



AT Pages/Team Links/Info.

[Home/Front Page](#)
[About/Contact](#)
[Advertise](#)
AT Feature
[Classifieds](#)
[Submissions](#)

[Clinic/Lessons](#)
[College](#)
[High School](#)
[REC](#)
[Record Setters](#)
[USA](#)

Featured Athlete/Coach Archives

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Previous Featured Articles for 2008

[Crow Canyon Sharks Place Second at Far Westerns](#)
[Young Terrapins Shine at Pre-Olympic Trial Swim Meet](#)
[Crow Canyon Sharks Shaila Yoder](#)
[Olympic Trials, Here we Come!](#)

AT Special Feature:

Walnut Creek Aquanuts Top Junior Team and Trio in the Nation

*Submitted by
 Teresa Sumiyoshi*



The Walnut Creek Aquanuts' Junior Team and Trio were crowned number one in the nation at the Speedo Junior National Championships held April 9-12 in Clermont, FL. The team of Alex Bollaidlaw, Emily Burkhart, Betka Dufkova, Jane Homma, Maria Koroleva, Seyeon Min, Olivia Morgan, Kellie Stump and Raena Sumiyoshi were coached by Yuka Yeh and Kristen Kramer, with help from Gail Emery.

The athletes swam an amazing team routine in the finals, impressing judges and spectators alike and earning themselves a routine score of 92, out of a possible perfect score of 100, seldom seen even at the Olympic level. Aquanuts also took 1st place, as well as 4th in the trio competition, 2nd place in duets and captured 3 of the top 4 slots in solo competition!

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[Matt Martinez Matt Martinez ATOM Student Intern](#)
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[Aquanuts Shine](#)
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[14 & Under Girls JO Qual.Tournament](#)
[NCS Swimming Championships](#)
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Previous Featured Articles for 2006

[Eight Aquanuts Head for Nationals](#)
[NCS WP Championship-Monte Vista Girls-Photos](#)
[NCS WP Championship-De La Salle Boys-Photos](#)
[NCS WP Championship-Miramonte Boys-Photos](#)
[NCS WP Championship Games-Articles](#)
[Monte Vista Girls WP-Part 1](#)
[Monte Vista Girls WP-Part 2](#)
[ALGA-CUDA C, B, A+ Swim Meet](#)
[Cal Alumni Meet](#)
[Treasure Island to YMCA-Part 3](#)
[Treasure Island to YMCA-Part 2](#)
[Treasure Island to YMCA-Part 1](#)
[Kate Dwelley Picks Stanford](#)
[Tiburon Mile-Part 2](#)
[Tiburon Mile-Part 1](#)
[Aquabear Toni Diaz-Open Water Swimmer](#)
[Vallejo C, B, A+ Meet](#)
[Miramont WP Coach James Lathrop](#)
[County Championships Part 2](#)
[Aquanuts-Walk on the Wild Side](#)
[Make a Difference for Dave Maddan](#)



The public will have an opportunity to see these athletes perform closer to home, in Walnut Creek, on June 21, at the Walnut Creek Aquanuts' annual Night of Champions fundraiser, which will also feature team and duet performances by both the U.S. Olympic team and the Russian Olympic team. This will be the #1 world ranked Russian's team only U.S. exhibition prior to both teams heading off to compete in Beijing. The gala afternoon and evening event will also include silent and live auctions, food and beverages, as well as the opportunity to purchase Olympic memorabilia. The "Night of Champions" takes place at the Clarke Memorial Swim Center at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 2 to 8 pm.

Action begins with the fundraising Champagne Social featuring food from top local restaurants, live music and a silent auction - saluting WCA Olympians. Gates open at 5 pm for the Swim Show and live auction hosted by Mike Ibanez, Channel Two Sports Director. Autographed Olympic merchandise, raffle iPods, wine, beer and snacks will be available for purchase.

For tickets and information, visit the Aquanuts website at www.aquanuts.org. Tickets prices start at \$25. There are a limited number of tickets available. For more information email wcaeventinfo@yahoo.com

[County Championships Part 1](#)
[WCSC Part 1](#)
[WCSC Part 2](#)
[WCSC Part 3](#)
[Concord City Campionships](#)
[VSA Championships Part B](#)
[VSA Championships Part A](#)
[Rec Championships 7/29 and 7/30](#)
[Far Western LC Championships](#)
[Terrapins Qualify 10 for Nationals](#)
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[2006 NCS Championships](#)
[2006 BCS Championships](#)

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[Michael Phelps at May's Stanford Grand Prix](#)
[NCS in Walnut Creek](#)
[De La Salle Invitational](#)
[College Park HS & Gehringer Gators](#)
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 3](#)
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 2](#)
[Cal-Stanford Men Part 1](#)
[Cal-Stanford Women Diving](#)
[Cal-Stanford Women, Part 2](#)
[Cal-Stanford Women, Part 1](#)
[Olympian, Michael Phelps](#)
[Olympian, Ian Crocker](#)

Previous Featured Articles for 2004

[Concord Pool Progress Photos](#)
[Forrest White](#)
[Olympic Diver Kimiko Soldati-Part 2](#)
[Olympic Diver Kimiko Soldati-Part 1](#)
[DVC Men's Water Polo](#)
[Aquatic Times Hosts Bottomline Aquatic Clinic](#)
[Pacific Masters 2004 SC Champs](#)

[Natalie Coughlin in at NorCal in WC](#)
[Olympic Diver, Kimiko Hirai Soldati](#)
[Crow Canyon Coach Matt Struempf](#)
[Aquanut Show II](#)
[Aquanut Show I](#)
[County Championships II](#)
[County Championships I](#)
[VSA's Championships](#)
[Caitlyn Gunn](#)
[Tri-Valley Master Water Polo Team](#)
[Forest Parks' Marco Brunamonti](#)
[Crow Canyon Coaches](#)
[WHO's Charlotte Brown](#)
[Antioch Delta Skimmer, Emily Gonzales](#)
[Bentley HS and WCAB Swimmer, Dash Rothberg](#)
[Lamorinda Water Polo Coach, Boyd LaChance](#)
[USA Swimmer, Jocelyn Phillips](#)
[Local Artist Suzy Wear](#)
[Coach Mike Bottom-Cal](#)
[Josh Scott-Syracuse University](#)
[Hannah Hair-Vista Diablo](#)
[Billy Hayes-De La Salle](#)
[Coach Mike Heaney-Walnut Creek Aquabears](#)
[Chris Danesi-Terrapins](#)
[McCall Dorr-Orinda Aquatics'](#)
[Kelly Koch-Diablo Valley College](#)
[Olympian Jeff Rouse](#)

Previous Featured Articles for 2003

[Coach Leonard Chaplin-DVC](#)
[Coach Brian Holm-Dewing Park](#)
[Coaches From Around the League 4](#)
[Coaches From Around the League 3](#)
[Coaches From Around the League 2](#)
[Coaches From Around the League 1](#)
[Coaches-Walnut Creek Championships](#)
[AT Features REC Assistant Coaches](#)
[Gehring Gators Coaching Staff](#)
[Kelly McCabe-Diablo Valley College](#)
[Katy Erhardt-Diablo Valley College](#)
[Blake Henderson](#)
[Sean Peneyra-Vista Diablo](#)

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Dewing Park 8&un Girls
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Chelsea Allard
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Dave Boatwright
Kate Dwelley
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