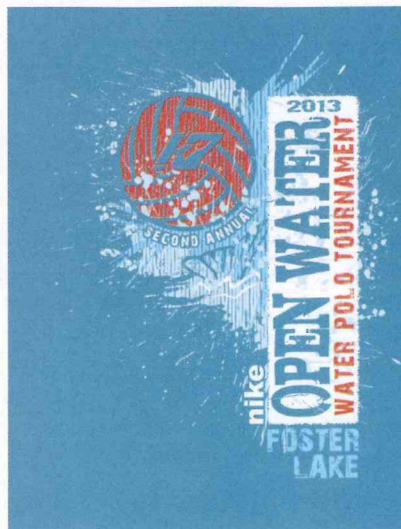


# Oregon Continues Open Water Tradition *By Steve Sessa*



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The 2nd Annual Nike Open Water Polo Tournament has grown and looks to get bigger. The event took place not in a pool, but in the pristine waters of Foster Lake outside Sweet Home, Oregon.

This year's tournament had 24 teams coming from Oregon, Washington, California, and New Mexico. The team from Albuquerque, NM traveled the farthest, bringing a U18 boys' team. Some of its U14 kids came to play some of the local U14 teams. Northern Elite came up from the Bay Area of California with the smallest team (just five boys) to play in the U16 division and had the time of their lives, thanks to host Willamette Valley Water Polo Club lending some of its players to complete Northern Elite's team.

With cooperation from Linn County Parks and Recreation, the 400-plus athletes, coaches, chaperones, and referees camped at Lewis Creek Park, just a short walk from the pair of open-water courses built on the lake edge. Out-of-state teams started to arrive Sunday, July 14, while the courses were still being built. By Monday morning the building was done and

competition started. Teams were challenged by a variety of water and weather conditions. Everything from wind to boat wakes gave each team unique obstacles while still maintaining overall great water polo. After just three short days of competition, winners were crowned in four divisions: Under 16 and Under 18 Girls and Boys. Awards were given for first through third place in each division and an All-Tournament Team was chosen with Nike gear given to each winning athlete.

In addition to great water polo, each team took part in mini camps led by Performance Water Polo's JP MacDonell, who played for the USA National Team and professionally in Hungary and Italy. JP came back this year saying there was no way he was going to miss this great tournament after his first experience last year.

Host Willamette Valley Water Polo Club with sponsors Nike and Kap7 are already planning 2014's 3rd annual event and hoping to max out the tournament at 32 teams in the divisions. If your club would like to attend this great event, start planning now. Registration will open January 2014 for the July 14 - 16, 2014

tournament and are sure to see a sell-out. Check out the latest on the Nike Open Water Tournament at [www.vvwp.org](http://www.vvwp.org).

## 2ND ANNUAL NIKE OPEN WATER TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

### U - 16 GIRLS

1. American River (Sacramento, CA)
2. T-Hills (Beaverton, OR)
3. Rain City (Seattle, WA)

### U - 16 BOYS

1. Rain City (Seattle, WA)
2. Willamette Valley (Salem/Albany, OR)
3. T-Hills (Beaverton, OR)

### U - 18 GIRLS

1. American River (Sacramento, CA)
2. Blue Crush (Portland, OR)
3. Willamette Valley (Salem/Albany, OR)

### U - 18 BOYS

1. Rain City (Seattle, WA)
2. Blue Crush (Portland, OR)
3. Ranger (Visalia, CA)

