

SHAQ's 14U's Finish Fourth at Prestigious National Water Polo Tournament

Sleepy Hollow Aquatics' (SHAQ) 14U boys captured fourth place at the ultra-competitive TYR Champions Cup Nov. 15-17 at Indiana University. The 12-team water polo tournament features the top middle-school-age teams in the nation, and SHAQ was the first boys team from Marin to qualify since 1996.

Representing the Pacific Zone of Northern California, SHAQ went 3-3 overall, with big wins over Spartan (Lansing, Michigan), San Diego Shores and LA Premier. After losing to Stanford and number one seed Vanguard (Huntington Beach), SHAQ lost a heartbreaking bronze-medal re-match to Stanford in a shootout, 9-8.

Coached by former Drake High standout Joey Doyle, SHAQ's scoring was led by twin brothers Spencer Hanson and Wyatt Hanson with 9 and 8 goals respectively. Big two-meter man Connor (Beef) Moynihan also recorded 8 goals, and speedy Emerson Sullivan, who lost only 2 sprints all tournament, added 7 goals.

SHAQ goalie Danny Roland anchored the defense, coming up huge with 15 saves in the 3-1 victory over San Diego Shores. Roland also had 11 saves and stopped 2 crucial penalty shots in the bronze-medal game. Sullivan and Quinn Woodhead were stellar on defense, with 6 steals apiece, while Stefan Venne helped out with 3 steals. Henry Maas and Logan Anderson also contributed to SHAQ's excellent team defense in front of Roland.

Alexander Lansill was SHAQ's recipient of the TYR Champions Cup Sportsmanship Award, given to one player from each team in the tournament. The annual awards are named in honor of two Olympians, Jody Campbell for the boys, and Maureen O'Toole for the girls.

The teenagers all had a great experience, and the extreme weather in the Midwest made SHAQ's first out-of-state tournament venture even more exciting. Shortly after their final game on Sunday, a tornado warning forced everyone to evacuate to the basement of the Counsilman-Billingsley Aquatic Center. Fortunately, the storm passed without incident and SHAQ's players and family members flew home safely.

SHAQ's 14U's: Logan Anderson, Spencer Hanson, Wyatt Hanson, Alexander Lansill, Henry Maas, Connor Moynihan, Danny Roland, Emerson Sullivan, Stefan Venne, Quinn Woodhead.

SHAQ is a year-around swim and water polo club for boys and girls, grades 3-12, based at the Drake High Pool. For more information, go to sleepyhollowaquatics.com, or email sleepyhollowaquatics@gmail.com.

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