

FROM SCHOOL TO THE SKY

The 2022 USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships

A USPA Staff Report

With final exams finished and holiday celebrations at home wrapped up, college skydivers from across the United States headed to Skydive Arizona in Eloy for the 2022 USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships, which kicked off December 28. Nine colleges participated this year, continuing the trend of plenty of civilian schools joining the military academies, who have historically made up the vast majority of competition participants. This year, those three military academies—the United States Air Force Academy, Military Academy at West Point and Naval Academy, were joined by the Georgia Institute of Technology; Iowa State University; Northeastern University; University of Connecticut; University of California, Berkeley; and Western Michigan University.

It was the 65th iteration of the competition, which has taken place annually since 1957 (with the exception of 2020, due to COVID-19), and Skydive Arizona rolled out the red carpet for the collegiate skydivers. They arrived at Eloy to find four Twin Otters, veteran judges, a highly experienced meet director, a supreme manifest team and plenty of passion for competition.

Unfortunately, the weather was not as cooperative as hoped for much of the competition, but rather than mope, many skydivers took the opportunity to meet other competitors and make long-distance skydiving friends. “Although the weather posed some difficulty, it helped all the competitors come together and get to know each other during that downtime,” said Braeden Swanson, Air Force cadet and winner of the 4-way formation skydiving event with her team, AF Night Fury. “We often get caught up in the competitive nature of these events, but at the end of the day we’re all there to have a good time, achieve some goals and learn from our mistakes.”



Photo by Niklas Daniel.

“In previous years, some teams had their own team rooms and this year we were all together in one hangar,” said Sydnie Rissel, public affairs officer for the West Point Parachute Team. “That was great, because during weather calls we got to hang out. All the coaches and coordinators know each other. Everyone is helping work exits and how to build each skydive.”

Though many of the events came down to the 11th hour (with plenty of jumps incomplete going into the morning of the final day), the 2-way events—both FS and MFS—and sport accuracy were able to complete all rounds. Most rounds of 4-way FS completed, and just when it looked as though 6-way speed would be scratched from this year, the weather broke long enough for all four aircraft to get the 10 teams up for one full round. For Air Force Mom Jeans, one round was all they needed to set a National and Arizona Collegiate Record, completing their formation in a mere 7.92 seconds.

In addition, West Point’s James Fenn set a new Arizona Collegiate record with a total distance of 0.98 meters in sport accuracy across his four jumps. As a team, Air Force Tiny Dancers dominated the sport accuracy rounds, posting a National and Arizona Collegiate record of 24.73 total meters of distance. Updog, who traveled from the U.S. Naval Academy, recorded a National and Arizona Collegiate Record for Highest Average Points in 2-way FS, with 13.67. Air Force Dice set a Arizona Collegiate Record for Longest Sequence in 2-way VFS, with 13. And finally, Air Force Lamingo set the Arizona Collegiate Record for Highest Average Points in 2-way VFS with 7.50.

The focus of the collegiate competition, as always, was making new friends in the skydiving community, receiving coaching from world-class jumpers and testing one’s mettle in a high-stakes competition environment. Next year’s National Collegiate Skydiving Championships will take place from December 28-January 2 at Skydive Elsinore in Lake Elsinore, California. If you or someone you know is interested in competing, information can be found on USPAs website or by contacting competition@uspa.org.



Photo by Niklas Daniel.



Jack Broadhead
Georgia Institute of Technology
Photo by Joseph Thomas.



Will Roosien III
Western Michigan University
Photo by Jack Broadhead.



Ashley Lee
University of California, Berkeley



Brooke Rosenfeld
USMA-West Point
Photo by Joseph Thomas.



Thomas Snead
U.S. Naval Academy
Photo by Joseph Thomas.

