

**STANFORD ATHLETICS
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STANFORD
WOMEN'S WATER POLO****Women's Water Polo Contact: Aaron Juarez****Email: arjuarez@stanford.edu • Office Phone: (650) 725-7277 • Cell Phone: (408) 250-1598****Top-Seeded Stanford Aims To Go Back-To-Back****National Collegiate Championship - Friday, May 11****- vs. - No. 8 Pomona-Pitzer - 3:30 p.m. PT - San Diego, Calif.****No. 1 Stanford Heads To San Diego For National Collegiate Championship**

Stanford women's water polo (23-2), the top seed at this weekend's National Collegiate Championship, heads to San Diego aiming for its second straight NCAA title. The Cardinal takes on eighth-seeded Pomona-Pitzer (21-16) Friday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m. at San Diego State's Aztec Aquaplex.

Last Time Out

The Cardinal turned in a runner-up finish at the MPSF Championship at Avery Aquatic Center two weekends ago, having its 37-game home winning streak snapped with the 8-7 overtime loss to UCLA.

Stanford defeated Hawai'i, 13-3, to open up the tournament then bested California, 12-5 in the semifinal round. In April 29's championship final, the Cardinal dropped an 8-7 overtime decision to UCLA, just its second loss of the campaign.

Drivers Kaley Dodson and Kiley Neushul were named to the MPSF All-Tournament Team. Dodson scored five goals during the tournament while Neushul added four, with each player scoring twice in the championship game.

Goalie Kate Baldoni made 28 saves over the tournament's three games, allowing just 5.20 goals per game.

About The Opposition

Pomona-Pitzer (21-16) punched its ticket to the National Collegiate Championship by winning the SCIAC title on April 29 with a 12-11 triple-overtime win over Redlands.

The Sagehens, riding an 11-game winning streak into Friday's contest, are led on offense by Alyssa Woodward (77 goals), Annie Oxborough-Yankus (58) and Sarah Westcott (44).

In the cage, Sarah Tuggy has made 185 saves this season.

The Cardinal and Sagehens have met once before at the National Collegiate Championship. The teams met in the quarterfinals of the 2010 tournament, also held in San Diego, with Stanford claiming a 23-3 win on May 14, 2010.

In The National Rankings

The Cardinal dropped to No. 2 in the May 2 Varsity Top 20 Poll this week after falling in the MPSF Championship Game on April 29.

Stanford Goes For Third NCAA Title

This weekend's National Collegiate Championship marks the third straight year in which Stanford will be the draw's top seed. The Cardinal aims to capture its second consecutive NCAA title, and third overall, as it begins tournament play Friday. The Cardinal won its first national title in 2002, and captured last year's title with a 9-5 win over California in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Stanford does hold the distinction of being the only school to make the National Collegiate Championship every year since the NCAA first sponsored a women's water polo championship in 2001. Over its previous 11 appearances, the Cardinal has won two national titles (2002, 2011), finished second on five occasions (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010) and taken third four times (2004, 2006, 2008-09).

2012 Schedule & Results**(23-2, 7-0 MPSF)****Date Opponent Time/Result****JANUARY**28 (Sat.) vs. No. 11 LMU (1) W, 17-2
vs. No. 15 UC Davis (1) W, 19-7**FEBRUARY**4 (Sat.) **No. 14 UC Davis(2)** **W, 18-6**
No. 3 USC (2) **W, 8-7**5 (Sun.) **No. 5 San Jose State (2)** **W, 11-6**
No. 4 UCLA (2) **W, 9-5**

11 (Sat.) at No. 8 San Jose State* W, 13-5

18 (Sat.) at Santa Clara W, 13-4

25 (Sat.) vs. No. 19 UC San Diego (3)W, 14-3

vs. No. 9 San Diego State (3)W, 10-3

26 (Sun.) vs. No. 4 California (3) W, 13-5

vs. No. 3 UCLA (3) L, 5-4

MARCH3 (Sat.) **No. 19 Long Beach State** **W, 14-4**4 (Sun.) **No. 8 UC Irvine** **W, 17-5**

