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Lamorinda Water Polo Takes 4th in Nationals

Submitted by Andy Ratchford



Left to Right - Drew Holland, Gabe Ostler, Mike Ennis, Jason Lammert, Jake O'Malley, Jacob Welcomer, Coach Derek Schauffler, Nick Solit, Patrick Fabian, Charlie Wiser, JD Ratchford, Connor Reid, CJ Toohey Photo provided

Earlier this month, the Lamorinda Water Polo Club 14U boys team competed in the 2008 Speedo Cup National Championships, held in Ann Arbor, MI, the first time in Lamorinda club history that a boys' team has qualified for the event. The tournament promotes the growth of water polo throughout the central U.S. and is one of the USA Water Polo Association's most prestigious tournaments. Players participating in the tournament were Drew Holland, Gabe Ostler, Mike Ennis, Jason Lammert, Jake O'Malley, Jacob Welcomer, Nick Solit, Patrick Fabian, Charlie Wiser, JD Ratchford, Connor Reid, and CJ Toohey.

Seeded 6th, the Lamorinda club, finished 4th in the country, including victories over talented teams from Greenwich, CT, Los Alamitos, Carlsbad and a tie against a tough higher-seeded team from Pasadena. The Lamorinda team, coached by former Cal players, Derek Schauffler and Eldad Hazor, narrowly missed advancing to the national championship game with a hard fought battle against the 680 Drivers club, an East Bay rival. The tournament performance was highlighted by strong overall team defense. Holland, Reid, Toohey, and Wiser also made outstanding individual contributions during the tournament.

Lamorinda Water Polo, Inc. is a year-round USA Water Polo club program and is open to any individual who wants to learn about the sport of water polo, develop new skills, or enhance their attained skill level. For more information on the

Lamorinda Water Polo Club, visit their website at <http://www.lamorindawaterpolo.org/>

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