

# WATER POLO

Stories by Craig Davis, Sun Sentinel » Team selections are based on season performances and coaches' ballots.



## GIRLS' FIRST TEAM



**Megan Brolley**  
St. Andrew's, senior  
Comment: Led the Scots in scoring with 87 goals, including a school-record 14 goals in one game, and had 52 steals; has committed to George Washington.



**Baird Elam**  
St. Andrew's, senior  
Comment: Helped Scots reach the state quarterfinals with 38 goals.



**Alexandra Gray**  
Boca Raton, senior  
Comment: Four-year starter was a pillar on defense with 68 steals; also contributed 20 goals and 24 assists.



**Maria Marquez**  
Suncoast, freshman  
Comment: First-year player emerged as an offensive force with 70 goals, mainly playing the hole-set position.



**Hannah Metzger**  
St. Andrew's, senior  
Comment: Goalie was anchor of the Scots' defense with 72 saves.



**Emily Norton**  
St. Andrew's, junior  
Comment: Second-year starter had 40 goals and 39 steals.



**Brianna Ritota**  
Boca Raton, sophomore  
Comment: Emerged as a reliable scorer, leading the Bobcats with 40 goals, 21 assists and 12 steals.

## MORE HONORS

**SECOND TEAM** » Arantxa Araujo, Suncoast, junior; Noelle Suarez-Murias, Boca Raton, senior; Megan McLeod, Boca Raton, senior; Sydney Polacek, Boca Raton, freshman; Alisa Salim, St. Andrew's, junior; Jenn Zink, St. Andrew's, junior.

**HONORABLE MENTION** » Boca Raton: Michelle Kilgallon, Kaylin Cutlinane, Keri Ciancio; St. Andrew's: Morgan Goldstein, Sarah Anderson; Suncoast: Heather Knapp, Madison Wharton.

## COACH OF THE YEAR

### Adam Gaffey

St. Andrew's  
2010 record: 19-6

Comment: In his sixth year as coach, the Scots repeated as district champions and reached the state quarterfinals before losing to eventual champion Ransom Everglades. With only three seniors, this is a young team on the way up. The NHSAA Florida water polo coach of the year, he is 110-36 at St. Andrew's and 212-84-1 overall. "We have a lot of good players coming in to replace them. We had a lot of youth with 11 freshmen on this team. We didn't play our best game at state, but all in all it was a very good year. We saw a lot of growth. We're going to be hard to beat next year."



## BOYS' FIRST TEAM



**Mario Cardenas**  
St. Andrew's, junior  
Comment: Led the state champion Scots in scoring with 99 goals; had 19 assists and 44 steals.



**Rafi Castillo**  
St. Andrew's, junior  
Comment: Three-year starter had another solid season with 52 goals, 25 assists and 36 steals.



**Scott Foreman**  
Lake Worth, senior  
Comment: The fourth-year utility player was the Trojans' top scoring threat with 87 goals and 35 assists. Plans to join Navy Air Rescue.



**Sean Grady**  
Boca Raton, junior  
Comment: The three-year center-forward had a breakout season with a county-leading 138 goals, 38 assists and 55 steals.



**Nicholas Vandersluis**  
Suncoast, junior  
Comment: Second-year driver led the Chargers to the district semifinals with 47 goals.



**Scott Weigel**  
St. Andrew's, junior  
Comment: The third-year goalkeeper was a stalwart in the net with 166 saves. Had at least 10 saves in each state tournament game and launched the offense with long pinpoint passes.



**Nemanja Zgonjanin**  
Boca Raton, junior  
Comment: The third-year utility player improved his totals this season with 72 goals, 61 assists and 38 steals.

## MORE HONORS

**SECOND TEAM** » Quinn Cassidy, St. Andrew's, freshman; Stefan Iricanin, Suncoast, junior; Daniel Marquez, Suncoast, junior; Jason McCormick, Boca Raton, freshman; Greg Norton, St. Andrew's, junior; Jordan Robles, Lake Worth, junior; Hunter Smith, Boca Raton, junior.

**HONORABLE MENTION** » Boca Raton: Denver Sherman, Chad Harrington, William Bathurst; Lake Worth: Nick Scheuttler; St. Andrew's: Alec Greenberg, Jonathan Larsen, Adam Weigel; Suncoast: Erskine Rogers, Sten Horgan, Billy Paxton.

## COACH OF THE YEAR

### Eugenio Almeneiros

St. Andrew's  
2010 record: 24-2

Comment: The former Olympian from Cuba stepped into a void left by the departure of Ziggy Bogdan and led the Scots to their first state championship. It was the first title in water polo for a school from Palm Beach County. "The boys worked very hard to earn their championship. From committing to early-morning training in addition to the scheduled after-school practice, to overcoming and making the appropriate adjustments after two very tough losses, these boys showed their true character."



## GIRLS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

# NICOLLE JASBON

St. Andrew's, junior

Position: Attacker

Stats: A dynamic scorer with the best outside shot on the team, she had 86 goals and 43 assists.

Of note: Each summer she trains in California with the Commerce Water Polo Club, recognized as one of the premier programs in the country; scored seven goals in a game against state champion Ransom Everglades.

Athlete's quote: "I like that it's a hard game. It's fun and it's aggressive. You can't just be big [to do well]. I'm small. You have to be smart."

## BOYS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

# STEPHEN NORTON

St. Andrew's, senior

Position: Hole set

Stats: Scored 77 goals, with 25 assists and 44 steals.

Of note: The only senior starter on the state championship team stood out for his leadership and play-making ability. Contributed key goals in pivotal victories over Gulliver Prep and in the second half of the state final against Miami Columbus. Will continue to play water polo in college at Bucknell.

Athlete's quote: "The highlight of the season would be getting past the quarterfinal against Gulliver [Prep]. We just learned from the last time we played them to change our defense around so we could cover their better players, which worked. ... Everyone worked hard and it paid off. We just played a lot better as a team this year."