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March 11, 2010

Competition Gets Underway at the 2010 U.S. Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships

PALO ALTO, Calif. – The 34th annual U.S. Collegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships got underway today at the Avery Aquatic Center on the campus of Stanford University. The event which will run through Saturday, March 13, is an open-class meet, combining competition from NCAA Divisions I, II, and III and NAIA colleges and universities. Nearly 200 of the top athletes from the collegiate scene are competing for titles in the solo, duet, trio and team events.

Thursday was highlighted by semifinal action in the solo, duet and trio events. **Natalia Tarasova** of **Canisius College** finished the solo preliminary competition in the top spot with a 92.125 while **Barb Nesbitt** of the **Ohio State University** finished the day in the second place position with a 91.875. **Yulia Shepeleva**, also of **Canisius College** rounded out the top three with an 88.750.

In the preliminary duet competition, **Ohio State's Meghan Kinney** and **Michelle Theriault** posted a 91.875 which was good enough for a first place position, followed by **Canisius' Tarasova** and **Shepeleva** (91.000). **Stanford's Maria Koroleva** and **Olivia Morgan** took third place with a 90.125.

In the final preliminary event of the day, Nesbitt and Theriault of Ohio State teamed up with **Deborah Shim** for the first place finish with a mark of 91.250. OSU's **Paige Ramsey, Caitlin Stewart** and Kinney finished in the second place position with a 90.750. Stanford's Koroleva and Morgan added Taylor Durand to the mix to score a 90.250.

Friday's action will continue with the figures competition in the morning and the team semifinal in the afternoon. Tickets will be sold at the gate. Admission for Friday will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, youth and senior citizens. Tickets for Saturday will be \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, youth and senior citizens.

Results will be posted at www.usasynchro.org. For more information or contact Taylor Payne at taylor@usasynchro.org or (317) 507-3410.

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