

Letter of Commendation
for
Mark Rauterkus
April 25th, 2009

May this letter serve as a Commendation and Recommendation for Mark Rauterkus' contribution to the creation of an NCAA Division III Varsity Women's Water Polo Team at Chatham University in the spring of 2009. Mark was instrumental, initially, in the formation of a Water Polo Club on the campus of Chatham University in the fall of 2007 and the spring and fall of 2008, where he helped organize and conduct Water Polo Instructional clinics. The students who participated in the clinic and formulated the club were motivated by Mark through his knowledge, teaching techniques, good humor and patience. None of the women had ever played polo before and were marginal swimmers, at best. Mark helped teach them the fundamentals of the game emphasizing leg fitness, ball handling skills, game situations, strategy and tactics through his constant use of video taping. Being able to see what they were doing right away help raise their skill level very fast. The club finished their season with a club level tournament at Carnegie Mellon University.

From this club, Chatham University proposed funding a Varsity level team was admitted to the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) and formulated a 13 games schedule for the 2009 season. We again solicited the help of Mark to come on board as a volunteer coach/videographer. He worked closely with the team and further developed their skills and desire to not only play but excel at the game. The team won 3 games in our inaugural season, and we contribute that success to the hard work and perseverance of Mark.

The team worked hard for him because he worked hard for them. Taking each individual aside to work on specific skill development, especially our field players, he made a huge impact on this very young team. We owe much to Mark and hope he will continue to help us in the future as he furthers his Water Polo Coaching career. I commend him for his knowledge, skill and tenacity and recommend him unconditionally.

Sincerely

Michael C. Meyers
Head Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Coach
Chatham University