

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

THE 2023 USPA NATIONAL COLLEGIATE SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By USPA Media and PR Manager George Hargis



"Meeting fellow college students from all over the country is my favorite part; I always learn a lot from them, whether it's goofy exits or real freefall skills. Even though we know each other for less than a week, they feel like some of my best friends." — Jack Broadhead, Georgia Institute of Technology



Many college attendees spend their winter breaks visiting their hometowns, but the 97 competitors at the 2023 USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships spent their vacations displaying their skydiving skills and contending for medals. From December 28 through January 2, Skydive Elsinore in California graciously hosted competitors from 10 different colleges from around the United States. Students from Columbia University, the Georgia Institute of Technology; Iowa State University; University of Connecticut; University of California, Berkeley; University of Maryland; and Western Michigan University joined students from three United States military academies—The U.S. Air Force Academy, Military Academy at West Point and Naval Academy—to compete in sport accuracy landing and formation skydiving at the 66th annual event.



SARA MUELLER

Western Wings



ROMULO RANGEL

“Collegiates was a great learning experience and an opportunity to bond with everyone on our team, as well as meet people from other schools.” — Simone Olden, Western Michigan University

DAY ONE

The first day of scheduled competition was beautiful, but the upcoming weather forecast predicted rain, so Meet Director Randy Connell wasted no time in getting the plane turning loads from sunrise to sunset. With incredible teamwork between the Skydive Elsinore staff and veteran USPA judges, the 2-way open and advanced formation skydiving teams completed all three rounds in one day.

The competition between U.S. Naval Academy’s advanced teams, Navy Ukulele (Maevie Carigg and Julian Saldana) and Navy Dragon (Henry Berthwick and Conner Mollberg), came down to a tie for first after round three, which required both teams to make a fourth jump as a tiebreaker. In an unusual happenstance, both teams received a score of eight ... another tie! Fortunately, the Skydiver’s Competition Manual spells out the procedure for this situation: The team with the highest scoring round during the competition prevails. Navy Ukulele, which scored 13 points in round three, went home with the gold.

In 2-way open FS, West Point Rice and Beans (Aaron Mendiola and Storm Stern) took the gold in a field of 12 teams and also set a National Collegiate Record for Highest 2-Way FS Average with 15 points.

DAY TWO

As predicted, the start of day two of competition was rainy. The planes stayed grounded until it cleared in the afternoon, allowing the open and advanced 4-way FS teams and the 2-way vertical formation skydiving teams to complete all their competition rounds. Even with the early rain, the competition ran just as smoothly as the first day, and the competitors even set several state collegiate records.

Teams Air Force K2 (Kate Cardinal and Katy Felix) and Air Force Funkytown (Cole Castillo and Chase Powers) set a joint California Collegiate Record for Longest 2-Way VFS Sequence with 15-point rounds. Air Force Dice (Bryce Parsons and Daniel Smith), which took the gold in the 2-way VFS event, set a California State Record for Highest VFS Average with 10.75 points. Air Force Artemis (Benjamin Lee, Maggie Marlow, Alexis Tri and Ethan Wipf) set two California Collegiate Records: Longest 4-Way FS Sequence (39 points) and Highest 4-Way FS Average (23.33 points) and took gold in the open 4-way FS class. West Point Us or Them (Sarah Cao, Sudie Hall, Isaiah McNeilly and Luke Sapiro), took the advanced 4-way FS gold with a 13.33-point average.



West Point Us Or Them



ROMULO FANGEL



West Point Get Barrelled

DAY THREE

The morning of day three was cold and brisk, but low winds made for perfect sport-accuracy conditions. All 97 competitors gave their best attempts at hitting the 16-inch-diameter target, and throughout the competition judges recorded a dead-center score 47 times! Trever Shin from U.C. Berkeley came to the competition specifically to compete in Sport Accuracy. He said, "I only have 33 jumps, but it sounded fun and I came to see what Collegiates was all about."

In the team sport accuracy event, team Air Force Ken (Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Jack Treinish, and Ethan Wipf) set a National Collegiate Record for Lowest Team Score after Three Rounds with a total score of 9.42 meters. In the masters category of the individual event, Brock Holmgreen and Jack Treinish of the Air Force Academy both finished with four dead centers, tying for first and setting a joint California Collegiate Record for Lowest Sport Accuracy Score after Four Rounds with 0.00 meters. In the intermediate category, Luke Sapio from West Point dominated, scoring dead-centers in three out of the four rounds and taking home the gold. In the novice category, Faith Riccobene of West Point earned gold with 27.82 meters total.

