Locals prepare for Junior Olympics

Tourney provides experience, financial boost to area players, teams

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — With USA Water Polo’s 43rd annual Junior Olympics kick off today, more than 500 teams and 8,000 athletes will begin competing in 31 pools at 26 different sites, stretching as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Apts.

The logistics alone are enough to make your head spin.

“It’s the biggest water polo tournament on the planet,” said Chris Melcer, who coaches the Wax-em 13-and-under girls water polo club team, one of three local teams playing in this year’s tournament.

The Wax-em 16U girls and the 14U boys from the Central Coast Sharks, a co-op program that features players from Wax-em, Apts and other clubs, will also compete. Joining them will be several other local individuals who play with club teams in surrounding areas like Stanford and Santa Clara Valley.

The boys divisions will begin today and run through Tuesday, while the girls divisions begin Thursday with four straight days of water polo.

The massive tournament could have positive effects for just about everyone involved. Not only do the players get to experience competition within an elite setting as well as play 10 to 12 games in just four days — but the tournament itself acts as a financial boon for the local community.

Pools at Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, Apts...

“Tournament provides experience, financial boost to area players, teams”

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — With USA Water Polo’s 43rd annual Junior Olympics kick off today, more than 500 teams and 8,000 athletes will begin competing in 31 pools at 26 different sites, stretching as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Apts.

The logistics alone are enough to make your head spin.

“It’s the biggest water polo tournament on the planet,” said Chris Melcer, who coaches the Wax-em 13-and-under girls water polo club team, one of three local teams playing in this year’s tournament.

The Wax-em 16U girls and the 14U boys from the Central Coast Sharks, a co-op program that features players from Wax-em, Apts and other clubs, will also compete. Joining them will be several other local individuals who play with club teams in surrounding areas like Stanford and Santa Clara Valley.

The boys divisions will begin today and run through Tuesday, while the girls divisions begin Thursday with four straight days of water polo.

The massive tournament could have positive effects for just about everyone involved. Not only do the players get to experience competition within an elite setting as well as play 10 to 12 games in just four days — but the tournament itself acts as a financial boon for the local community.

Pools at Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, Apts...

“Tournament provides experience, financial boost to area players, teams”

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — With USA Water Polo’s 43rd annual Junior Olympics kick off today, more than 500 teams and 8,000 athletes will begin competing in 31 pools at 26 different sites, stretching as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Apts.

The logistics alone are enough to make your head spin.

“It’s the biggest water polo tournament on the planet,” said Chris Melcer, who coaches the Wax-em 13-and-under girls water polo club team, one of three local teams playing in this year’s tournament.

The Wax-em 16U girls and the 14U boys from the Central Coast Sharks, a co-op program that features players from Wax-em, Apts and other clubs, will also compete. Joining them will be several other local individuals who play with club teams in surrounding areas like Stanford and Santa Clara Valley.

The boys divisions will begin today and run through Tuesday, while the girls divisions begin Thursday with four straight days of water polo.

The massive tournament could have positive effects for just about everyone involved. Not only do the players get to experience competition within an elite setting as well as play 10 to 12 games in just four days — but the tournament itself acts as a financial boon for the local community.

Pools at Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, Apts...

“Tournament provides experience, financial boost to area players, teams”

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — With USA Water Polo’s 43rd annual Junior Olympics kick off today, more than 500 teams and 8,000 athletes will begin competing in 31 pools at 26 different sites, stretching as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Apts.

The logistics alone are enough to make your head spin.

“It’s the biggest water polo tournament on the planet,” said Chris Melcer, who coaches the Wax-em 13-and-under girls water polo club team, one of three local teams playing in this year’s tournament.

The Wax-em 16U girls and the 14U boys from the Central Coast Sharks, a co-op program that features players from Wax-em, Apts and other clubs, will also compete. Joining them will be several other local individuals who play with club teams in surrounding areas like Stanford and Santa Clara Valley.

The boys divisions will begin today and run through Tuesday, while the girls divisions begin Thursday with four straight days of water polo.

The massive tournament could have positive effects for just about everyone involved. Not only do the players get to experience competition within an elite setting as well as play 10 to 12 games in just four days — but the tournament itself acts as a financial boon for the local community.

Pools at Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, Apts...

“Tournament provides experience, financial boost to area players, teams”

By ANDREW MATHESON
amatheson@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — With USA Water Polo’s 43rd annual Junior Olympics kick off today, more than 500 teams and 8,000 athletes will begin competing in 31 pools at 26 different sites, stretching as far north as San Mateo and as far south as Apts.

The logistics alone are enough to make your head spin.

“It’s the biggest water polo tournament on the planet,” said Chris Melcer, who coaches the Wax-em 13-and-under girls water polo club team, one of three local teams playing in this year’s tournament.

The Wax-em 16U girls and the 14U boys from the Central Coast Sharks, a co-op program that features players from Wax-em, Apts and other clubs, will also compete. Joining them will be several other local individuals who play with club teams in surrounding areas like Stanford and Santa Clara Valley.

The boys divisions will begin today and run through Tuesday, while the girls divisions begin Thursday with four straight days of water polo.

The massive tournament could have positive effects for just about everyone involved. Not only do the players get to experience competition within an elite setting as well as play 10 to 12 games in just four days — but the tournament itself acts as a financial boon for the local community.

Pools at Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Valley, Apts...