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Contact: Eugenia Gillan at 978-886-7075 or at eugeniagillan@yahoo.com

ANA Synchers Make Top 10 at World's Largest Swim Meet

Binghamton, NY - Over 1000 synchronized swimmers from all over the country gathered at Binghamton University last week to compete in the largest synchronized swimming meet in the world. The ANA Synchers, the synchronized swim team of the Andover/North Andover YMCA qualified 29 of its swimmers for this prestigious event and faced this competition with the determination and focus that this team is known for. The 16-17 AG team placed eighth for their team routine and included swimmers Amber Blum, Rebecca Ely, Laina Gray, Caitlyn McGregor, Alice Rogers and Alison Ziel of N. Andover, and Sheila Cremin, Candace Ju and Emily Stone of Andover. ANA athletes Meaghan Arsenault of Methuen and Jessica Mancini of Andover placed in the top ten for their stunning duet performance.

Another highlight of the nationals competition was the specialized training ANA received from Duke Zielinski, current trainer for the 2008 U.S Olympic Synchronized Swim Team. Zielinski, along with Karen Josephson, winner of two Olympic Medals in synchronized swimming (Gold '92/Silver '88) conducted these swim clinics. These sessions, while only two hours long, offered ANA athletes an opportunity to receive training from the same coaches who are training our US Olympians!

Zielinski, owner of Sportform, plans return to Andover in October to conduct private coaching sessions specifically designed for the ANA Synchers. Long a friend of the ANA Synchers, and head coach Eugenia Gillan, Zielinski had this to say about the team, "*Advanced techniques are nothing more than basic techniques performed to perfection and ANA epitomizes that.*"

In addition to the 16-17 team, the following local athletes who qualified and attended nationals in Binghamton, NY included: 18-19 team: Meaghan Arsenault of Methuen, Melissa and Allison Andrews of Chepachet, RI, Claire Rudder of Sudbury, and Sheila Cremin, Jessica Mancini, Kelly Mahoney and Erica Potts of Andover. The 13-15 team: Marian Crockett and Christine Wu of Andover, Alyson Arsenault of Methuen, and Sarah Higgins of N. Andover. The 11-12 team: Gillian Brassil, Nicole Carzo, Sachiko Hagiyo and Gloria MacNamara of Andover, Kim Beaton of Salem, NH, and Kim Cushing and Kate Quinn of N. Andover.

The Andover/North Andover YMCA is currently offering summer classes for those interested in trying synchronized swimming. For more information please contact coach Svetlana Malinovskaya at 978-685-3541 Ext 30, smalinovskaya@mvymca.org or visit ANA Synchers online at www.anasynchers.org.