

Roosevelt, Poughkeepsie, other crews shine at state regatta

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(Photo: Poughkeepsie Journal file)

Sue Benfield told her girls junior four boat they could be among the fastest boats in their race Sunday.

The quartet from Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, though, was skeptical. The coach said the boat responded with something along the lines of, "are you just telling us that to make us row harder?"

She wasn't.

The Presidents' girls junior four placed third among high schools and fourth overall, earning a bronze medal in a time of 5:59.512, at the New York State Scholastic Championships in Saratoga Springs. The boat was among several from the mid-Hudson Valley to place at the regatta.

SURVIVOR: John Jay student relishes normalcy after cancer fight (<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/sports/high-school/2017/05/12/survivor-john-jay-student-relishes-normalcy-after-cancer-fight/316418001/>)

HONOR ROLL: Big goals, big saves highlight week (<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/sports/high-school/2017/05/10/honor-roll-big-goals-big-saves-big-hits-highlight-weeks-performances/101515016/>)

"They were extremely excited," Benfield said. "We improved from the time trials to the finals, so that was good. It was encouraging."

Poughkeepsie's girls junior quad, comprised of Tori Horner, Kelly Cwik, Ciera Simmons and Sophia Cassidy, also won a bronze medal. The group placed third among high schools and sixth overall (6:07.361).

"We were happy with our results," Poughkeepsie coach Mike Smith said. "We have a lot of young rowers and we're getting better. So we're happy with that."

Both Poughkeepsie and Roosevelt will compete in this weekend's annual Stotesbury Cup Regatta, which will be held in Philadelphia.

"We're taking seven boats down and we're looking forward to that. For a lot of our rowers, it's their first chance to see Philadelphia," Smith added. "They'll get a chance to race on a big course and get tested."

Benfield called the Stotesbury Cup "a tall order."

"There are crews from Canada, Florida," she said. "We'll see how we can do."

At the state regatta, Rhett Burns of Roosevelt finished ninth overall (6:03.590) in the boys varsity single first final. Roosevelt's boys junior four was fifth overall in the first final (5:30.096), while the Presidents boys junior eight was eighth (5:41.985). The girls junior eight was ninth overall (5:51.105).

Poughkeepsie's girls varsity quad was ninth overall in the first final (6:06.214), the same finish as its girls lightweight double (6:58.947).

The Pioneers' boys junior quad was fourth overall (5:16.415), as was its boys junior eight in the second final (5:29.074). Poughkeepsie's boys lightweight double was eighth overall (5:53.633) in the first final.

Rhinebeck's boys junior four was first overall in the second final (5:43.100), while its boys lightweight four was fifth overall in the first final (5:27.514). Rhinebeck's girls lightweight four was sixth overall in the first final (6:13.694).

Three boats from Spackenkill placed. The Spartans boys varsity four was first overall in the second final (5:22.140), the girls varsity four was fifth overall in the third final (6:27.777) and the boys junior four was seventh overall in the second final (5:10.350).

Wappingers had five boats place. The boys junior four was fourth overall in the second final (5:50.630), the varsity eight was seventh overall in the second final (5:10.350), the boys junior eight was seventh overall (5:37.904) in the second final, the boys lightweight four was eighth overall in the first final (5:36.423) and the boys varsity four was eighth overall in the first final (5:21.805).

Arlington's boys junior eight was sixth overall in the second final (5:30.516), while its boys varsity four was eighth overall in the second final (5:36.642).

The girls junior four from Our Lady of Lourdes was sixth overall in the first final (6:05.923).

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