



GHSWPA Press Release

Topic: 2012 Players to Watch

Audience: Public, for immediate release

August 8th, 2012 - In preparation for the 2012 season, the [Georgia High School Water Polo Association \(GHSWPA\)](#) is excited to release its 2012 Players to Watch. The enclosed student-athletes have been compiled using a wide range of justifications, including those who are athletically talented in the sport of water polo, those who are considered to be the 2012 leaders of their respective teams, and those who show their coaches and teammates the passion and desire necessary to succeed in the GHSWPA and beyond. Please join us in recognizing these worthwhile student-athletes.

The [2012 GHSWPA season](#) swims off on Saturday, August 11th with two-thirds of the league's teams in the water during opening day, spread across three venues. The [annual championship tournament](#) will be held October 12th through 14th at the Cumming Aquatic Center in Cumming, GA.

APS Knights

- [Kate de Give, APS Knights, Senior, Utility](#) – Kate is the APS Knights' strongest girl. She was exposed to water polo through an assignment to cover a story on the team for the school newspaper. She played that day and was hooked; Coach Stuart calls her "a surprise waiting to happen." Kate should break out in 2012 within the girls division.
- [Luke Paddock, APS Knights, Senior, Utility](#) – This will be Luke's fourth year on the team. He just returned home from a summer working in California where he played water polo regularly with the Davis High School team. The added experience should serve him well in 2012.

Blue Devil

- [Chandler Schaefer, Blue Devil, Junior, Center](#) – Returns for his junior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- [Travis Bruce, Blue Devil, Junior, Utility](#) – Returns for his junior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- [John David Strickland, Blue Devil, Junior, Attacker](#) – Returns for his junior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.

Dalton

- [Taylor Dale, Dalton, Senior, Attacker](#) - Although 2012 is Dalton's first year to have a team in the GHSWPA, Taylor Dale may very well be the fastest player in the league. Taylor won the 100 fly and 100 back at GHSA State Swimming Championships and he has a strong background in baseball.
- [Pierson Scarborough, Dalton, Senior, Utility](#) - Pierson is a first year player for the Catamounts. He won the GHSA State in the 100 breast and is a very good all-around athlete.



Eagles

- John Roquet, Eagles, Senior, Defender - Returns for his senior season after being named to the 2nd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team. Was named the 2011 GHSWPA Defensive Player of the Year.
- Jesse Frazier, Eagles, Senior, Center - Returns for his senior season after being named to the 3rd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team. Jesse is the top returning goal scorer from 2011 GHSWPA Championship Eagles team.
- Becky Bass, Eagles, Junior, Utility – Returns for her junior season after being named to the 1st girls team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team. Becky set the Eagles team record in 2011 for girl's goals scored.
- Brooke Phillips, Eagles, Junior, Center/Defender - Returns for her junior season after being named to the 1st girls team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team. Brooke was the Eagles B 2011 Defensive Player of the Year.

Lakeside

- Garrett Shrader, Lakeside, Senior, Center – Returns for his senior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- Lanier Dasher, Lakeside, Sophomore, Goalie – Lanier has this drive and determination to get better that has really allowed him to become not only a goalie who should be respected, but also one that has potential to grow to a great goalie. Returns for his sophomore season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- Erin Cunefare, Lakeside, Junior, Attacker – Few GHSWPA players are more dedicated to the sport than Erin. This dedication has already led to great improvement. Expect 2012 to be a positive one for her.
- Emily Olive, Lakeside, Senior, Attacker - Returns for her junior season after being named to the 1st girls team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.

Marist

- Eric Thompson, Marist, Junior, Attacker - Eric is capable of scoring from long or short range. He led Marist in scoring during the regular season in 2011. Just as the team was preparing for the 2011 state championship, Eric broke multiple bones in his foot in a diving accident that required surgery. You may have seen him on his scooter during last year's championship tournament. Now healthy, Eric has been playing in the Dynamo house league and Georgia State Games, earning a silver medal. He should pick up where he left off and lead the team in scoring again.
- Alex Bonaparte, Marist, Junior, Goalie - Alex was the Marist backup goalie during the 2011 season, but he spent most of his time as a field player since All-Star goalie Klaus Sykes was in the position. Now that Klaus has graduated, Alex is going to be between the posts full time. He has been participating in the Dynamo house league and Georgia State Games, and Alex is looking forward to being the starting goalie this year.