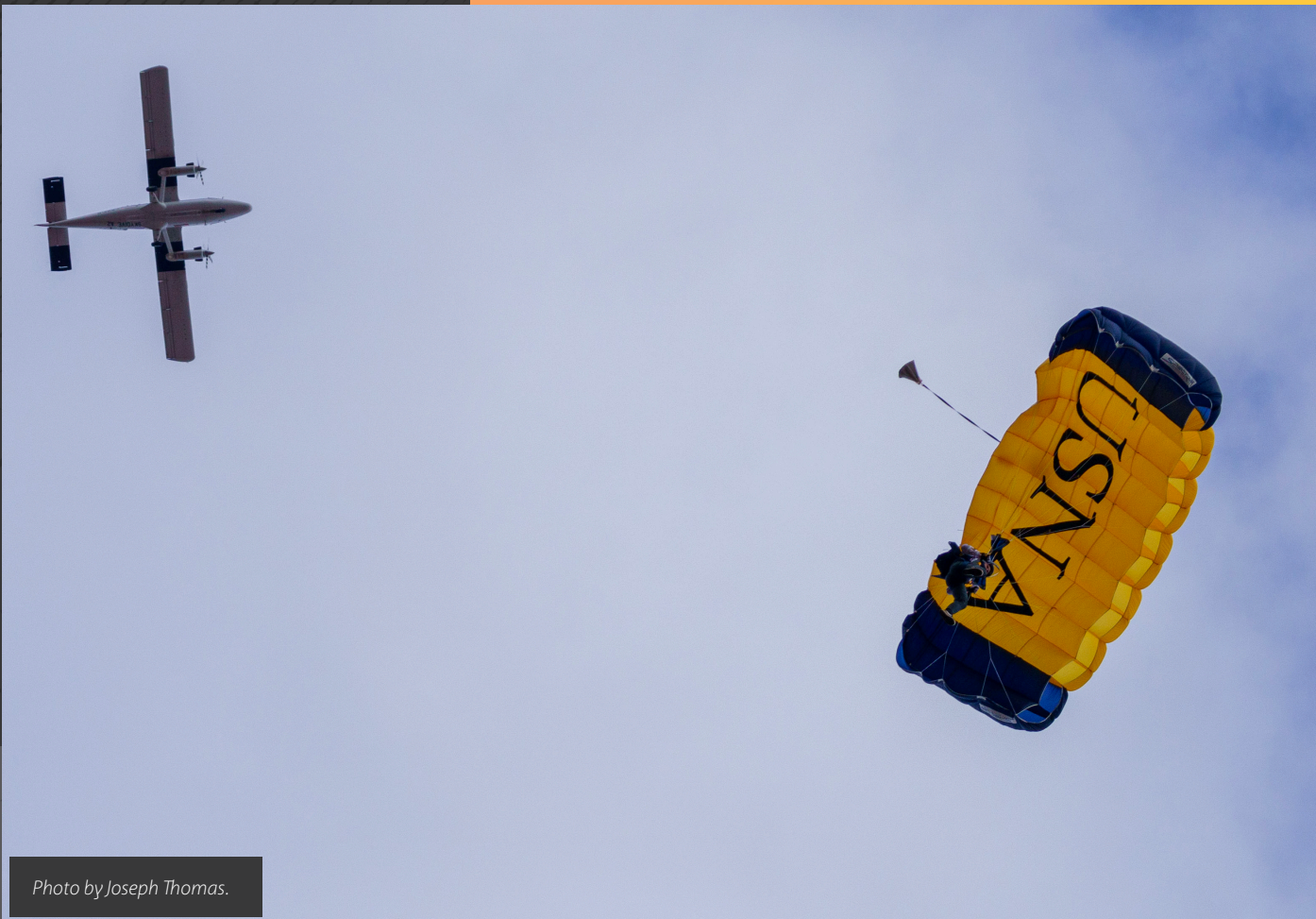


Photo by Joseph Thomas.



Photo by Niklas Daniel.



Hannah Thompson, Bryce Parsons and Dan Smith
U.S. Air Force Academy
Photo by Niklas Daniel.



Isaac Schultz
University of California, Berkeley
Photo by Ashley Lee.

