

Moderator:

Jennifer Smith, CEO of BAWSI

Panelists:

Brandi Chastain, Olympic and World Champion Soccer Player

Brenda Villa, 4x Olympic Water Polo Player

Juli Furtado, Olympian & World Champion Mountain Biker

Bios:

Brandi Chastain

Chastain was a member of the US National team for over 12 years between December 1988 and January 2004, collecting 192 caps. During that time, she served as a trailblazer for women's soccer as part of the golden decade of the US Women's National team during the 1990's, one of the most dominant teams the sport has seen to date. She was a member for the 1991 and 1999 Women's World Cup Championship teams as well as the Olympic teams that brought home gold in 1996 and 2004 and silver in 2000.



The Bay Area native is best known for elevating the profile of women's soccer with her game winning penalty kick in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup that defeated China and ignited an explosive soccer following and increased participation in the sport.

Chastain was one of 24 founding players of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA), she was a member of the San Jose CyberRays from 2001-2003. During the Inaugural season of the league, she helped the team capture the WUSA's World Championship title. Chastain attended Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, CA and currently lives in San Jose, coaching both Santa Clara women's soccer and Bellarmine Boys Preparatory.

Brenda Villa

Brenda is the most decorated female water polo player in US history. She is a 4x Olympian with a treasure trove of Olympic gold, silver and bronze medals. Brenda also led Stanford to an NCAA water polo championship. She found the pool at age 6 in the little town of Bell Haven in Southern CA and followed her big brother into water polo at age 8. Brenda's high school didn't have a boys team, so she just "played with the boys," or should we say, "she dominated the boys," because Brenda became a 4x 1st team All-League, 4x 1st team All-District, and 4x All-American on her high school boys team.



Perhaps what is even more impressive than her playing prowess and accomplishments is what Brenda has done after retirement. Brenda has committed herself to ensure that children from all backgrounds have access to sports. Brenda is using her bilingual skills and profile to promote water polo and encourage youth, especially girls, to participate in sports. In 2011, she co-founded **Project 2020**, a non-profit dedicated to providing youth in the mid-peninsula with free to low-cost access to swimming pools and aquatic sports. Brenda is also currently the Head of Aquatics Outreach for Menlo Swim and Sports, bringing low-income youth from the surrounding communities to the pool by working with local non-profits and schools.

Juli Furtado

The youngest ever member of the U.S. Ski Team, Juli retired from skiing after undergoing six knee surgeries, and switched to mountain biking while on scholarship at University of Colorado.

Juli caught the mountain biking wave just as it was taking off in the U.S., and she rode it downhill and cross-country for 5 National Championships, 3 World Cup Titles, and a spot on the 1996 US Olympic Team – not bad for her second sport! Widely recognized as the First Lady of Mountain Biking, Juli was one of the early pioneers who fought to keep women's professional mountain biking on par with the men's circuit. Furtado retired from competitive mountain biking in 1997. Juli recently launched her own Juliana line of women-specific, high performance mountain bikes through Santa Cruz Bicycles.

