

Carnegie Mellon Water Polo Fall Semester 2003 Report

The Fall 2003 semester has seen a great step forward in the history of Carnegie Mellon Water Polo. Right from the start, it has been an overwhelming success. Our advertisement in the freshman Orientation packet, the flyers around campus, and the chalkings at the start of the year recruited 30 or more people to the first information session, 25 or so to each practice for the first few weeks, eventually steadying at 16-17 players per practice and a travel team with 15 players. The team hit a road bump, however, early in the semester, in an accident caused by contact between a ball and a fan overhanging the pool area. Once the situation was rectified, the team found it didn't matter much anyway, as they were ranked 4th in the Mid-Atlantic Division of the Collegiate Water Polo Association, in their first competitive season! The team also had a strong showing at the Mid-Atlantic Championships, placing 6th, with losses to the University of Pennsylvania and Millersville University.

With such a strong showing, the board of the club is looking to make a mark in the entire 2003-2004 academic year with the advent of the spring semester. Board members are currently planning and inviting teams to the first ever Carnegie Mellon Invitational, to be held at the end of February. This 6 team tournament will take place over a Saturday and Sunday, and will prove to be the ultimate test of the club's organization and leadership, as well as setting the ground for further competitive (both league and non-league) tournaments during the coming years.

In addition to the planning for next semester, plans are also starting underway for Fall 2004. The club has already agreed to host its first CWPA-sanctioned tournament, and with the league format for next season, the University Center Pool will provide host to one of the most important weekends of the season, as teams from eastern and western Pennsylvania meet in round-robin play.