

Rowers pick up momentum in Saratoga

by Jill Maxwell

Bromfield Acton-Boxborough crews braved rowing's East Coast "Clash of the Titans" on April 25 and 26 and returned with three silver and three bronze finishes. The Saratoga Invitational is one of the largest sprint regattas in the United States. More than 900 crews representing 37 teams and clubs from across the northeast raced the 1,500-meter course in ten lanes across Fish Creek in Saratoga Springs, NY. In a display of consistency, some boats medaled twice. The girls second varsity 4 came in second Saturday and Sunday and the girls pair took third both days.

Multiple BA-B boats placed fourth or fifth in their fields; the boys first varsity 4 missed a third-place medal by a fraction of a second. "For a public high school program I think it was a strong start," said Holly Hatton, who coaches the varsity girls.

Clear, calm skies graced the typically windy, wet, and muddy venue. "The conditions were unlike anything I've seen at Saratoga," said Chris Whitbeck, who coaches the novice boys. "There wasn't a ripple on the creek most of the day, which is usually one of those things that you only see at a very early morning race." By the end of the day Saturday and on Sunday there was a light headwind, but the weather was a gift, Hatton said. "I think it gave our crews, who have had limited time on the water relative to their competitors" due to Bare Hill Pond's low water level at the start of the season, "a real chance to work on improving their racing skills—both on their race plan execution, and melding together on their rhythm," she said.

Most athletes raced multiple times in bigger and smaller boats. Noah Kim, a coxswain and a captain of the varsity boys, coxed the first varsity 4 and rowed in a double both days. Kim, a senior at A-B, had started as a rower on the team. "After switching from rowing to coxing, one of the first things I realized was that I have a better sense of what rowers are feeling physically and mentally—what they need to hear in the boat when everything burns and when you can't keep going," Kim said. "That perspective helps me make more effective calls, build stronger race plans, and communicate more clearly with the boys. One of the biggest advantages of switching between rowing and coxing is that you have a better understanding of technique, which can ultimately make or break a race."

The team will run its Bare Hill Fun Regatta featuring singles racing for middle school and novice rowers at Town Beach on Sunday, May 3. Varsity rowers will next don their blue and white unisuits for the Amber Zapatka Memorial Regatta in Lowell on May 9 and 10.

Results

Varsity Boys

Saturday

2-: Teddy Stoddard and Oscar Maxwell; 3rd place, 5 minutes, 43.466 seconds

U172x: Aidan Abayasinghe and Ben Rosenman; 6th, 5:58.557

2x: Patrick Tucker and Hangfang Dong; 7th, 5:41.180; Noah Kim and Mihir Vidhate, 9th, 6:17.574

1V4+: Hanfang Dong, Ben Rosenman, Teddy Stoddard, Oscar Maxwell, and coxswain Noah Kim; 4th, 5:40.59

2V4+: Aidan Abayasinghe, Xander Swydan, Patrick Tucker, Eric Bian, and coxswain Mason Wade; 6th, 6:34.516

Sunday

2-: Teddy Stoddard and Oscar Maxwell; 6th place, 5 minutes, 56.722 seconds

U172x: Hanfang Dong and Ben Rosenman; 3rd, 5:41.472

2x: Patrick Tucker and Noah Kim; 9th, 6:07.616; Aidan Abayasinghe and Eric Bian, 4th, 6:23.87

1V4+: Hanfang Dong, Ben Rosenman, Patrick Tucker, Oscar Maxwell, and coxswain Noah Kim; 4th, 5:17.554

2V4+: Aidan Abayasinghe, Xander Swydan, Teddy Stoddard, Eric Bian, and coxswain Mason Wade; 8th, 5:45.760

Varsity Girls

Saturday

2-: Emily Yang and Braeden Hartley; 3rd place; 6 minutes, 21.156 seconds

U174+: Beth Belanger, Piper Candon, Etta Maxwell, Amelia McCormack, and coxswain Yuvika Rao; 2nd, 6:22.135

1V4+: Gabby Kim, Ellery Thomas, Annabelle Purcell, Caroline Yang, and coxswain Gwynnie Poutasse; 7th, 6:38.665

2V4+: Izzi Walker, Simone Taylor, Ava Dawn, Alicia Tang, and coxswain Hanna Lem Moustaks; 2nd, 6:23.05; Lily Lem Moustakas, Reval Argow-Sniderman, Maroon Kendrick, Ada Hubbell, and coxswain Gabby Shee; 7th, 6:56.757

4x: Nix Klein, Bronwyn Lemke, Alice Yang, and Autumn Desclos; 5th, 7:05.730

1V8+: Ava Dawn, Beth Belanger, Piper Candon, Etta Maxwell, Amelia McCormack, Ellery Thomas, Braeden Hartley, Emily Yang, and coxswain Hanna Lem Moustakas; 4th, 5:26.118

2V8+: Izzi Walker, Gabriella Kim, Maroon Kendrick, Reval Argow-Sniderman, Annabelle Purcell, Caroline Yang, Simone Taylor, Alicia Tang, and coxswain Yuvika Rao; 4th, 5:52.102

3V8+: Gwyneth Poutasse, Bronwyn Lemke, Anastasia Bolberova, Alice Yang, Nix Klein, Ada Hubbell, Lily Lem Moustakas, Autumn Desclos, and coxswain Gabriella Shee; 5th, 6:14.367

Sunday

2-: Emily Yang and Braeden Hartley; 4th place; 6 minutes, 9.850 seconds

U174+: Beth Belanger, Piper Candon, Etta Maxwell, Amelia McCormack, and coxswain Yuvika Rao; 5th, 6:11.10

1V4+: Gabby Kim, Ellery Thomas, Annabelle Purcell, Caroline Yang, and coxswain Gwynnie Poutasse; 5th, 6:12.483

2V4+: Izzi Walker, Simone Taylor, Ava Dawn, Alicia Tang, and coxswain Hanna Lem Moustaks; 2nd, 5:53.832; Lily Lem Moustakas, Reval Argow-Sniderman, Maroon Kendrick, Ada Hubbell, and coxswain Gabby Shee; 5th, 6:28.102

4x: Nix Klein, Anastasia Bolberova, Bronwyn Lemke, and Autumn Desclos; 5th, 6:24.038

1V8+: Ava Dawn, Beth Belanger, Piper Candon, Etta Maxwell, Amelia McCormack, Ellery Thomas, Braeden Hartley, Emily Yang, and coxswain Hanna Lem Moustakas; 6th, 5:30.746

2V8+: Izzi Walker, Gabriella Kim, Maroon Kendrick, Reval Argow-Sniderman, Annabelle Purcell, Caroline Yang, Simone Taylor, Alicia Tang, and coxswain Yuvika Rao; 6th, 5:45.095

3V8+: Gwyneth Poutasse, Bronwyn Lemke, Anastasia Bolberova, Ada Hubbell, Nix Klein, Alice Yang, Lily Lem Moustakas, Autumn Desclos, and coxswain Gabriella Shee; 4th, 6:20.056