Mountain Pacific Sports Federation
MPSF Men's Water Polo
Conference News
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2023 MOUNTAIN PACIFIC SPORTS FEDERATION DELFINA ALL-MPSF WEST MEN'S WATER POLO SELECTIONS

2023 MPSF Player of the Year

RAFAEL REAL VERGARA • #7 • SENIOR • ATTACKER • UCLA



UCLA senior **Rafael Real Vergara** (Sao Paulo, Brazil) enters the postseason with an MPSF-high 56 goals on the year (3.11 GPG). He has completed 13 regular season hat tricks, 15 multiple-goal games, and tallied in 16 of the 18 games he competed. Vergara accumulated 15 of his 30 goals against MPSF opponents across three wins over USC. In the Overnght MPSF Invitational, he exploded for 16 goals, five assists and two steals over three outings which led to his first Delfina MPSF Player of the Week honor. In the regular season finale, to cap off the MPSF's first unbeaten regular season since the 2015 Bruins, Vergara delivered five of UCLA's 10 goals along with two steals, leading to his second career Delfina MPSF Player of the Week award. Vergara represents UCLA's fifth all-time MPSF Player of the Year recognition, and the first in seven years (Garrett Danner-2015-16, Scott Davidson-2009, Sean Kern-2000).

2023 MPSF Newcomer of the Year

BEN LIECHTY • #13 • FRESHMAN • UTILITY • UCLA



UCLA freshman **Ben Liechty** (Newport Beach, CA) was named MPSF S & R Sport Newcomer of the Week a conference-high-tying twice this year. Liechty first earned the honor following his collegiate debut, as he helped the Bruins to a 4-0 record at the season-opening Triton Invitational (Sept. 2-3) with a team-high 10 goals. He then scored his fourth career hat trick on four shots in a 13-9 MPSF home win over No. 2 California (Oct. 28), and drew three exclusions in helping the Bruins clinch the MPSF's top seed. Liechty scored 33 regular season goals, second-most on the Bruins, including in his first nine collegiate games. He scored in 16 of the 21 games he played, and recorded 13 multiple-goal outings. Liechty is the third Bruin all-time to earn MPSF Newcomer of the Year recognition (Makoto Kenney-2020, Garrett Danner-2013).

2023 MPSF Coach of the Year

ADAM WRIGHT • HEAD COACH • 15th YEAR • UCLA



UCLA Head Coach **Adam Wright** guided the top-ranked Bruins to an unbeaten 23-0 regular season, the first undefeated regular season in the MPSF since UCLA's 2015 team. Eight of UCLA's wins were against MPSF, seven against top-five competition, and 16 of the 23 overall wins came against top-10 opponents. The Bruins scored in double-digits in all 23 contests, and held opponents to single-digits 16 times. UCLA placed an MPSF-high nine players on the All-MPSF teams this year, including four on the first team. Wright is 341-63 overall (.844) since taking over the UCLA program in 2009. This is the third MPSF Coach of the Year award for Wright (2017, 2011), and the third such recognition overall for UCLA Men's Water Polo.

DELFINA ALL-MPSF FIRST-TEAM

Student-Athlete	No.	Year	Position	School	Hometown
Rafael Real Vergara	7	Senior	Attacker	UCLA	Sao Paulo, Brazil
^ Jack Larsen	10	R-Senior	Attacker	UCLA	Orinda, CA
# Makoto Kenney	22	Senior	Attacker	UCLA	Costa Mesa, CA
$$ Nikolaos Papanikolaou	4	Senior	Center	California	Athens, Greece
^ Jackson Painter	17	Senior	L-Attacker	Stanford	Orinda, CA
# Max Casabella	2	Junior	Attacker	California	Mataro, Spain
# Roberto Valera	2	Junior	Attacker	California	Martorell, Spain
% Carson Kranz	2	Senior	Driver	USC	Hermosa Beach, CA
Max Miller	12	Senior	Center	USC	Ladera Ranch, CA
$ Adrian Weinberg	1	Senior	Goalkeeper	California	Oak Park, CA
Garret Griggs	1	Senior	Goalkeeper	UCLA	Riverside, CA

DELFINA ALL-MPSF SECOND-TEAM

^ Massimo Di Martire	24	Grad Student	Driver	USC	Naples, Italy
Ben Liechty	13	Freshman	Utility	UCLA	Newport Beach, CA
^ Riley Pittman	8	Senior	Attacker	Stanford	Irvine, CA
Ethan Parrish	9	Senior	Defender	Stanford	Santa Barbara, CA
^ Luka Brnetic	5	Junior	Two-Meter	USC	Zagreb, Croatia
Albert Ponferrada	7	Sophomore	Attacker	California	Barcelona, Spain
Frederico Jucá Carsalade	2	R-Freshman	Attacker	UCLA	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Giorgio Alessandria	25	R-Senior	Utility	UCLA	Lafayette, CA
Jake Howerton	9	Junior	Attacker	California	Cardiff, CA
Bernardo Herzer	1	R-Freshman	Goalkeeper	USC	Los Angeles, CA

DELFINA ALL-MPSF HONORABLE MENTION

Soren Jensen	15	Senior	Attacker	Stanford	Orinda, CA
Andrej Grgurevic	24	Sophomore	Utility	USC	Sydney, Australia
Zach Bettino	28	Freshman	Driver	USC	Huntington Beach, CA
Ben Larsen	6	R-Freshman	Utilty	UCLA	Lafayette, CA
George Avakian	24	Junior	Center	California	Los Angeles, CA
Joshua Waldoch	9	R-Junior	Driver	USC	Santa Clarita, CA
Marcell Szécsi	4	Freshman	Center	UCLA	Budapest, Hungary

$$ Five-Time All-MPSF First Team Selection….$ Five-Time All-MPSF Selection
% Four-Time All-MPSF Selection….# Three-Time All-MPSF Selection….^ Two-Time All-MPSF Selection