Men’s Water Polo Hosts Division Tournament

Washington State’s men’s water polo club enters postseason play this weekend and will host their competitors for a playoff tournament. After winning half of their games so far, WSU has the opportunity to come out on top against teams that beat them in 2016.

The Cougs play in the Northwest Division of the National Collegiate Water Polo Association along with Oregon, Oregon State, British Columbia, Washington and Western Washington. All five teams will play in a tournament Oct. 22–23 at Gibb Pool.

The club has had results this season, but President Ryder DeSteunder is hopeful that the team can record breakthrough victories. All four of WSU wins are against UBC and WWU, while the losses are to UW, UO and OSU. Many of their losses have been by narrow margins.

“We plan on competing and playing better than we have in the last two tournaments as we have our entire roster present and healthy,” DeSteunder said.

Last season WSU struggled in and out of the pool, as they finished fourth in their division, and had a hard time with recruitment. Water polo is not very popular in Washington, and there are a limited number of students at WSU with any experience. However, despite this challenge, the club is able to field a roster of skilled athletes.

“The majority of the players have experience playing water polo, however, we do have a few players who are new to the game but have swimming experience,” DeSteunder said.

DeSteunder started playing the sport in high school after being introduced to it by his older brother. Even though he did not like swimming at first, the physical aspect attracted him to the sport.

The divisional tournament marks the first time WSU will host a competition all season, and the team is looking forward to the home pool advantage. The eight–hour van rides to Oregon have a tendency to be quite taxing on the team. Saturday and Sunday, their opponents will be the ones to deal with that obstacle. The northwest divisional tournament will get under way from Gibb Pool Oct. 22 at 9 a.m. Each team will play five games throughout the day with games ending at 7 p.m. Sunday the seeds will be set and teams will play one game to decide how they finish. The championship game begins at 10:15 a.m.

The winner of the divisional championship will move on to a regional tournament later this season. For more information on the tournament, click here.

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Written by CHET BROBREG