



## **Achieving Excellence in Synchronized Swimming**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **The 2010 Alberta National Age Group Western Canadian Championships**

The Calgary Aquabelles, Calgary's premiere Synchronized Swim Club, is pleased to announce the results of the National Age Group (NAG) Westerns which took place in Edmonton on March 25-28.

The Aquabelles competed in the Tier 6 – 15 & Under, Tier 6 – 16 & Over, Tier 7 Junior and Tier 7 Senior age groups. The Aquabelles dominated the placings in all age groups:

#### **Tier 6, 15 & Under**

In the figures component, Kali Wong placed second, and Erica Slavin third, and Jordan McKenzie placed fourth.

In the solo competition, Kali Wong won both the Routine and Championship components, with Erica Slavin placing fifth in Championship and seventh in Routine. Kathryn Hall had a strong showing ranking fifth in Routine and sixth in Championship.

In the duet competition, the Aquabelles placed first and third in the Routine and Championship portions. Kali Wong and Jordan McKenzie placed first, while Andra Millage and Savannah Sami-Bacon came in third.

In the team event, once again, the Calgary Aquabelles captured gold with a significant lead in both the Routine and Championship components. The members of the winning Tier 6, 15U team are Kathryn Hall, Jordan McKenzie, Andra Millage, Chantal Miller, Savannah Sami-Bacon, Erica Slavin, Clare Talbot, and Kali Wong.

#### **Tier 6 – 16 & Over**

The Aquabelles also had a strong showing in the Tier 6, 16O group with Carly Grier placing fourth in the Routine and Championship components of the solo competition.

As well in the team event, the Aquabelles had their strongest showing yet, placing first in the Routine component and second in Championships. The members of this team are McKenna Armstrong-Vanlaar, Sarah Birkbeck, Carly Grier, Anna Mattei, Olivia Roth, Victoria Schmeiler, Karla Strecker, and Katherine Taylor.

### **Tier 7 Junior**

The Calgary Aquabelles had an excellent showing in the Tier 7 Junior level, with top rankings in all of the events. Beginning with figures, the Aquabelles were 1<sup>st</sup> – Claudia Holzner, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gabriella Brisson, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kristine Irwin, 5<sup>th</sup> – Kaylene Scheil and 6<sup>th</sup> – Braley Traub.

In the solo competition for both the Routine and Championship components, the Aquabelles swept the top three with Claudia Holzner placing first, Gabriella Brisson second and Kristine Irwin third.

The duet of Gabriella Brisson and Claudia Holzner captured gold in the Routine and Championship components and the duet of Kaylene Scheil and Braley Traub earned a silver in both.

In the team event, the Aquabelles comprised of Gabriella Brisson, Claudia Holzner, Kristine Irwin, Leah Malcolm, Kaylene Scheil, Stefanna Spoletini, Braley Traub, and Katrina Waldhauser, captured gold as well.

### **Tier 7 Senior**

Moira McAvoy placed second in the technical routine, free routine and championship components of the Solo event.

### **Combo**

Rounding out the meet, the Aquabelles had Combo teams in both Tier 6 and Tier 7 and placed first in both of these events.

Congratulations to all of the NAG Aquabelle athletes! As they progress through the competitive season, they continue to strengthen their showings at meets, culminating at the National competitions in April and June. The Tier 7 Canadian Open Championships and Junior National Team trials will take place from April 29-May 2 in Charlottetown, PEI. While the Tier 6 Espoir Championships and 13-15 National Team Trials will take place from June 2-6 in Montreal, QC.

The NAG Westerns featured over 150 athletes belonging to competitive synchronized swim clubs from across Western Canada, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The National Age Group category is highest level of synchronized swimming in Canada and athletes in this category compete at provincial, western Canadian, national and international competitions throughout the year.