

Lamorinda Water Polo Players Bound For Beijing

By Tim Fong

Competing in her third Olympic Games, Miramonte graduate Heather Petri is aiming for her first gold medal in Beijing. Petri, who graduated in 1996, made the final roster of thirteen players for the 2008 US Olympic Water Polo team as an attacker.

The US Women's Water Polo team has a good chance at gold this summer at Beijing after winning gold in Melbourne last year at the World Championships. The team is currently ranked number-one in the world and the team's main competition is number-two ranked Australia.

The Women's Water Polo Olympic field has only eight teams. Petri played for the UC Berkeley Water Polo team after starting the Women's water polo team at Miramonte. Petri has been a part of many firsts in women's water polo, including playing for the first US Women's Olympic Water Polo team at Sydney.

In Olympic play, Petri received the silver medal at Sydney in 2000 and grabbed the bronze at Athens in 2004. Petri will be playing attacker in the Olympics alongside Brenda Villa, who is the captain of the team and the only other third-

time women's water polo Olympian.

On the men's side, Campolindo graduate Peter Varellas made the Men's Water Polo Olympic team. Varellas will also play attacker and is joined by two fellow Stanford players including Captain Tony Azevedo.

The Women's Water Polo team has four upcoming games against Australia from July 4-10 in California and then will train for Beijing. The Men's team is currently training in Colorado and will continue to train until the Olympics.