

## TURBO Championships Launch East Coast Masters Polo In Grand Fashion

### Inaugural edition puts Atlanta on national masters water polo map

USA Water Polo Masters water polo made its official “east of the Rockies” debut at the Dynamo Swim Center in Atlanta, Georgia over the April 9-10, 2011 weekend. Host Dynamo Water Polo Club spent six months promoting and organizing the TURBO Masters Eastern Championship and hoped their plans yielded positive results. Based on the quality of play in the pool, dozens of positive comments from athletes, coaches and referees and a great Saturday night social event it seems Dynamo WPC got the desired result.

Fifteen teams from ten different clubs entered the tournament, with 20+, 40+ and 50+ age groups. Unfortunately, last minute visa issues kept the Ghana National Team at home. Dynamo WPC, with help from USAWP, had helped Ghana register not only for the TURBO Masters but also three additional SE Zone tournaments over a month-long period. Other clubs included KAOS (3 teams), Glory Dayz (2 teams), Calgary (Canada), L.A. Jets, Loyola Athletico (Puerto Rico), TriValley, Charlotte Sharks and Team Florida. Host DWPC delivered three teams of their own, one in each age group.

Dynamo WPC also arranged for several individual athletes to compete with teams who wanted an extra player or two. Sergei Elkin, a seasoned goalie from Moscow Russia, won the “golden hubcap” award for the longest distance traveled. Sergei, who grew up playing for Dynamo Olimpiysky Moscow, donned a Dynamo WPC Atlanta 20+ goalie cap and jumped right in.

In the 20+ group, Dynamo WPC 20+, Charlotte Sharks and Dynamo WPC 30+ played all games except those against Ghana, won by forfeit. The 30+ Dynamo squad notched bragging rights with a 9-7 win over their upstart 20+ counterparts. Anchored by former standout USC Trojan goalie Whitney Morgan (living in Charleston, SC), Charlotte Sharks pushed DWPC 30+ to the edge but yielded a one-goal Dynamo win, 12-11. The Sharks repaid their round-robin loss to DWPC 20+ with a 9-8 win in the 20+ second place game.

Five teams played a round robin plus games for place in the 40+ division. In the games for place, Loyola (P.R.) dispatched DWPC 40+ 11-5 for third. KAOS and Glory Dayz (primarily Bucknell '81 + NYAC & Greenwich CT players) squared off for the 40+ championship. After three quarters, KAOS led by 4 and seemed to have the game in hand. Glory Dayz unleashed a furious assault and scored 3 unanswered goals in the fourth to draw within one. Glory Dayz had possession of the ball in the final seconds of the game and, if not for an amazing save by KAOS goalie Steve Copeland as time expired could've sent the game into overtime. KAOS carried the 40+ title 9-8 and, like the champions of the other two divisions, earned a \$300 credit towards Masters Nationals courtesy of USAWP.

Glory Dayz and the Los Angeles Jets delivered another amazing championship game, this one in the 50+ division. With the game clock under 0:05 and down by a single goal, the Jets fired off a quality shot from the perimeter. Glory Dayz goalie Christopher Judge had the goal well guarded, and the Jet shot barred off the top right corner, directly back into the field of play and then directly into the shooting hand of a very aware Jets driver who shot immediately off the catch and....SAVE by Judge then BUZZER then swarming team mates leave their keeper gasping for breath. Glory Dayz held aloft a TURBO banner, Kap7 balls and PowerBar product in their championship photograph.

“I want to thank Scott Tanner of USAWP for his support of our effort. This was an extremely positive experience for our club, and, from talking to the participants, it looks as though this could really energize Masters Water Polo in the region,” explained Lawrence Edwards, Tournament Director and DWPC 30+ goalie. A DWPC post-event supported Edward’s belief, as 46% of survey respondents rated the event a 10 and awarded it an 8.4 average rating. “We owe Carl Strand and the KAOS organization a sincere debt of gratitude. KAOS was the first club to register for the event and registered three teams. Knowing the powerful KAOS program made it easy for other clubs to sign up.”

Sponsored by Widmer Brothers Brewery (Portland, OR) and hosted by Atlanta landmark Smith Olde Bar, the Saturday evening social event was also a success. The many players who came to Smith’s enjoyed food and drink specials, highlighted by a great selection of bottled Widmer Brothers beers, as they caught up with old friends and made new ones.

“As important as the tournament was to introduce Masters water polo and the East coast to each other, it also delivered great results for our sponsors, especially TURBO and Kap7,” explained Stu Sheldon, Assistant Tournament Director and DWPC 40+ player. “In addition to the great exposure in Skip Shot, on usawaterpolo.com and waterpoloplanet.com, our use of TURBO caps and Kap7 balls drove 32% greater support for TURBO and 41% greater support for Kap7, as many played with Kap7 for the first time.”

Both Edwards and Sheldon also made specific reference to the excellent quality of referees assembled by Head Referee Loren Bertocci. This group, which included two FINA “A” whistlers, was roundly praised by the attendees.

Scott Lynn (KAOS 50+) won the backpack raffle and bagged himself \$200 worth of merchandise from sponsors TURBO, Kap7 and PowerBar.

For complete results please visit: <http://www.dynamowaterpolo.com/masters/2011easterns/>

**Photos (courtesy of Emily Fess – Dynamo Water Polo Club):**

Glory Dayz goalie Christopher Judge turns away a KAOS scoring attempt at the 2011 TURBO Masters Championships, April 9-10 @ Dynamo Swim Center in Atlanta, GA.



Source:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/emily.fess/TurboEasternMastersWaterPoloTournament#5594505248970487330>

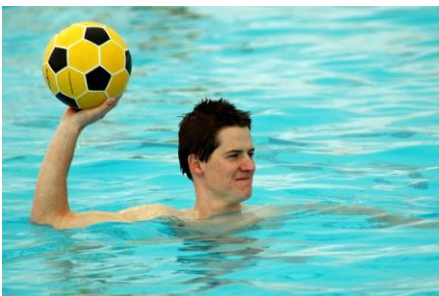
KAOS 50+ defender Ed Opalach controls a center forward attempt to shoot a Kap7 ball from set at the 2011 TURBO Masters Championships, April 9-10 @ Dynamo Swim Center in Atlanta, GA.



Source:

[https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/\\_1Nvi9gB0FVs/TaOs4z1ZV8I/AAAAAAAAHEI/7gdplW5IsIM/s640/DSC\\_0362.JPG](https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/_1Nvi9gB0FVs/TaOs4z1ZV8I/AAAAAAAAHEI/7gdplW5IsIM/s640/DSC_0362.JPG)

Jon Wheeler (Dynamo 20+) is all smiles as he warms up with the new Kap7 ProGrip ball at the 2011 TURBO Masters Championships, April 9-10 @ Dynamo Swim Center in Atlanta, GA.



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