IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caeleb Dressel and Van Mathias to lead United States Team at the ISL All-Star Match

The nine-time Olympic champion and the newly crowned 100m breaststroke short-course world record holder are the first athletes confirmed for the All-Star Match at the London Aquatics Centre on Saturday 19 December 2026.

LONDON, UK – Friday 13 November 2026: The **International Swimming League (ISL)** has today announced Caeleb Dressel and Van Mathias as the first star athletes of the United States Team for the All-Star Match, to be held at the London Aquatics Centre in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Saturday 19 December 2026. They are the first athletes confirmed for the event, with further United States Team star athletes to be announced shortly.

Caeleb Dressel (United States): A nine-time Olympic champion and 15-time world champion, Dressel holds the world record in the 100m butterfly and was the defining swimmer of the ISL's original seasons, starring for Cali Condors, the 2020 champions, and setting world records in the league's pool in Budapest that year, including a 100m individual medley short-course mark that still stands.

Van Mathias (United States): The 100m breaststroke short-course world record holder, Mathias set his mark of 55.14 at the US Short Course World Championship Trials in Westmont, Illinois, on 29 October, taking 0.14 seconds off a record that had stood since 2021. He retired after the 2023 NCAA Championships to become director of operations for Indiana University's swimming programme, returned to training in 2025 and in August won the 100m breaststroke at the Pan Pacific Championships, where he swam the breaststroke leg as the United States set a world record in the mixed 4x100m medley relay. He makes his ISL debut in London.

Ben Allen, Commissioner of the International Swimming League, said: *"Caeleb Dressel was the face of the ISL's original seasons, and Van Mathias is the comeback story of American swimming this year, from running a college programme's operations to a world record relay and now a world record of his own. On 19 December they will race for the United States Team in front of a London crowd, and the names alongside them will follow."*

Dressel and Mathias are the first of the star athletes to be revealed, with further United States Team star athletes and the stars of the Commonwealth, Europe and Intercontinental Teams to follow in the coming weeks ahead of the full team rosters later in November. The All-Star Match will bring the world's best swimmers to London in four teams, Commonwealth, United States, Europe and Intercontinental, racing for the largest prize pool ever offered for a single night of competitive swimming.

Tickets for the All-Star Match are on sale now through Ticketmaster, with full details at isl.global.

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Notes to Editors:

About the International Swimming League (ISL):

Forget everything you thought you knew about swimming.

The ISL tore up the rulebook. It built something the sport had never seen before: fast, ferociously competitive, team-based racing designed for fans, built for broadcast, and made to deliver unforgettable moments. The ISL gave the biggest names in swimming what elite athletes in other premier sports already had - a stage of their own. Real prize money. Team pride. High stakes on every single length, where the clock is not the only thing that matters.

Across three unforgettable seasons between 2019 and 2021, the ISL lit up three continents with competing franchise clubs from North America, Europe and Asia, and a roster stacked with the greatest swimmers on the planet. Two-hour matches crackling with intensity. Point scoring that turned every race into a team battle. Coaches plotting line-ups, saving their strongest swimmers, and timing every selection to maximise points. Fierce rivalries igniting the moment the water broke, swimmer against swimmer, team against team, with everything on the line. The ISL didn't just prove swimming could be entertaining. It proved it could be electric.

And now, the ISL is back. The League returns sharper, smarter and built to last. This is the next chapter of a movement that changed what swimming could be and it's about to do it again, bigger and bolder than ever.

About The All-Star Match:

On Saturday 19 December 2026, the ISL is hosting its All-Star Match in London: a one-night showcase of the world's fastest swimmers in a unique two-hour head-to-head competition. This is not a heats-and-finals meet: every race counts, every touch moves the scoreboard, and one team leaves London crowned champions.

The match marks the return of the ISL, bringing back the dynamic, unpredictable version of swimming in a world-class venue with a live crowd and global audience watching the best compete head-to-head.

Expect high-octane racing from first event to last, team tactics, momentum swings, and a venue energised by a DJ, with unique visual and audio production galvanising the atmosphere between races. Whether you have followed the ISL from the start or this is your first taste of swimming reimagined, London in December is where the sport comes back to life.

About the London Aquatics Centre:

The London Aquatics Centre is a world-class, 2,800 capacity aquatics venue in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is today one of the busiest public swimming venues in the world.

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