



For Immediate Release

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**LARGE CROWDS, PERFECT WEATHER, AND WAKESURF EXHIBITION DEBUT AT
THE 54TH MASTERS WATER SKI & WAKEBOARD TOURNAMENT**

Pine Mountain, GA (May 25, 2013) – The 54th Masters Water Ski & Wakeboard Tournament® pro women and men trick, slalom, jump, wakeboarding and wakeskate kicked off today at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA with large crowds and gorgeous weather.

New for this year, the Masters held a wakesurf exhibition after the wakeboarding competition on Robin Lake with pro wakesurfer and Team Nautique rider Tommy Czeschin behind the Super Air Nautique 210 featuring the latest innovation, the Nautique Surf System (NSS). Tomorrow's exhibition with Czeschin will be behind the award winning Super Air Nautique G23.

Erika Lang with a score of 8,540 points earned top seed in the Women's Trick semifinal followed by Iris Cambray, Team Nautique skiers Whitney McClintock and Clementine Lucine. In Men's Tricks Aliaksei Zharnasek earned top seed tricking over 11,000 points advancing on to tomorrow's finals along with Jimmy Siemers, Pierre Ballon and Franck Desboyaux.

Congratulations to Junior Masters slalom champion Brie Carter who competed in the O'Brien head-to-head exhibition against Marta Simoes, earning a scholarship for the second year in a row.

Last year's defending Women's Slalom champion Regina Jacquess scored 2@38-off and will be second to last off the dock as Karen Truelove earned top seed with a score of 3@38-off going into tomorrow's finals followed by Team Nautique skier Whitney McClintock and April Coble-Eller. In Men's Slalom semifinal, last year's Masters Champion and Team Nautique skier Nate Smith earned top seed followed by Will Asher and Jon Travers. The fourth spot was determined by a run-off between Chris Parrish, Aaron Larkin and Chris Rossi. Larkin edged out Parrish by ½ a buoy as Rossi fell early on in his pass, Larkin will advance on to tomorrow's finals.

In the Men's Wakeskate semifinal the weather was sunny, calm winds and the Super Air Nautique 210 was on point. There were a few newcomers to this prestigious event, creating some nervous wakeskaters. In Heat #1 veteran Brian Grubb with the high score of the day and first time Masters competitor James Bazler advanced to the finals. Also advancing on to the finals in heat #2 is Danny Hampson and Grant Roberts.

In other events, Women's Wakeboarding was another success with stand up passes from the competitors. Former Masters champion Dallas Friday posted the high score in Heat #1 with a 72.33 followed by Team Nautique rider Raimi Merritt. In

Women's Wakeboard Heat #2, Amber Wing who was last off the dock had a stand up pass claiming top seed in tomorrow's finals along with Tarah Mikachich advancing on.

The Men's Wakeboard semifinal was one for the books behind the Super Air Nautique G23 with big clean riding by all. In Heat #1 Rusty Malinoski edged out "the phenom" Harley Clifford both advancing on to the finals tomorrow along with last year's defending champion Phil Soven and Team Nautique rider Mike Dowdy from Heat #2 making it an interesting finals to not be missed.

The Jump semifinals rounded out the day with Jacinta Carroll earning top seed with a jump of 178 feet followed by Jutta Lammi, Marion Mathieu and Regina Jaquess advancing on to the finals. Ryan Dodd, last year's Masters Champion secured the Men's Jump leader position for Sunday's final on his second jump with 229 feet followed by Freddy Krueger, Thomas Asher and Rodrigo Miranda.

The Opening Ceremonies of the 54th Masters Finals will begin tomorrow at 10:00AM with the Parade of Champions followed by the 54th Masters Finals at 10:30AM.

For complete up-to-date scores of the 54th Masters, please visit www.masterswaterski.com/standings/.

An invitation to compete in the Masters is universally considered an acknowledgement of achievement for reaching the pinnacle in a given watersports discipline - only the world's most elite athletes compete at the Masters. This tournament is IWWF/USA Water Ski and WWA sanctioned. Watch all of 54th Masters action live on Sunday May 26th starting at 10:00AM EST, visit <http://www.masterswaterski.com/video>.

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