10 (Sat.) at No. 14 Hawai'i* W, 12-4

25 (Sat.) at No. 14 UCSB W, 12-2

26 (Sun.) vs. Brown W, 19-3

31 (Sat.) **No. 4 Arizona State*** **W, 12-8****APRIL**1 (Sun.) **No. 8 San Diego State*** **W, 12-4**7 (Sun.) **No. 3 USC*** **W, 9-8 (OT)**14 (Sat.) **No. 4 California*** **W, 11-5**

21 (Sat.) at No. 1 UCLA* W, 8-1

27 (Fri.) **No. 15 Hawai'i*** **W, 13-3**28 (Fri.) **No. 5 California (4)** **W, 12-5**29 (Sat.) **No. 2 UCLA (4)** **L, 8-7 (OT)****MAY**

11 (Fri.) vs. Pomona-Pitzer (5) 3 p.m.

12 (Sat.) vs. LMU/UC Irvine (5) TBD

13 (Sun.) vs. TBD (5) TBD

(1) Cal Tournament (Berkeley, Calif.)

(2) Stanford Invitational (Stanford, Calif.)

(3) UC Irvine Invitational (Corona del Mar/Irvine, Calif.)

(4) MPSF Tournament (Stanford, Calif.)

(5) National Collegiate Tournament (San Diego, Calif.)

ranking is CWPA ranking at time of contest

bold indicates home game

* indicates MPSF game

*all game times Pacific

2012 MPSF Standings

Team	OVERALL		MPSF	
	W	L	W	L
No. 2 Stanford	23	2	7	0
No. 1 UCLA	21	3	5	2
No. 3 USC	21	5	5	2
No. 5 Arizona State	25	6	4	3
No. 4 California	18	9	4	3
No. 9 San Jose State	19	13	2	5
No. 8 San Diego State	22	11	1	6
No. 15 Hawai'i	10	15	0	7

Neushul Named MPSF Newcomer Of The Year

Freshman driver Kiley Neushul headlined the MPSF postseason awards for the Cardinal on May 1, being named MPSF Newcomer of the Year as well as earning a spot on the conference's first team and All-Newcomer Team. She was joined on the first team by Kaley Dodson, while Alyssa Lo (All-MPSF Second Team) and Ashley Grossman (All-MPSF honorable mention, All-Newcomer Team)

Seniors Step Up

Stanford's claim of the top seed at the National Collegiate Championship, as well as its possession of the nation's No. 1 ranking for much of the season is a testament to how well the Cardinal stepped up in 2012. With both of its leading scorers (Annika Dries and Melissa Seidemann) from a season ago taking a leave of absence for 2012 to train for the Olympics, the Cardinal has had returners such as seniors Alyssa Lo (32 goals), Cassie Churnside (26) and Pallavi Menon (24) step up on the offensive end, while fellow senior Monica Coughlan has picked up the slack on the defensive end.

Coughlan has led a group that also features junior Victoria Kennedy, sophomore Kelsey Suggs and freshman Ashley Grossman taking on the two-meter roles left void by the absence of Dries and Seidemann this season. The leadership and grittiness of the group has helped the Cardinal lead the MPSF in defense with just 4.72 goals allowed per game.

Plenty Of Offense To Go Around

Stanford's conference-leading offense, scoring 12.28 goals per game, features seven players with at least 20 goals. Taking its lead from freshmen Kiley Neushul (55 goals) and Ashley Grossman (47), the Cardinal also features seniors Alyssa Lo (32), Cassie Churnside (26) and Pallavi Menon (24), along with sophomore Kaley Dodson (29) and sophomore Kaitlyn Lo (27).

Baldoni Anchors The Defense

Junior goalie Kate Baldoni took over No.1 duties in the cage this season and has established herself as one of the top goalies in the nation. Heading into this weekend's tournament, Baldoni leads the MPSF with a 4.62 goals-against average and is second with 10.11 saves per game. Behind her, freshman Emily Dorst has shown promise for the future, making 51 saves and allowing just 28 goals over 24 periods of action.

Among The MPSF Leaders

Through the MPSF statistical rankings of April 30, Stanford boasted seven players in the top-25 among the conference leaders. Kiley Neushul ranks third with 2.20 goals per game while fellow rookie Ashley Grossman is tied for sixth at 1.96 goals per game. Pallavi Menon is 13th with 1.60 goals a game, while Alyssa Lo (1.28 - 19th), Kaley Dodson (1.16 - 20th), Cassie Churnside (1.13 - 21st) and Kaitlyn Lo (1.08 - T-25th) are also in the group.

