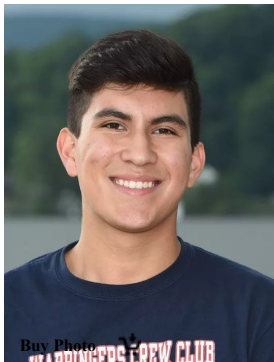


Wappingers' varsity four made waves among boys crew All-Stars

Poughkeepsie Journal Published 6:30 p.m. ET July 14, 2017 | Updated 2:16 p.m. ET July 15, 2017



(Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Raised voices and tempers were some of the ingredients for success, it seems. A little vomit, too, didn't hurt.

The occasional discord wasn't an obstacle the Wappingers crew had to overcome. Instead, those instances helped fuel its varsity four boat during the season.

"Sometimes it was tough because they're senior boys and they're going on to row in college," said coxswain Ally Spath, a junior. "They know what they're talking about, so sometimes if I'm saying otherwise, it was hard getting them to agree with me."

Spath's voice often raised, and she often won those arguments. And their varsity four boat often won those races.

The crew of Matt Reilly, Baltazar Castillo-Varda, John Mascia, John Costa and Spath excelled, winning a Hudson Valley Rowing League title and placing fourth in the state championships. Those were among the achievements that earned them the Poughkeepsie Journal's Boys Boat of the Year.

READ: Wappingers, other local teams win at Triangulares (<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/sports/high-school/2017/05/08/wappingers-other-local-teams-win-triangulares-regatta-sunday/313582001/>)

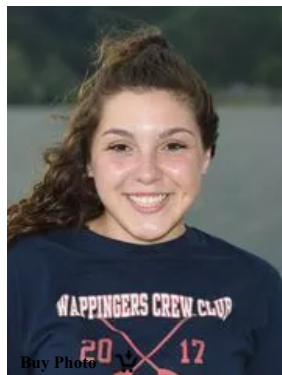
READ: Area rowing teams start season with wins in WARS Regatta (<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/sports/high-school/2017/04/24/area-scholastic-rowing-teams-begin-season-wins-wars-regatta/100852680/>)



Matt Reilly, Wappingers.
(Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Reilly was the de facto leader, a literal standout at 6-foot-6, who will row at Drexel University. The senior took first in the Arlington Invitational erg race and the Hudson River Indoor Sprints, setting an event record by completing the two-kilometer race in six minutes, 17 seconds. He also was the stroke seat in the varsity four. Castillo-Varda, headed to Syracuse University, was three seat and described as the group's strongest rower. Spath, in her second season as coxswain, became a vocal leader — a motivator, strategist and guide.

"She brings a lot of energy and did a great job of keeping us focused," Reilly said.



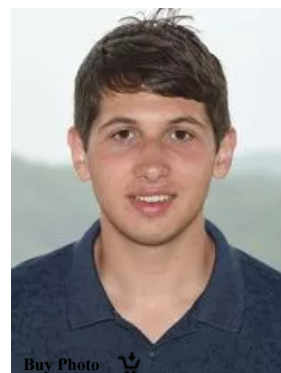
Ally Spath, Wappingers.
(Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

That quintet also won the WARS Regatta and was part of a varsity eight boat that took first in the Triangulares Regatta.

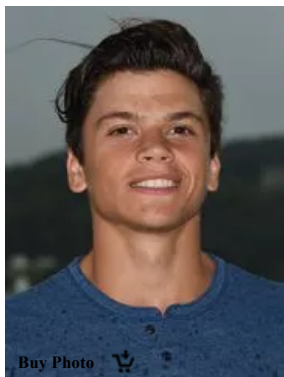
"I push myself really hard," Castillo-Varda said. "And, normally when I do really well, I end up throwing up."

Spath nodded in affirmation. Fortunately (or unfortunately) for them, it happened quite often.

FIRST TEAM



Thomas Burda
School: Arlington
Grade: 12
Vital stats: His varsity eight boat reached the final of the New York State championships in Saratoga Springs. In what was a rebuilding season for Arlington, with a smaller roster, Burda's excellence,



Rhett Burns, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School.
(Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Rhett Burns

School: Franklin D. Roosevelt

Grade: 11

Vital stats: Success on the water isn't new for Burns, who also was named a Journal All-Star as a swimmer last winter. He reached the finals of the state championships in sculling and took sixth in nationals. He also was the seven seat in Roosevelt's varsity eight. "He's one of those athletes that come along only once every few years," Presidents coach Harry Harrington said.



Chris Cassidy, Poughkeepsie High School. (Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Chris Cassidy

School: Poughkeepsie

Grade: 12

Vital stats: The Georgetown-bound standout carried the torch for a Poughkeepsie program that long has excelled. His lightweight four boat (Brian Panzer, Matthew Morales and Alexis Ojeda and coxswain Maggie Chau) won the WARS Regatta and Triangulars, placed second in the HVRL Championships, and took fourth in the state championships. His men's double boat also won a HVRL title.



Thomas Gagliardi, Spackenkill High School.
(Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Thomas Gagliardi and Luke Moriarty

School: Spackenkill

Grades: Gagliardi, 11; Moriarty, 12

Vital stats: The duo led the Spartans' senior four boat that won the petite finals at the New York State championships and went on to compete in nationals. That boat was the centerpiece of a small, rebuilding roster. Gagliardi, a strong rower in the stroke seat, will return



Luke Moriarty, Spackenkill crew (Photo: Courtesy photo)

and Moriarty is headed to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.



Lucas Spagnoli, Arlington High School. (Photo: Alex H. Wagner/Poughkeepsie Journal)

Lucas Spagnoli

School: Arlington

Grade: 10

Vital stats: The fiery sparkplug emerged as a leader and already, Admirals coach Paul Stasaitis said, Spagnoli is expected to be named a captain next season. He rowed in the varsity four and lightweight four boats, and helped Arlington take third in the HVRL Championships.

HONORABLE MENTION

Poughkeepsie: Shakari Bigelow

Spackenkill: Zach Habert, Andrew Moriarty, Michael Ryan

Wappingers: John Costa, John Mascia, Daniel Sweeney



Spackenkill High School boys senior 4 boat at nationals, L to R: Zach Habert (coxswain), Michael Ryan, Andrew Moriarty, Luke Moriarty, Thomas Gagliardi and coach Robin Ackerman *(Photo: Courtesy photo)*

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