DAY FOUR

On day four of competition, competitors and staff scrambled to complete the 6-way speed event. Air Force Gremlins (Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Maggie Marlow, Halle Pelletier, Gabrielle Wilson and Ethan Wipf) walked away with the gold medal after receiving an average time of 9.77 seconds and setting the California Collegiate Record for Fastest Time with an 8.53-second performance in round three.

When all was said and done, Brock Holmgreen from the U.S. Air Force Academy emerged as the Most Competitive Collegiate Skydiver based on his excellent performances in a variety of events. As a member of a service academy, Holmgreen could not accept the associated André Istel Memorial Scholarship, which he passed along to the jumpers of Western Michigan University.

Skydive City Zephyrhills in Florida is hosting the next Collegiate Skydiving Championships from December 28, 2024, to January 2, 2025. Both undergraduate and graduate college skydivers are eligible to attend. Competitors can find details about the event in Chapter 7 of the Skydiver's Competition Manual, available at uspa.org/scm.

STEVE BIGGS



STEVE BARKER



“In 2020, I was ready with a 4-way team to go to the Collegiates in Eloy, but it was canceled that year. I thought that was my last opportunity since I was graduating in May 2021. I later got into grad school, and was delighted to find out that the Collegiates this year was back to my home drop zone, Skydive Elsinore. There was no way I’d miss this opportunity again. The whole process turned out to be even better than I expected! I enjoyed every event: 4-way advanced, 6-way speed and landing accuracy.”
— Yiqin Shi, Columbia University

COMPETITION STAFF

Meet Director: Randy Connell
USPA Controller: Amanda Owens Smalley
Chief Judges: Kris Howard
Event Judges: Dave Grabowski, Hoa Ni
Panel Judges: Donna Bachelor, Judy Celaya, Helaine Rumaner, Jo Timmsen (in-training), Marie Winthers
Scoring System: OmniSkore!HD
André Istel Memorial Scholarship: Western Michigan University

SPORT ACCURACY



MASTERS

RANK	NAME	TB	TOTAL
1	Brock Holmgreen	45.00	0.00
1	Jack Treinish	45.00	0.00
3	Nathaniel Basford	3.62	
4	Luke Anderson	6.45	
5	Thomas Woodberry	7.64	
6	Kyle Sarrazolla	11.29	
7	Jason Darnell	14.93	
8	Ethan Wipf	15.46	
9	Pierce Moul	15.57	
10	Darby O'Neil	16.62	
11	Joe Palenapa	16.71	
12	Daniel Smith	22.78	
13	Halle Pelletier	23.80	
14	Chase Powers	25.56	
15	Bryce Parsons	26.15	
16	Nicholas Froude	27.31	
17	Maggie Marlow	31.87	
18	Stephen Keyes	32.01	
19	Alexis Tri	38.17	
20	Cody Morris	40.83	
21	Jacquelyn Gwynn	41.63	
22	Eugene Lee	46.97	
23	Jack Broadhead	49.84	
24	Ambria Piphoo	61.80	
25	Eric Lim	74.11	
26	Sydney Rissel	80.96	
27	Ayame Castel	100.54	
28	Benjamin Lee	114.36	
29	Gabrielle Wilson	120.00	
30	Ellason Arendale	120.00	
31	Katelin Marin	120.00	

INTERMEDIATE

RANK	NAME	TOTAL
1	Luke Sapio	3.35
2	Caleb Sheyda	8.67
3	Garrett Lauterbach	10.39
4	James Anhalt	10.71
5	Brett Dumais	11.28
6	Sudie Hall	16.02
7	Cole Castillo	16.84
8	Isaac Musselman	17.21
9	Preston Havenor	17.44
10	Pierce Ederle	19.87
11	Mary Root	22.61
12	Isaiah McNeilly	23.20
13	Alexis Komisza	30.90
14	Zachary Pyle	37.89
15	Landon Coker	38.42
16	Allison Henderson	41.47
17	Garret Longstaff	43.36
18	Aron Sobers	44.15
19	Sarah Cao	48.06
20	Kate Cardinal	48.16
21	Micah Duerk	48.34
22	Thomas Snead	52.99
23	Abby Halasi-Kun	80.16
24	Yiqin Shi	80.85
25	Fusheng Yang	83.19
26	Katy Felix	96.36
27	Julia Ahrendt	97.74
28	Emmanouil Tsavaris	118.95
29	Isaac Arp	120.00
30	Aisha Almehairi	138.17
31	Steven Learman	180.00

