



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LONG BEACH AQUATIC CAPITAL OF AMERICA
ANNOUNCES AQUATICS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS**

LONG BEACH, Calif. (Nov. 3, 2011) – The Long Beach Aquatic Capital of America Foundation will host its third annual Aquatic Athlete of the Year ceremony on November 10, 2011, with an awards dinner and special reception with Long Beach Olympians at Keesal, Young & Logan.

Long Beach Councilman Gary DeLong is the honorary chairperson for the dinner and ceremony, which will recognize and honor athletes, individuals and organizations whose efforts during 2011 have contributed to making Long Beach “The Aquatic Capital of America.”

Long Beach City Manager Pat West will be honored as the inaugural Long Beach Aquatic Citizen of Year, and the Long Beach Yacht Club, Long Beach Sailing Foundation and the Greater Long Beach YMCA will be recognized for their contributions to amateur and competitive sailing in the region.

The finalists for the 2011 Aquatic Athlete of the Year award are:

- Cole Young, Diving
- Howard Hamlin, Sailing
- Jessica Hardy, Swimming
- Lauren Wenger, Water Polo
- Tony Azevedo, Water Polo
- Stesha Carle, Rowing
- Misty May-Treanor, Beach Volleyball
- Hank Wise (Captain), Dr. Lyle Nalli, Matt Mitchell, Ted Bramble, Parks Wesson, Lexie Kelly, Open Water Swimming

Each of the athletes will be recognized and the winner will be announced during the dinner. Previous winners of the Aquatics Athlete of the Year are USA Water Polo Women's National Team member Lauren (Lolo) Silver in 2010, and U.S. Swimming Olympic Trials champion Jessica Hardy in 2009.

"We are looking forward to hosting and honoring more than a dozen Long Beach athletes, heroes and Olympians at this year's dinner," said Tom Shadden, president of the Long Beach Aquatic Capital of America Foundation. "Our foundation is committed to promoting Long Beach as the nation's aquatic capital, helping to bring related business and events to the city, and encouraging our fellow residents to engage and participate in the dozens of aquatic sports available in the city. This dinner will help us raise funds to support these efforts, as well as funding safety programs to help 'water proof' Long Beach youth."

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For additional information, please visit the foundation's website at <http://aquaticcapital.org>.

About The Long Beach Aquatic Capital of America Foundation

The mission of the Long Beach Aquatic Capital of America Foundation is to communicate and promote Long Beach as an aquatic destination for business, education and sports on a local, national and international basis. The Foundation's strategic initiatives are to support aquatic events, clean water and water conservation efforts; and lead fundraising efforts to support local youth aquatics and "water proofing" Long Beach youth, refurbish and improve local facilities, improve access to pool and water related activities, and provide aquatic scholarships.

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