

U.S. Club Teams Fair Well at 10th FINA World Masters Championships

The United States was well represented at the 10th FINA World Masters Synchronized Swimming Championships in Riccione, Italy, June 3-13. Eight Club Teams, the Alpine Angelfish, Aquasprite Masters, Arizona Desert Gems, D.C. Synchronmasters, MAC Synchro (Ore.), Ramapo Aquamasters, Redwood Empire Synchro (Calif.), and Southern California Unsynchronables (Calif.), made the trip to compete.

Finishing 1-2 in 50-59 age group solo and duet and 50-64 team the eight clubs, combined, brought home six gold, five silver, and one bronze medal.

Holly Kyle of Redwood Empire captured three gold medals, while teammate Carol Mellows brought home two gold and one bronze. Kyle won the solo event in 60-69 age group and the 50-59 duet with partner Christine Schroeder defeating Linda Thomson and Nancy Weiman of the D.C. Synchronmasters. Mellows captured gold in 50-59 solo by 0.08 points over Weiman. She then teamed with Schroeder and Aurore Simonne to win bronze in 35-49 trio competition. The four Redwood Empire ladies, Schroeder, Simonnet, Mellows and Kyle, later won the 50-64 team event. The Ramapo Aquamasters finished second.

Ramapo's Beth Carey and Carol Motyka-Miller won the 60-69 duet event, while teammates Carolyn Steiner, Bette Whalen, and Donna Schoen Sima finished second in the 65-79 trio competition. Mary McBain of the Arizona Desert Gems placed second in the 70-79 duet event.

The Southern California Unsynchronables 35-49 team finished 0.25 points out of second, placing fourth. Although, Leadel Bean, Michelle Beay, and Karen Rosolowski captured gold in the 35-49 trio competition.

Other teams placed swimmers in the top five including soloists Jennifer Lexa of MAC Synchro and Becky Meitin of the Alpine Angelfish. Lexa placed fourth in 40-49, while Meitin finished fifth in 50-59. Ramapo's Karin Pollok and Carolyn Steiner captured fifth in the 60-69 duet.

“It was amazing to see so many people from the different countries, especially those I swam against back in the early 1980's when I was a National Team member, Kelly Kryczka, in particular, from Canada,” said Rosolowski. “It was also wonderful to see a field that not only included former swimmers, but also those who had clearly learned the sport later in life. The young Italian Team as well as the 81 year old Japanese woman were amazing.”

Countries competing in the competition were Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, and United States.