



March 22, 2022

Brian Flacks resigns as the Boys' Water Polo Program Head at Harvard-Westlake to become the Head Coach of Stanford University Men's Water Polo.

Flacks, who is on the staff of the USA Water Polo men's senior team, takes the reins at Stanford University, replacing John Vargas, who announced his resignation at the beginning of March. Stanford is one of the top college programs in the nation, having won 11 NCAA Division I Championships, most recently in 2019.

Brian Flacks has spent 17 years at Harvard-Westlake school, both as a student ('06), and as Program Head of Boys' Water Polo since 2011, and Girls Water Polo from 2011-2016. He was named to the Harvard-Westlake Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012, for his achievements as a Wolverine water polo player.

Flacks received the USA Water Polo's Bill Barnett Distinguished Men's Coaching Award (Scholastic), in 2014, and the Monte Nitzkowski Distinguished Men's Coaching Award (Elite) in 2019.

"I've spent over half my life at Harvard-Westlake, and it is impossible to put into words how meaningful the school has been to me," said Brian Flacks. "While excited for the new opportunity at Stanford, I will dearly miss the faculty, staff, and friends I've made over the 17 years I've spent here. Most importantly, I will dearly miss the incredible student-athletes I have had the privilege to work with during my time at HW. I will always be a Wolverine."

Flacks led the girls' program at Harvard-Westlake to the CIF-SS Division IV title in 2012, and the boys to CIF-SS Division I Championships in 2013, 2014, 2018 and 2019, and a CIF Regional Championship in 2019. He has helped develop dozens of top college recruits and US Youth National Team players from his programs, which also boasts Olympians Ben Hallock (Rio 2016 & Tokyo 2021) and Johnny Hooper (Tokyo 2021).

"Words cannot express how much Brian Flacks has done for our water polo program," said Terry Barnum, Head of Athletics at Harvard-Westlake. "He has built our program into the one of the best in the nation and we are eternally grateful for his dedication and service. We wish him the best of luck at Stanford University."

The search for a new program head begins immediately.