

Area scholastic rowing teams begin season with wins in WARS Regatta

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(Photo: Poughkeepsie Journal file)

There were some jitters, Harry Harrington said. But after the dust settled, the WARS regatta proved to be a success for area scholastic crew teams on Saturday.

Five Wappingers boats placed first, while the Harrington-coached Franklin D. Roosevelt team yielded three first-place finishes. Spackenkill produced two winning boats at the competition, which took place on the Hudson River.

Wappingers, Roosevelt and Spackenkill will compete this coming Saturday and Sunday with Our Lady of Lourdes, Arlington and Poughkeepsie at the Saratoga Invitational. The annual Triangular Regatta on the

Hudson follows the following weekend.

The WARS regatta, though, was a nice way to begin the grind.

“It was a good race for the start of the season,” said Harrington. “We hadn’t had a whole lot of water time, so it was a good race considering what everyone had to do to get ready.”

The Wappingers boys lightweight four finished first in 6:38.42. Its boys first four boat (6:08.49) and second eight (5:50.98) also placed first.

The Wappingers girls found their share of success, too: the lightweight four (6:38.42) and first eight (6:08.49) each won.

“It was a great day of racing all around for the club. We were able to pick up where we left off last season,” Wappingers coach Tim Malet said in a statement. “Also, it was great to see the younger rowers on both the boys and girls team step in and compete at such a high level with the rest of the teams in the league.”

The Roosevelt boys first eight placed first (5:34.36), while its girls first four (7:00.78) and second eight (7:12.10) clinched wins.

“It was kind of nice, that way we can build off it,” Harrington said. “We know what we have to work on going into the Saratoga Invitational and Triangulars — cleaning up our timing, getting a little faster.”

Spackenkill’s two winners were its boys first eight (5:44.42) and the boys first four (6:16.17).

A.J. Martelli: amartelli@poughkeepsiejournal.com, 845-437-4836, Twitter: [@AJM_PoJoSports](https://twitter.com/AJM_PoJoSports) (https://twitter.com/AJM_PoJoSports)