FORMATION SKYDIVING



SPORT ACCURACY



Awards photos: Joseph Thomas

Scoring System: OmniSkore!HD

André Istel Memorial Scholarship: University of California, Berkeley Skydiving Team

FORMATION SKYDIVING

2-Way Open

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	UPDOG James Anhalt, Brett Dumais	41	13.67
2	INCOGNITO MODE Chris Kehr, Caleb Sheyda	33	11
3	AH HAH HAH Zane Levine, Isaac Schultz	14	4.67
4	Come & Go	9	3

2-Way Advanced

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	WEST POINT SKOL Sarah Cao, Sudie Hall	65	21.67
2	WEST POINT TURN 'N BURN Isaiah McNeilly, Luke Sapio	51	17
3	WEST POINT VENGEANCE Pierce Ederle, Garret Longstaff	47	15.67
4	West Point Everybody Stop Yelling	45	15
G	West Point Heart Rate	42	14
5	Air Force Tadpoles	40	13.33
6	Air Force Gemini	25	8.33
7	Navy Saplings	23	7.67
8	Navy Tulips	22	7.33
9	ISU Couchfreaks	20	6.67
G	Love Handles	7	2.33
10	SB - BS	5	1.67
G	Golden Guppies	2	0.67

4-Way Open

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	AIR FORCE NIGHT FURY Charlotte Fitzgerald, Keane Singleton, Braeden Swanson, Tyler Thatcher	117	23.4
2	AIR FORCE ARTEMIS Benjamin Lee, Margaret Marlow, Hannah Thompson, Ethan Wipf	99	19.8
3	AIR FORCE TALL BOYS Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Halle Pelletier, Gabrielle Wilson	98	19.6
4	West Point Rizzly Bears	62	12.4
5	West Point Spoon Fed	54	10.8
6	Air Force Green Mask	46	9.2
7	Navy Boomers	42	8.4

2-Way Vertical

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	AIR FORCE LAMINGO Aiden Diedrich, Luke Wojcik	30	7.5
2	AIR FORCE DICE Bryce Parsons, Dan Smith	25	6.25

4-Way Advanced

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	WEST POINT TEAM BRICK Jason Darnell, Stephen Keyes, Cody Morris, Kyle Sarrazolla	40	10
2	WEST POINT SLOPPY JOES Eugene Lee, Pierce Moul, Sydney Rissel, Thomas Woodbery	35	8.75
3	NAVY TUGBOATS Nathaniel Basford, Nickolas Froude, Jackee Gwynn, Eric Lim	27	6.75
4	CT True Blue	21	5.25
5	Fo Fo Fo	13	3.25

6-Way Speed

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG.
1	AIR FORCE MOM JEANS Aiden Diedrich, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Keane Singleton, Braeden Swanson, Tyler Thatcher, Luke Wojcik	7.92	7.92
2	AIR FORCE ZEBULON Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Bryce Parsons, Halle Pelletier, Dan Smith, Gabrielle Wilson	12.55	12.55
3	AIR FORCE ZARTEMIS Josiah Cole, Beck Grasser, Benjamin Lee, Margaret Marlow, Hannah Thompson, Ethan Wipf	14.18	14.18
4	West Point Apollo VII	14.4	14.4
5	West Point Tumbleweeds	16.29	16.29
6	Navy Phantoms	19.51	19.51
7	West Point - Wild West	20.78	20.78
8	JF-35	25	25
9	Navy Bee Keeping	25	25
10	Spice Girls 2.0	25	25

SPORT ACCURACY

Masters

RANK	NAME	TOTAL
1	James Fenn	0.98
2	Aiden Diedrich	3.8
3	Braeden Swanson	4.71
4	Jackson Willis	6.37
5	Josiah Cole	8.45
6	Xiaoyang Ma	8.84
7	Tyler Thatcher	9.68
8	Luke Wojcik	11.46
9	Renee Lechner	12.62
10	Brian Flaherty	14.69
11	Edwin West	17.72
12	Vince Tenebro	18.9
13	Ryan Grafman	28.3
14	Kai Burgman	28.71
15	Will Shanahan	33.83
16	Jordan Heida	35.58
17	Keane Singleton	35.63
18	Charlotte Fitzgerald	40.08
19	Mathilda Sullivan	51.54
20	Margaret Marlow	53.55
21	Jordan Hardy	57.66
22	Hannah Thompson	64.93
23	Isaac Melvin	73.09
24	Beck Grasser	83.63

