

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

has recruited many international players.

By Taylor Molde

Four Team Sask alumni are beginning a new and unpaved journey for Sask athletes. Rumina Edgerton, Sara Sutherland, Brooklyn Swetlikoff and Paige Donald have been selected to play at the Mulhouse Water Polo Club in France in the top girls' division "Pro A Girls" this upcoming 2021-2022 season. (Middle photo: Rumina, Brooklyn, and Sara leaving for France this past Monday).

"It's such an amazing opportunity, especially with me being only 19. I am very excited to meet my teammates, and I've already been chatting with the other goalie on the team. I feel very lucky to be able to go!" - Rumina Edgerton (bottom photo on left).

Mulhouse is a medium-sized town in eastern France close to the German and Swiss borders. Although the team is based in France, the team

Head Coach Lucas Heurtier says, "Out of 15 players in the squad, we will have 8 foreigners: 1 Dutch, 1 Spanish, 1 Hungarian, 1 German and 4 Canadian players." Coach Heurtier began playing water polo in Nice, France with our very own Cyril Dorgigne's local club. Coach Heurtier has experience coaching at all levels/ages, including at the national junior boys level from 2013 to present time and the France A boys team during the World Championships in Budapest in 2017 as an assistant coach.

Paige (bottom photo on right) says, "I'm super fortunate to have this amazing opportunity to play in France! It has been incredible to get back into water polo after the last year of no contact training. Communicating with the [Mulhouse] team has been good despite the language barrier. I am working on my French as much as I can before going. Overall, I'm



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super excited to make friends with all of my new teammates and help build this program!"

This will be the first season with a women's team at Mulhouse Water Polo Club, and Lucas has high expectations for the new program. "Our goal this year will be to reach the French top 4. For that, we will have to evaluate our strengths after the first phase. The championship has 7 clubs and most of them are strong clubs which all have had a great history in girls' water polo. Some of them are well developed over time like Lille or Nice, but others have weakened. The task is going to be difficult but I think we will have good players to achieve this goal." To get them there, the team will be training 9 times a week; every morning and 4 evenings from Monday to Friday. The Mulhouse club and coach Heurtier have successfully developed their male athletes for the French National Teams and are excited to build the women's team to contribute to women's water polo.

This opportunity is very exciting for our alumni and they are looking forward to getting back into competition.

Brooklyn (top photo on top right) says, "I'm looking forward to playing a season in France! I think it will be a great opportunity to

continue playing at a high level and experience a new culture. My favourite part is that more Sask players will be dispersed around the world, haha! It's exciting to be part of a team as it enter a league for the first time, and I'm grateful to Mulhouse and Sask for helping us get the chance to play there! Getting back into the pool after COVID has been tough but playing with a new team in France has definitely been a great motivator! I can't wait to see what's to come!"

Sara (bottom photo on left) tells us, "It has certainly been different spending this past year at home but I am so grateful to have been able to train with Team Sask again. Communicating with team Mulhouse and coach Lucas has been very exciting. I'm looking forward to improving my French! I am most excited to meet new people and travel around Europe!"

Water Polo Saskatchewan is excited to follow these four on their new journey at the Mulhouse Water Polo Club.

Good luck Ladies!