

MELISSA JON SEIDEMANN

WATER POLO, SWIMMING ~ Class of 2008



Melissa was born June 26, 1990 in Hoffman Estates, Illinois (a western suburb of Chicago) to Mark and Bobbie Seidemann. She is the middle of three sisters, Lauren (CP 2006) her older sister, and Natalie the younger. Melissa and her family moved to Walnut Creek from Illinois in 1994. Prior to entering College Park, she attended Pleasant Hill Elementary and Pleasant Hill Middle School.

Melissa followed her sister Lauren into Water Polo and is a 2008 graduate of College Park High School. She was a four-year member of the varsity water polo team, captained the water polo team her junior and senior years and was a three-year varsity swimmer. While at College Park, she helped lead the team to a DEAL title, was named a NISCA All-American and was Contra Costa Times Player of the Year. Outside of High School she was a member of the U.S. Youth National Team, winning a gold medal at the Pan-American Junior Games in 2006, and representing her country at other tournaments. She also competed in water polo at the club level, earning among other honors, All-America honors at the U.S. Water Polo 20/U Nationals.

Melissa graduated from Stanford University in 2013 with a degree in Psychology. She plans to eventually obtain her teaching credentials and work with young children. She is the all-time leading scorer for Stanford Women's water polo team and led the team to a National Championship. While at Stanford she was a four year All-American and as a Senior received the Peter J. Cutino Award winner as the nation's top female collegiate water polo player.

Melissa continued to represent the United States while at Stanford, moving from the youth team to the Senior National Team. She took a leave of absence from Stanford to train for and participate in the 2012 Olympics. She was the United States' second highest scorer with seven goals, as the U.S. claimed its first water polo Olympic Gold Medal at the 2012 London Games.

Melissa currently splits her time between Sabadell, Spain (outside of Barcelona), where she plays water polo for Club Natació Sabadell with which she recently won the European Championships, and Las Alamitos, California, where she is based with the US National Team and continues to play international water polo in anticipation of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Melissa is part of one of the most successful US National Teams winning numerous gold medals at international tournaments, and is currently one of five returning Gold Medalists on the team as they prepare to defend their Gold Medal in Rio 2016.