Intermediate

RANK	NAME	TOTAL
1	Jason Darnell	1.45
2	Stephen Keyes	4.56
3	Luke Palalay	5.25
4	Brock Holmgreen	10.07
5	Thomas Woodbery	11.6
6	Eric Lim	14.35
7	Kyle Sarrazolla	16.47
8	Pierce Moul	23.88
9	Eugene Lee	24.13
10	Jackee Gwynn	27.44
11	Jack Treinish	28.33
12	Jack Broadhead	28.61
13	Halle Pelletier	28.77
14	Jason Weiss	30.6
15	Ethan Wipf	34.49
16	Aron Sobers	36.05
17	Nickolas Froude	37.57
18	Luke Anderson	40.46
19	Nathaniel Basford	44.02
20	Bryce Parsons	45.17
21	Cody Morris	49.14
22	Sydney Rissel	49.35
23	Ambria Pipho	54.71
24	Megan Welch	57.03
25	Matthew Newton	65.82
26	Benjamin Lee	73.76
27	Eva Chamard	87.26
28	Gabrielle Wilson	87.41
29	Dan Smith	99.7

Novice

RANK	NAME	TOTAL
1	Gavin Kim	13.82
2	Landon Coker	18.04
3	Sudie Hall	19.94
4	Luke Sapio	34.43
5	Isaac Schultz	38.29
6	Isaiah McNeilly	38.38
7	Garret Longstaff	41.6
8	Pierce Ederle	41.69
9	Steven Learman	44.05
10	Chris Kehr	47.74
11	Joe Palenapa	48.2
12	Abby Halasi-Kun	48.68
13	Chase Powers	50.31
14	Thomas Snead	54.64
15	Garrett Lauterbach	65.12
16	Caleb Sheyda	71.1
17	David Gonzales	73.99
18	Katherine Tharp	78.47
19	Fusheng Yang	86.91
20	Sarah Cao	87.41
21	Brooke Rosenfeld	87.69
22	Zane Levine	90
23	Preston Havenor	90.13
24	Manolis Tsavaris	92.79
25	Harrison Frost	95.45
26	William Roosien	96.84
27	James Anhatt	98.11
28	Mark Root	109.7
29	Bryley Fillman	111.02
30	Brett Dumais	115.42
31	Alexis Komisza	115.65
32	Jordyn Urrea	115.8
33	Micah Duerk	115.94
34	Isaac Arp	124.3
35	Logan Anderson	126.53
36	Simone Olden	144.37
37	Saitrisha Gulappa	165
38	Zach Hirst	165
39	Ashley Lee	180



Aiden Dietrich

Team

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL
1	AIR FORCE TINY DANCERS Aiden Diedrich, Keane Singleton, Tyler Thatcher, Luke Wojcik	24.73	11	West Point 4 Big Guys	147.3
2	WEST POINT TEAM BRICK Jason Darnell, Stephen Keyes, Cody Morris, Kyle Sarrazolla	40.67	12	Fo Fo Fo	151.53
3	NAVY BOOMERS Brian Flaherty, Ryan Grafman, Vince Tenebro, Jason Weiss	68.63	13	Air Force Wing Loading	157.16
4	West Point The Ones Who Matter	70.19	14	West Point Everybody Calm Down	173.92
5	West Point Sloppy Joes	93.52	15	Spice Girls	187.05
6	Navy Tugboats	102.07	16	Air Force Diesel	196.6
7	West Point Nuclear Bombs	103.15	17	Team Brooke	202.18
8	Air Force Doggs	110.05	18	Navy Fox	250.14
9	Air Force Long Shot	113.31	19	They're Coming They're Coming	288.64
10	Air Force Turf Burn	130.07	20	Broncos	296.91
			21	Updog	301.07
			22	Air Force Feathered Frogs	344.31
			23	ISU Couchfreaks	351.69

COMPETITION STAFF



Meet Director
Randy Connell



USPA Controller
Jim Rees



Chief Judge
Marylou Laughlin



Judges
From left: Christine Howard, Helaine Rumaner, Jarrod Aranda, Rhonda Kaletz, Rina Gallo, Kevin Drivas and Marylou Laughlin.