



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Singapore Swimming appoints Sergio Lopez as Head Coach**

SINGAPORE, 18 November 2014 – Singapore Swimming Association (SSA) announced today the appointment of Sergio Lopez as the Head Coach of Singapore Swimming.

Spaniard Lopez, 45, has served for the past seven years as the Head Coach and Aquatics Director at The Bolles School. It was at Bolles where he trained Singaporean swimmer Joseph Isaac Schooling for the last four years. Schooling, who medalled at the 2014 Commonwealth and Asian Games is ranked top 10 in the world in the 100 metres butterfly event and also regarded as one of the best butterfly specialists at college level in the United States at this point.

"I want to thank the Singapore Swimming Association and the Singapore Sports Institute (SSI) for believing in me and giving me this chance to lead Singapore Swimming.

"It is a privilege to have been chosen to lead Singapore Swimming to greater heights and to work alongside the Singaporean coaches and help them develop swimming to the highest levels possible.

"The ultimate goal is to establish Singapore Swimming as one of the top in the world over the next five years. I know that it is not an easy task, but I believe that with the talent of swimmers, coaches and the resources that the SSA and SSI have in place, the dream is attainable.

"This is a team effort and I believe that if we all work for the good of Singapore, then the sky is the limit," said Lopez.

During his time as Head Coach and Aquatics Director at the Bolles School, Lopez was also part of the USA Senior National Coaching Team from 2012 to 2014 and USA Junior National Team Coaching Team from 2009 to 2014. He was also the Olympic Coach for Singapore in 2012 and Head Coach for Netherland Antilles in 2008.

He has produced the likes of 2011 World Junior Championships backstroke medallist, Ryan Murphy, and women's 200 metres individual medley world record holder, Ariana Kukors. Most recently, Lopez also coached Tao Li five months in the lead up to the 2014 Incheon Asian Games, in which Tao Li achieved a silver and a bronze medal in the 50 metres and 100 metres butterfly events respectively. Lopez also trained the likes of Leonis Lau, Samantha Yeo, Cheryl Lim and Allen Teo during his time at Bolles.

"Sergio and myself share this dream to see the Singapore flag at the highest level as many times as it is possible at every international competition that we compete in," said Joscelin Yeo, Vice-President (Swimming), SSA.



“At the same time, we will be work on creating a culture of ‘Sustainable Success’ that as long as we keep working hard, we will have the opportunity to be on top of the Swimming World,” she added.

An Olympic swimmer himself, Lopez represented Spain from 1984 to 1996. He won a bronze medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and came in fourth in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, both in the 200 metres Breaststroke event.

“Sergio has proven himself at the highest levels as a swimmer and as a coach in his almost 30 years of swimming experience. His continued success, drive and ambition made him the outstanding candidate. It is our aim to keep SSA moving forward to achieve greater success in the future. We look forward to working with the swimming fraternity to capitalise on his appointment so that we can continue to take the sport to greater heights,” said Lee Kok Choy, President, SSA.

In addition to his role as Head Coach, Lopez will also be appointed as an Advisor Coach of the Coaching Academy of the SSI. Lopez will be working with SSI in developing a cadre of elite level coaches who can assist in guiding the programmes and efforts in enhancing capability development as advisors and collaborators.

“Sergio has a proven track record of not only developing athletes but inspiring and lifting the standard of coaches he has worked with and we at SSI intend to capitalise on his passion and expertise to assist in developing a vibrant community of coaches across the sports in Singapore. Sergio’s main role obviously will be to develop the swimming community but he will assist the greater coaching community as well by actively participating in our coach training programmes of mentorship and continuing coach education, for example, as we establish our Coaching Academy,” added Troy Engle, Director, Coach Development at SSI.

Lopez will begin his appointment as Head Coach of Singapore Swimming on 1 January 2015.

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## **Annex A**

### **Coaching and Professional Experience**

<b>Head Coach-Aquatics Director</b> Boys' and Girls' Swimming and Diving Bolles School Sharks The Bolles School, Jacksonville, Florida	<b>2007 - 2014</b>
<b>Head Coach</b> Mens' and Womens' Swimming and Diving West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia	<b>2004 - 2007</b>
<b>Associate Head Swim Coach</b> <b>Assistant Coach</b> Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois	<b>2003 - 2004</b> <b>2000 - 2002</b>
<b>Head Coach &amp; Director</b> Wildcat Aquatics & Northwestern Aquatic Swimming Association	<b>2002 - 2004</b>
<b>Head Coach</b> Hillenbrand Aquatics of Tucson, Tucson, Arizona	<b>1997 – 2000</b>
<b>Technical Director</b> Cantabric Swimming Federation, Santander, Spain	<b>1996 - 1997</b>
<b>Volunteer Coach</b> University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona	<b>1995 - 1996</b>
<b>Volunteer Coach</b> Honved Swim Club, Budapest, Hungary	<b>1994 - 1995</b>

### **Coaching Achievements:**

USA Senior National Team Coach (2012 to 2014).  
USA Junior National Team Coach (2009 to 2014).  
Coached Singapore (2012, 2014), Netherland Antilles (2008) and Israel (2008) National Teams.  
Coached 12 swimmers in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games resulting in 1 Gold Medal, 1 Finalist, 1 Semi-finalist, and six National Records.  
National High School Athletic Coaches Association Finalist Coach of the Year (2013).  
SwimSwam High School & Club Coach of the Year (2012).  
Florida Dairy Farmers 1A Coach of the Year for girls swimming (2011).  
Big East Men's Coach of the Year (2006 & 2007).



ASCA Coaching Award for Excellence (2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013).

**Swimming Achievements:**

Member of the Spanish National Team (1984 – 1996)

Won a Bronze medal in the 200m Breaststroke at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games

Finished fourth in the 200m Breaststroke at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA): 9 times All-American in Breaststroke and Individual Medley events

World Championships Long Course: Finalist in the 200m Breaststroke and 400 Medley Relay events (1986, 1991 and 1994)

World Championships Short Course: Won a Silver medal in the 400 Medley Relay, breaking the European Record and Finalist in the 100m and 200m Breaststroke event in 1993.

Hold or held records in Spain (14), Indiana University (2) and The American University (8)

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