NOVICE

RANK	NAME	TOTAL
1	Faith Riccobene	27.82
2	Henry Berthwick	41.18
3	Caden Zippwald	44.68
4	Ashlyn Graham	48.96
5	Simone Olden	52.53
6	Wade Parkes	56.03
7	Lauren Pennington	57.11
8	Sophia Casler	57.55
9	Erin Ward	58.90
10	Storm Stern	60.37
11	Katherine Clayton	62.01
12	Wyatt Cyprow	68.39
13	Myles Hall	77.97
14	Collette Coffey	78.15
15	Destin Belger	79.51
16	Joseph Gourley	80.47
17	Malachi Greman	83.95
18	Christopher Wilson	89.27
19	Luke Schlimm	92.07
20	Aaron Mendiola	93.94
21	Maeve Carigg	94.45
22	Madeline Rose	96.34
23	Julian Saldana	96.45
24	Ahmad Siddique	98.25
25	Conner Mollberg	105.00
26	Brody Boggs	110.86
27	Darion Milner	111.54
28	Gabriella Czajkowski	116.65
29	Kwabla Boateng	118.67
30	Oyalami Oluwakorede	119.53
31	Logan Anderson	120.00
32	Ethan Clark	135.00
33	Gabriela Soriano	135.00



TEAMS			
RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	AIR FORCE KEN (Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Jack Treinish, Ethan Wipf)	9.42	3.14
2	NAVY LOADS (James Anhalt, Nathaniel Basford, Nicholas Froude, Caleb Sheyda)	29.38	9.79
3	WEST POINT BEV TECHS (Sudie Hall, Garrett Lauterbach, Isaiah McNeilly, Luke Sapio)	44.29	14.76
4	West Point Hope and Pray	46.13	15.38
5	Air Force Cropdusters	58.45	19.48
6	Air Force Happy Meal	83.48	27.83
7	West Point King's Guard	86.89	28.96
8	West Point Laser Guided Bombs	92.56	30.85
9	Air Force Barbie	134.74	44.91
10	Navy Skygoats	155.23	51.74
11	Navy Fox	161.40	53.80
12	Air Force Midnite	162.08	54.03
13	Skydive Broncos	198.90	66.30
14	West Point MFSA	200.40	66.80
15	West Point LCWW	200.63	66.88
16	West Point Mashup	200.91	66.97
17	Air Force Concrete	226.23	75.41
18	Air Force Benji's Angels	238.13	79.38
19	Navy Parody	279.74	93.25
20	Falling Anchors	307.45	102.48
21	NCSC Collaboration	319.16	106.39
22	Air Force Longshot	340.54	113.51
23	Spice Girls 3.0	346.79	115.60
24	Jack in the Crack	395.00	131.67



STEVE BARKER



ROMULO RANGEL

FORMATION SKYDIVING



2-WAY OPEN

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	WEST POINT RICE AND BEANS (Aaron Mendiola, Storm Stern)	45.00	15.00
2	WEST POINT PARKES AND WRECK (Katherine Clayton, Wade Parkes)	44.00	14.67
3	WEST POINT LOCKED IN (Lauren Pennington, Madeline Rose)	41.00	13.67
4	Air Force Apple Jacks	37.00	12.33
5	West Point Sweet Dreamz	34.00	11.33
6	Navy Yappers	32.00	10.67
7	West Point Shockwave	30.00	10.00
8	Air Force Intents	30.00	10.00
9	Navy Bluebees	23.00	7.67
10	Air Force Elemental	22.00	7.33
11	Air Force Quack	21.00	7.00
12	Air Force Bingabong	14.00	4.67



