



Durham 7-12 St Andrews

Saints Women's Water Polo travelled south as the only University of St Andrews representatives at the season ending British Universities Finals day at the stunning University of Nottingham Sports Campus. Saints contested the water polo championship match against reigning champions University of Durham who have been a powerhouse in University Water Polo in recent years. Despite the fact that Saints had already beaten Durham in league business, this was very much a showdown and Saints knew they had to perform at their best touring the Championship to St Andrews for the first time.

The early exchanges were tense and for once Saints did not get off to a flying start, however goals from Laura Jimenez and Kimberly Watson gave Saints a slender 2-1 advantage at the end of the opening period. St Andrews grew into the game and a quick double from fresher Kate Mackie extended the lead to 4-2 as the half approached. Watson as she has done all season scored a crucial 5th goal as the half expired to give Saints some daylight at 5-2. That was as close as Durham could get, Saints sensed victory and further goals from Meg Hedrick, Captain Ruby Versfeld and fresher Bekah Kaufman gave Saints a famous 12-7 victory and the title of 2019 National Champions. Special mention must go to goalkeeper Alex Maher who put in another sterling performance in what was her final match for St Andrews. Cue the celebrations with coaches Ian MacCallum and Alison Rintoul taking the customary plunge into the pool to mark the occasion. Before the Championship trophy was presented, St Andrews' leading goal scorer, Kimberly Watson was announced as the player of the match of the Finals. Head Coach & Director of Water Polo Ian MacCallum summed up the season, "This has been the culmination of a lot of hard work from the players, coaching staff and support staff at the University, very much a team effort. It has been an incredible season and we are all really thrilled."



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