

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Detroit-area man returns from month-long training trip with the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team in Kabul

*Detroit, MI – March 22, 2015* – Representatives of Afghanistan Water Polo (AWP) recently returned from a month-long training program in Kabul, where they worked with staff and athletes of the Men's Afghanistan National Water Polo Team. Bill Richardson, Assistant Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team, of Detroit, Michigan, was joined by Scott Caruso, Director of International Relations of AWP, of Chicago, Illinois, and Jeremy Piasecki, Head Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team and Executive Director of AWP, of San Diego, California.

During AWP Training Camp, Richardson, along with Caruso and Piasecki, led daily practices with the national team and local athletes, mentored coaches and support staff, and visited such sites as the Qargha Reservoir, the Kabul and Sultani Museums, Skateistan headquarters, and Amu Pool—Afghanistan's now largest pool in the country. They also promoted the team and AWP through several media appearances, including interviews on Channel 3 Sport and Tolo TV's *Bamdad Khosh*. Following the Training Camp, the national team will continue to train with local coaches as they prepare to play in more formal game settings in international competition.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Richardson started playing water polo at the age of 12 with Great Lakes Water Polo under coach Matt Anderson. He continued playing water polo in high school with the Midwest Zone team and with Ann Arbor Pioneer under coaches Don Packard and Will Hart and won two state titles. At George Washington University, he played water polo under coach Scott Reed while obtaining two bachelor of arts degrees in history and archaeology.

Currently residing in Detroit, Richardson is pursuing an M.B.A. at Wayne State University and also works as a commercial account executive for Liberty Title. "Throughout this past training trip . . . the team was able to make great strides forward in terms of their understanding of the game and what is asked of them both physically and mentally while playing the sport. We were able to identify the main areas needing work for future trips, as well as educate local coaches on methods for continuing the growth of the players in the absence of foreign coaching," Richardson said. "I am looking forward to helping take Afghanistan Water Polo to the next level, not only as a team but as a Federation within their country."

Donations in support of AWP can be made online at [www.afghanistanwaterpolo.com](http://www.afghanistanwaterpolo.com).

**About Afghanistan Olympic Dream:** The Afghanistan Olympic Dream is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to provide financial support to Afghanistan Water Polo.