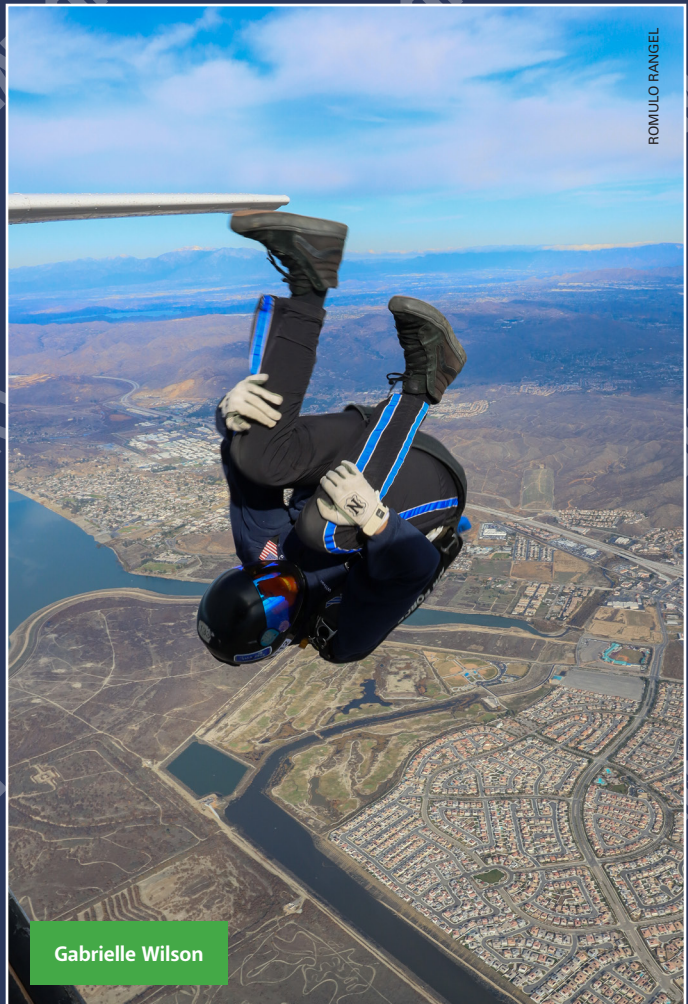
2-WAY ADVANCED

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	NAVY UKULELE (Maeve Carigg, Julian Saldana)	30.00	10.00
2	NAVY DRAGON (Henry Berthwick, Conner Mollberg)	30.00	10.00
3	WESTERN WINGS (Oluwakorede Oyalami, Erin Ward)	15.00	5.00
4	Only Feet	9.00	3.00
5	ISU	4.00	1.33



2-WAY VERTICAL

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	AIR FORCE DICE (Bryce Parsons, Daniel Smith)	43.00	10.75
2	AIR FORCE FUNKYTOWN (Cole Castillo, Chase Powers)	22.00	5.50
3	AIR FORCE K2 (Kate Cardinal, Katy Felix)	21.00	5.25
4	Top n' Bottom	9.00	2.25



ROMULO RANGEL

Gabrielle Wilson



4-WAY OPEN

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	AIR FORCE ARTEMIS (Benjamin Lee, Maggie Marlow, Alexis Tri, Ethan Wipf)	140.00	23.33
2	AIR FORCE TALLBOYS (Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Halle Pelletier, Gabrielle Wilson)	137.00	22.83
3	AIR FORCE GAMBIT (Micah Duerk, Preston Havenor, Isaac Musselman, Joe Palenapa)	95.00	15.83
4	West Point Blind Euge and His Seeing Dogs on a Space Adventure	78.00	13.00
5	West Point Dynamic IFH	76.00	12.67
6	Navy Yuan	43.00	7.17
G	Air Force Halo	87.00	14.50



4-WAY ADVANCED

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	WEST POINT US OR THEM (Sarah Cao, Sudie Hall, Isaiah McNeilly, Luke Sapio)	80.00	13.33
2	WEST POINT DLAB (Pierce Ederle, Alexis Komisza, Garrett Lauterbach, Garret Longstaff)	66.00	11.00
3	NAVY DUMA (Brett Dumais, Mary Root, Caleb Sheyda, Thomas Snead)	39.00	6.50
4	Huskies, Lions, and Knights	28.00	4.67



STEVE BARKER

Most Competitive Collegiate Skydiver:
Brock Holmgreen
(U.S. Air Force Academy)



6-WAY SPEED

RANK	TEAM NAME	TOTAL	AVG
1	AIR FORCE GREMLINS (Luke Anderson, Brock Holmgreen, Maggie Marlow, Halle Pelletier, Gabrielle Wilson, Ethan Wipf)	28.07	9.36
2	AIR FORCE RUSTEZE (Abby Halasi-Kun, Benjamin Lee, Bryce Parsons, Daniel Smith, Jack Treinish, Alexis Tri)	31.30	10.43
3	AIR FORCE MIXTAPE (Cole Castillo, Micah Duerk, Preston Havenor, Isaac Musselman, Joe Palenapa, Chase Powers)	37.11	12.37
4	West Point All In	43.31	14.44
5	West Point King's Killers	56.95	18.98
6	Navy Beekeeping	65.74	21.91
7	Navy Milkmen	67.80	22.60
8	West Point Get Barrelled	71.63	23.88
G	Spice Girls and Guys	79.98	26.66
G	Air Force ITK	81.97	27.32