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

Chicago, IL – 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. Scott Caruso, Director of International Relations of AWP, of Chicago, Illinois, was joined by Jeremy Piasecki, Head Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team and Executive Director of AWP, of San Diego, California, and Bill Richardson, Assistant Coach of the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team, of Detroit, Michigan.

During AWP Training Camp, Caruso, along with Piasecki and Richardson, 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.

Caruso is a mutual fund accountant and small business owner from Chicago with a background in management and volunteer work. He is a DePaul University graduate and a former Marine. His involvement in Afghanistan Water Polo stems from a desire to serve the global community through promoting peace and stability in a volatile region.

This was Caruso's third trip to Afghanistan working with the team. "During the recent training program, the athletes, coaches, and support staff accomplished more than I was hoping for. I was thrilled to see that the team had come a long way since my last visit, so expectations are now even higher," Caruso said. "We have seen the team improve as AWP Training Camp 2015 established more formal training regimens that position our athletes for success in future competitions."

Donations in support of AWP can be made online at 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.