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Kyle Utsumi to become USA women's junior national coach

Two major changes were announced by USA Water Polo this week. Kyle Utsumi has been named as the new head coach women's junior National Team head coach to succeed Amber Drury-Pinto in office. Furthermore Rafael Ruano, formerly the Central California women's zone team coach, will head up the USA women's youth team. Both positions take effect immediately.



Kyle Utsumi (right, with US international Water Polo coach Wolf Wigo) has been named as the junior head coach.

[Wolfgang Philipps \(21.12.2003\)](#) "I am excited to get started with this very talented group of athletes," Utsumi is looking forward to his new position. "With such a short amount of time before the 2005 World Championships, we will work to maximize our evaluation and competition opportunities," Utsumi said. He had served as the USA women's youth team coach between 2001-2003 and will be immediately tasked with preparing the team for the 2005 FINA Women's Junior World Championships to be held in Perth, Australia.

Kyle Utsumi is the Aquatics Director and girls water polo coach at Menlo School in Northern California. He is also an associate head coach of the Stanford Water Polo Club. In any case it is a crucial change in women's water polo. Team USA is not only the reigning Senior World Champion since the victory at the 2003 World Championships in Barcelona (Spain), but also won the 2001 World Junior Championships in Perth and took a silver medal at the 2003 World Junior Championships in Calgary (Canada).



The US juniors (here goalkeeper Emily Feher) won a silver-medal at the 2003 World Champions in Calgary.

Rafael Ruano moved up from a zone coach to the head coach of Women's Youth Team to succeed Utsumi in office. Ruano was the Central California Developmental Coach of the Year in 2001 and founded the American River Water Polo Club, which now boasts over 150 athletes, in 1999. "This is a tremendous honor and opportunity for me personally and I am determined to work diligently towards continuing the path forged by my predecessor Kyle Utsumi and the vision of Guy Baker," said Ruano, who is comfortable with the gravity of his new position.

