the NYAC's **Vincent Luis**, two-time world champion (2019, 2020) and three-time Olympian (2012, 2016, 2020), took fourth in 53:11, and **Matt McElroy** placed eighth in 53:19. Great Britain's Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Alex Yee won the men's race in 52:53, Vasco Vilaca of Portugal placed second in 52:59, and Manoel Messias of Brazil was third in 53:06. Notably, Vincent Luis came out of the 750m swim first in 8:57. [Click here](#) for results from Abu Dhabi.



## Track and Field - Napolitano Misses PB by 0.01

**Sunday, February 26th; Boston, Massachusetts** – The NYAC's **Rob Napolitano** placed 15th in the mile at the BU Last Chance Meet, crossing the line in 3:54.29, one hundredth of a second shy of his indoor personal best of 3:54.28, which he set in 2019. Geordie Beamish of On Athletics won the race in 3:51.22. [Click here](#) for full results from Boston. Notably, at the time of writing, Rob's 2019 indoor personal best of 3:54.28 is the US#38 indoor mark in history.



### Meet Rob Napolitano

**Sport:** Track and Field **Hometown:** Brick, NJ  
**College:** Columbia University, Economics '17  
**Achievements:** 10 x Ivy League Championship titles, 2 x NCAA All-American, 3rd place in 2020 Wanamaker Mile

### Upcoming Events

**ROWING: Friday, March 3rd - Sunday, March 5th** [USRowing Winter Speed Order](#) - Sarasota, FL- Men's Single (Greg Davis, Eliot Putnam), Lightweight Men's Single (Sam Melvin, James Francis), Lightweight Women's Single (Riona McCormick), Men's Pair (Nick Mead), Women's Pair (Meghan Musnicki, Kelsey Reelick, Charlotte Buck, Alina Hagstrom, Claire Collins) [More info here](#)

**TRIATHLON: Friday, March 3rd - Saturday, March 4th** [World Triathlon Championship Series](#) - Abu Dhabi - Vincent Luis, Matt McElroy, Morgan Pearson, Taylor Spivey, Kirsten Kasper, Summer Rappaport, Katie Zaferes [More info here](#)

**FENCING: Friday, March 3rd - Sunday, March 5th** [Budapest WESTEND Grand Slam](#) - Budapest, Hungary  
 Anne Cebula, Kat Holmes [More info here](#)

**JUDO: Friday, March 3rd - Sunday, March 5th** - [Tashkent Grand Slam](#)- Tashkent, Uzbekistan - Hannah Martin (-63kg), Christian Konoval (+100kg) [More info](#)

## News

**Olympics** – This week, the International Olympic Committee has announced that an official Olympic "Esports" series will be contested this year. Virtual qualifying rounds have already begun across several disciplines, such as on-line chess, and finals will be contested in-person in Singapore in June 2023. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## Links

To see the **NYAC's athletics pages**, [click here](#)

For news from the **IOC**, [click here](#).

To see the **IOC's Olympic channel**, [click here](#)

For news from the **USOPC**, [click here](#)

For news from the **Olympic Studies and Research Center**, [click here](#).

## Read All About It

Do you have news or results of NYAC athletes that should be featured in

**Athletics News**? Let us know by contacting the NYAC's Sports Information Manager, Laura Walsh, at [LauraW@nyac.org](mailto:LauraW@nyac.org)