On the defensive side of things, goalie Kate Baldoni leads the MPSF with a 4.62 goals-against average and is second with 10.11 saves per game.

In the team rankings, Stanford leads the loop in both offense and defense, scoring 12.28 goals per game while allowing just 4.72 a game.

Six Stanford Players In Olympic Contention

Stanford is well-represented in Los Alamitos, Calif. as the U.S. Senior National Team trains for this summer's Olympics in London. Three current players, Annika Dries '14, Melissa Seidemann '13 and Maggie Steffens '16 took the collegiate season off to train for a chance at the Games, while alumnae Brenda Villa '03, Jessica Steffens '10 and Lauren Silver '09 are also among the candidates. Villa is aiming for her fourth Olympic Team berth, while Jessica Steffens is going for a second straight Olympics.

Head Coach John Tanner

Head coach John Tanner is in his 15th year at the helm of the Cardinal program in 2012. Tanner, a five-time MPSF Coach of the Year selection, has accumulated a record of 374-58 (.866) on The Farm over that time. He has led Stanford to every NCAA Championship tournament since its inception in 2001, and has won two national titles (2002, 2011) as well as turning in five national runner-up finishes (2001, '03, '05, '07, '10). Over his previous 14 seasons guiding the Stanford program, Tanner has also produced 15 U.S. National Team members as well as six Olympians, including Brenda Villa, Alison Gregorka and Jessica Steffens at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

2012 Varsity Top 20 Poll (May 2, 2011)

Team	Points	Prev.
1. UCLA	99	2t
2. Stanford	96	1
3. USC	91	2t
4. California	85	4
5. Arizona State	80	5
6. UC Irvine	75	6
7. LMU	69	7
8. San Diego State	64	8
9. San Jose State	56	9
10. Princeton	53	13
11. UC Davis	52	10t
12. Maryland	47	14
13. Michigan	39	10t
14. Indiana	31	12
15. Hawai'i	28	15t
16. UC Santa Barbara	21	15t
17. Hartwick	19	17
18. CS Northridge	16	19
19. Cal Baptist	13	18
20. Brown	9	NR
20. Iona	9	20

Also receiving votes: UC San Diego 4, Harvard.

2012 Stanford Honors

MPSF Newcomer of the Year

Kiley Neushul

All-MPSF Teams

Kaley Dodson (First Team)
Kiley Neushul (First Team, All-Newcomer)
Alyssa Lo (Second Team)
Ashley Grossman (HM, All-Newcomer)

MPSF All-Tournament Team

Kaley Dodson
Kiley Neushul

KAP 7 MPSF Player of the Week

Kate Baldoni (Feb. 6)
Kiley Neushul (April 16)
Kaley Dodson (April 23)

MPSF Mikasa Newcomer of the Week

Kiley Neushul (Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 12, April 23)
Ashley Grossman (March 5, April 2, April 9)



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2012 Stanford Women's Water Polo Season (23-2 overall, 7-0 MPSF; 12-1 Home; 5-0 Away; 6-1 Neutral)

Scoring Leaders (As of April 30)

- Kiley Neushul 55
- Ashley Grossman 47
- Alyssa Lo 32
- Kaley Dodson 29
- Kaitlyn Lo 27
- Cassie Churnside 26
- Pallavi Menon 24
- Jillian Garton 17
- Alexis Lee 12
- Monica Coughlan 11
- Victoria Kennedy 9
- Kelsey Suggs 6
- Catherine Carpenter 4
- Cory Dodson 4
- Lexie Ross 4
- Stanford 307
- Opponents 118

Goalie Statistics	Games Played	Saves	Goals Against	Quarters Played	GAA	Saves Avg.
Kate Baldoni	19	192	90	78	4.62	10.11
Emily Dorst	6.5	51	28	24	4.67	7.85
Totals	25	243	118	102	4.72	9.72
Opponents	25	204	307	102	12.28	7.96

Goals By Period

Stanford	84	77	75	69	2-0	=	307
Opponents	23	34	33	26	2-0	=	118