

## **Age Group Nationals**

For many WCA swimmers in the 11-12 and 13-15 age range, earning the opportunity to compete at the US Age Group Nationals is a goal that one sets for herself early in the season. This year three of our teams, plus some individuals, realized this goal and flew to Gainesville, Florida, for the largest competition held in the country. Between June 26-30, the 11-12A's, 13-15A's, 13-15B's and five Juniors (15 year-olds) bedazzled the audience with rapid cadence swimming, twirls, flips and jumps at the University of Florida's Stephen C. O'Connell Natatorium.

In the 11-12 group, the trio of Natalie Fletcher, Rachael Lewin and Ariel Saiga came in 5<sup>th</sup> and the duet by Jasmine Carrillo and Ariel Saiga placed 4<sup>th</sup>. The team comprised of Jasmine, Natalie, Rachel, Ariel, Violet Castle, Autumn Cody, Joanna Langner, and Remy Mink earned a bronze medal.

The 13-15 group proved to be a powerhouse in Gatorland. In figures, WCA stole the top three spots with Heidi Homma earning gold, Jourdan Meltzer silver, Morgan Boneberg bronze, and Suying Rothrock rounding the top with 7<sup>th</sup> place. The three Juniors—Morgan, Heidi and Jourdan—captured gold for their trio while Rina Horii, Marisa Tashima and Suying claimed the silver. In duets, the silver went to Jourdan and Carolyn Morrice, the bronze to Karime Andere and Marisa, and 6<sup>th</sup> place to Rina and Suying. Heidi was the solo champion with Karime coming in 4<sup>th</sup>. Both 13-15 teams competed in finals—a hair-raising event for everyone, especially those who were there. In the end, the 13-15B team of Kelsey Bowman, Karina Boyle, Sofia Bouzos, Devan Murphy-Hopson, Cassie Naughton, Monique O'Bryan, Leah Read and Laila Shaker earned an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish. The 13-15A team—Gwen Gabie, Grace Moran, Lizzie Welzien, Tori Yee, Karime, Rina, Suying and Marisa won 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Announcement of the qualifiers of the Phase I Team Trials for the 11-12 and 13-15 National Teams were made. Congratulations to Jasmine Carrillo and Natalie Fletcher for qualifying in Phase I for the 11-12 age group. Kudos also go to Heidi Homma, Jourdan Meltzer and Morgan Boneberg for moving into the next Phase of Team Trials for the 13-15 National Team. These athletes will continue their trials at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado in early August. Go Nuts!