

GDRA Junior's at Oakridge Dogwood Regatta April 28, 2007

WOW- What a great day at the races!

With the day turning perfect weather-wise, we had a successful day of rowing at Oak Ridge. Having had 3 days of decent water last week we almost doubled our practice time- and it showed.

Congratulations to the team on a wonderful day at the races. Special congrats to Joe, who rowed in his first regatta. With being on the team barely two weeks, he did a wonderful job in the Boys Novice 4.

The morning got off to a busy start with Jen rowing in the Women's Single. This is the first time Jen rowed the single in almost a year! True grit, Jen! You did a great job of getting right back into it. All of the rowers that rowed the single in the race, Jon, David, and Brandon all did so with minimal practice in the single, and yet some very nice races! Congratulations to David who took the silver, missing the gold by .7 secs. It had to be the sprint of the season! How exciting to watch David reel in the competition!

David added another silver to his collection with Brandon's help as they rowed to a second place finish in the Men's Jr. 2X. Congratulations, Brandon! A job well done!

Jon and Dan (a novice also) rowed their first time together in a double's race. Not far off qualifying for the finals! Very impressive for a brand new rower with a varsity teammate! Next time!

Not often is the LTWT 2X offered in a regatta. We took advantage of entering two of our best technique rowers in the event, and they won the BRONZE. Congrats Meredith Hollingsworth and Lauren Sobol for rowing a great race! We all still say you looked better than the second place finishers! Lauren also stepped up for us in qualifying one of the women's 2x to the finals.

Lindsey and Becky repeated their first place finish (from last year) in the double. Gold again for them as they helped lead the Quad to a First Place Finish! Great third 500 ladies! The Quad with Becky, Jen, Lindsey and Lauren had to have the Best Looking Row of the day. We had one of the chase judges stop us and tell us he could not believe how "beautifully the quad rowed." He could "not remember the last time he had seen a HS team row that well and together." (And girls- know that Chris took all the credit!) And THEN he actually told him how proud he was of each one of you and what hard workers you all are.

We also had a Woman's 2x qualify for the finals- Jen and Beth rowing a race for the first time. Didn't medal but beat some boats in the Final! Congrats!

Our Boys Novice 4, stroked for the first time by Alec, followed by Joe, Alex Chuna and Alex Casewell did very well as did our girls V4 stroked by Haley, and followed by Meredith Snead, Meredith Hollingsworth, and Hannah (who is a true novice-this being her first season!) Not bad rowing in a Varsity Race! Our Novice 4 of Rachel, Beth, Kelly, and Christine improved from last week (where they beat 6 boats at Hoover-this being after only having 3 days together in a boat!) Just think of what can be done with some time on the water!

We can't forget to thank and congratulate one of our teammates without whom we could not row. Frankie, thanks for being there and coxing all of our sweep races this weekend. I know we all feel the same when you're there. A lot more comfortable AND CONFIDENT!

There were successes off the water as well. Parents should be proud of the way the team handled itself. There was not one problem with behavior the whole weekend. As a matter of fact, as we were leaving the DAY's INN after descending on their lobby for the Continental Breakfast,

a woman had come out to clean the tables. She stood there with the cloth in her hand, looked around the room and said, "My, this group is a clean group! I don't have to do but anything!" Thanks, to all of you for being such mature teenagers!

We also want to thank all the parents for their help this weekend. Special thanks to Mr. Rice for bringing down the trailer with all the tents and equipment- the Walz's, Enloe's, Mrs. Thornburgh, for all the food preparation and serving- and the Snead's and Kip Bohacheck for helping to drive the team to the regatta!

Charlie and Chris, we want you to know we appreciate your help every weekend and do not take it for granted. We are truly appreciative!

ON TO MIDWEST!!

Happy Rowing and Lots of hard work these next few weeks

Denise Hauser
GDRA Junior Coach