North Springs

- Barak Zitron, North Springs, Senior, Utility - Barak was one of North Springs' leading offensive players in 2011 and enters the coming season in much better shape than ever before. In addition to his improved



athletic abilities, Barak is taking more of a leadership role with the team this year. Great players make others around them better and Barak is working towards that goal.

- Sam Satterfield, North Springs, Sophomore, Utility – 2012 will be Sam's second year playing on the North Springs team and he spent the 2011 season primarily in a defensive role. In the off season, Sam joined the high school and summer league swim teams to build his endurance and improve his speed. Because of this hard work, Sam will be able to play all over the pool this season. Watch for the strength of his shot as well.

Pace

- Jason Wiener, Pace, Senior, Attacker - Jason is versatile and can be classified as both an attacker and utility player. In 2011, he scored 41 goals in the regular season, 80 goals total including tournaments and All Star participation, had over 25 assists, and won 79% of the team sprints. Jason has gained exposure to higher-level play and skill development with Dynamo Masters and in training at Long Beach State and Navy water polo camps the past few summers. Returns for his senior season after being named to the 2nd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- James Seaman, Pace, Senior, Utility - Had 33 Goals and 10 Assists last season, will play a big role with our scoring.
- Cooper Drose, Pace, Sophomore, Utility – Copper is a play maker all over the pool. He had 33 goals and 34 assists during the 2011 season.
- William Sadlo, Pace, Senior, Defender - Primarily a defense minded player but also came forward when necessary in 2011 to tally 13 goals and 15 assists.

Southern Crescent

- Robbie Scott, Southern Crescent, Junior, Utility - Returns for his junior season after being named to the 1st team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- Austin Palmer, Southern Crescent, Junior, Utility - Returns for his junior season after being named to the 3rd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.

Spartans

- Chris McCarter, Spartans, Senior, Utility - Returns for his senior season after being named to the 1st team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- Brett Kester, Spartans, Senior, Utility - Returns for his senior season after being named to the 2nd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- Keegan Musser, Spartans, Sophomore, Goalie - Keegan had a break out year as the Spartan's starting goalie, and is looking to lead the Spartans again this fall. Named to the 3rd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- Kevin Roughgarden, Spartans, Senior, Driver - Look for Kevin to light it up from the outside in 2012. His lightning-quick shots from the outside will be a guaranteed headache for opposing defenses this season. Named to the 3rd team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.



SPX

- Sam Beckwith, SPX, Senior, Goalie - Returns for his senior season after being named to the 1st team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.
- Zach Halbig, SPX, Junior, Attacker - One of the top scorers on the team in 2011, Zach looks to build on his offensive contributions during 2012. A fast driver who is relentless around the cage, Zach's goals came from strong shooting and "picking up the trash" on rebound shots. Zach is as strong a defender as he is a scoring threat. His speed will make him a featured sprinter for the team.
- Rafael Garcia, SPX, Junior, Center - Starting with a large frame that has put on some size during off season conditioning, Rafael looks to be an important option in the center position. With good ball skills from basketball and an improved level of swim conditioning, he should definitely make a positive contribution, especially on the offensive end this year. His improved size and shooting accuracy should also be a threat on the perimeter.
- Cecilia Probst, SPX, Junior, Attacker - Returns for her junior season after being named to the 2nd girls team of the 2011 All-GaPolo.com Team.

Wesleyan

- Jake Cusick, Wesleyan, Senior, Defender – Returns for his junior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- Alex Henson, Wesleyan, Junior, Goalie – Returns for his junior season after being named to the 2011 GHSWPA All-Star Team.
- Philip Sawyer, Wesleyan, Senior, Utility – Shows the potential for greatness, and will be counted on more in 2012 as a vital leader.

Wildcat

- Kevin Pluckter, Wildcat, Senior, Goalie – Kevin is poised for a breakout season in 2012 as he mans the cage for his third season.
- Aubrey Sims, Wildcats, Senior, Utility – Aubrey is the Wildcats' best all-round athlete and should be a force in 2012.
- William Sweitzer, Wildcats, Junior, Utility – William shows immense potential as an up-and-coming player. Look for his increased skill as the season progresses.

For additional information, regarding the GHSWPA and the upcoming 2012 season, please contact the league's Media Coordinator via the league website -- www.gapolo.com.