

# ULM Water Ski Team

The **University of Louisiana Monroe Water Ski Team** has been the dominant ski team since the inception of collegiate water ski competition in 1979, *capturing 20 National Championship titles over the past 28 years.*

It all began in March of 1977, in Leesville, Louisiana, at Danny Rowzee's Invitational Collegiate Water Ski Tournament. Three ULM students, Mike Adams, Bill Rainwater, and Hank Kiser, entered the tournament independently (not knowing each other at the time). These three developed a lasting friendship, and the dream of a University of Louisiana at Monroe "Water Ski Powerhouse" began.

The following summer they organized an interested group of student skiers who lived in the local area. The first order of business was to obtain permission to ski on Bayou DeSiard which runs through the ULM campus. The next step was to build a ski jump. Three



building construction majors, Mike Adams, Steve Kidd, and Charles Salassi, begged lumber and metal from community businesses, and built the water ski jump in Scott Ingram's backyard. Scott's dad was a local attorney at the time; now he's a district judge --- and the original superstructure of the backyard ski jump is still in use today.

By fall this band of "Indians" chartered the University of Louisiana at Monroe Water Ski Club. The original members were *Mike Adams, Les Brazzel, David Chop, Trudy Doggett, Scott Ingram, Terry James, Hank Kiser, Charles Salassi, Paul Trichele, Karen and Sharon Van Buren, Bill and Jenny Rainwater, Patti Hare, Dickie Deason, and Pat Boggs.*

In September 1977 the ULM Ski Club went to their first team tournament at the University of Houston and took second place. Two weeks later, they went to another tournament in Texas, and won! Since then they've never looked back.

In 1978 they won the South Central Regional Championship. In May 1995, ULM hosted the Collegiate All Star Tournament on Bayou DeSiard. Ski Nautique bought rights through NCWSA to pull the tournament. After seeing the location of the ski site and the quality of the water ski program, Nautique offered ULM a fantastic deal, which included building a special edition boat in University colors.

## 2007 Team Roster

- Adam Sedlmajer
- Breanne Wagner
- Aliaksei Zharnasek
- Natalia Berdnikava
- Daniel Odvarko
- Karen Stevens
- Ryan Dodd
- Kate Adriansen
- Kyle Dammann
- Carly Marquess
- Tyler Boyd
- Tatiana Hernandez
- Martin Bartalsky
- Brittaney Collins
- Tyler Collins
- Regina Jaquess
- Juanita Hernandez
- Treina Landrum (coach)

In the summer of 1978, Mike Adams, Bill Rainwater, and Charles Salassi went to Tom Murphy with an idea: a national championship tournament. They wanted to pull all the regions together, and have ULM host it! They promised to do all the publication work and promote the idea to the American Water Ski Association. Tom agreed, and with the support of the University and the City of Monroe, Bill Rainwater went to DuQuoin, Illinois, and presented a proposal to AWSA to host the first National Collegiate Water Ski Tournament at ULM in Monroe, Louisiana. The proposal was accepted by AWSA.

On October 13-14, 1979, ULM hosted the first National Collegiate Championship. It was a huge success! The following teams entered the tournament: Ohio State University, Bowling Green University, University of Texas, San Diego State University, Florida Southern University, Penn State University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The San Diego team won, ULM took second, and Florida Southern took third. On October 11-12, 1980, Florida Southern hosted the second National Championship in Lakeland, Florida, and ULM won its first national title!

In 1979, Dwight Vines, then President of ULM, authorized the use of a talent scholarship for ULM water skiers. This was probably the first official step to recognize collegiate water skiers with a scholarship, and it gave ULM's program a tremendous boost. The talent scholarship was used to recognize outstanding ULM students who had a special talent, such as cheerleaders, dance and drill teams, band members, and water skiers. The scholarship provided a tuition fee waiver to the student. At that time, Dwight Vines authorized five ski team scholarships; today ULM currently has 15 available for team members.

After the ULM Water Ski Team won its fourth national championship in 1983, the student body passed a referendum which assesses all full-time

students one dollar per semester as part of their activity fee to provide financial support to the ULM Water Ski Team. This generates approximately \$10,000 per year for the team's use.

With numerous national championships, financial support from the student body, talent scholarships, support from the University maintenance and auto services departments, the University administration, and the community, ULM is able to attract and recruit world class athletes from every continent.

-excerpted from "History of the University of Louisiana at Monroe Ski Team" at <http://www.ulmwaterskiteam.com>



# *ULM Water Ski Team*

## NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WATER SKI ASSOCIATION (NCWSA)

Year	Winner	Runner-up
2007	University of Louisiana Monroe	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2006	University of Louisiana Monroe	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2005	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	University of Louisiana Monroe
2004	University of Louisiana Monroe	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2003	University of Louisiana at Lafayette	University of Louisiana Monroe
2002	University of Louisiana Monroe	Arizona State University
2001	Arizona State University	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2000	University of Louisiana Monroe	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1999	University of Louisiana Monroe	University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1998	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Louisiana at Lafayette*
1997	University of Louisiana at Lafayette*	University of Louisiana Monroe*
1996	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Louisiana at Lafayette*
1995	University of Louisiana at Lafayette*	University of Louisiana Monroe*
1994	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Louisiana at Lafayette*
1993	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1992	University of Central Florida	University of Louisiana Monroe*
1991	University of Central Florida	University of Louisiana Monroe*
1990	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1989	Rollins College	University of Central Florida
1988	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1987	University of Louisiana Monroe*	Rollins College
1986	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1985	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1984	University of Louisiana Monroe*	University of Central Florida
1983	University of Louisiana Monroe*	Florida Southern College
1982	University of Louisiana Monroe*	Rollins College
1981	University of Louisiana Monroe*	Rollins College
1980	University of Louisiana Monroe*	Rollins College
1979	San Diego State	University of Louisiana Monroe*
<b>Teams</b>		<b>Number of Wins</b>
University of Louisiana Monroe		20
University of Louisiana at Lafayette		4
University of Central Florida		2
Arizona State University		1
Rollins College		1
San Diego State		1

University of Louisiana Monroe\* - formerly Northeast Louisiana University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette\* - formerly University of Southwestern Louisiana