

DIARY OF A MAD SPORTSWRITER

STAN HUDY IS A SPORTSWRITER FOR THE SARATOGIAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS. HE COVERS HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH SPORTS IN THE SARATOGA COUNTY AREA AS WELL AS WRITING A WEEKLY BOOK REVIEW ON SPORTS BOOKS. HE'S NOT JUST A "STICK AND BALL" SPORTSWRITER, HE'S WILLING TO TAKE ON ANY SPORT AS WELL AS ANY SUBJECT.

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Ballston Spa's Martin and
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[Queensbury's Reynolds
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SRAAs](#)

ABOUT ME



STAN HUDY

[Award winning sportswriter in upstate New York for the past 10 years. Married \(she says she's happy\) for the past 18 years. Still waiting for my first Pulitzer as well as my first book to be published.](#)

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SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2008

Saratoga County claims seven national rowing titles

Ballston Spa women's double wins gold

The Ballston Spa women's senior double of Sarah Martin and Meredith Venerus were used to making history, becoming on of the first Scotties crew entries to ever advance to the Scholastic Rowing Association of America national championship regatta, but they decided another page added to the history books wouldn't be a bad thing either.

The Ballston Spa girls captured the school's first-ever rowing national championship Saturday in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The Scotties double rowed the 1,500-meter course on Melton Hill Lake in five minutes, 51.13 seconds beating out Parkersburg at 5:53.52 and Sacred Heart at 5:56.10.

The pair showed they were a force to be reckoned with, rowing to a first-place finish in Friday's heat, rowing to a 10 second win over Sacred Heart to qualify for Saturday's national final.

Shenendehowa lightweight double wins gold

They only had to row in one race at the SRAA national championship regatta, but Shenendehowa's double of Abby Knight and Lauren Bourdreau made the most of it, capturing the women's lightweight title with a 1,500-meter row in five minutes, 55 seconds.

The duo, competing in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on Melton Hill Lake, were only challenged by Holy Spirit, 1.26 seconds behind.

Baldwin finished in third at 6:09.09 followed by Sacred Heart at 6:12.41 and Saratoga's double entry of Vanessa Dean and Casey Stein at 6:19.31.

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Shen's Postulka wins singles national title

Shenendehowa senior Jackie Postulka said she likes rowing in a single because there is no one to blame but yourself.

On Saturday afternoon, there was no one else that deserved the credit more than herself as she claimed the Scholastic Rowing Association of America women's single gold medal, rowing to her first national championship in a single.

The University of Buffalo-bound rower finished second at the New York State Championships, but proved she was the best, rowing to the title in 6:03.19 in front of the Upper Darby entry at 6:05.77 and the Academy of Holy Names entry third at 6:07.54. Postulka earned an SRAA gold medal last year in the women's quad.

Saratoga women's eight third in the U.S.

The Saratoga women's senior eight of coxswain Emily Krison, Alexandra Torres, Caitlin Schufelt, Madison Buemer, Rachael Conway, Shannon Craig, Alyssa O'Donnell and Columbia Herzlinger finished the rows of several of their seniors with a bronze medal, placing third Saturday afternoon in the SRAA national final.

The crew finished in 5:10.14 behind Holy Spirit at 5:09.51 and gold medal winner, Mount St. Joe's in 5:06.55.

The women's eight posted the fastest time in the three semifinals, advancing to the national final in 5:07.45. Familiar rival Mount St. Joseph was a close second at 5:08.11. Five of the six boats in the final were separated by less than two seconds.

Saratoga women's second eight earns bronze

After dominating the heats and semifinals the Saratoga Rowing Association women's second eight comprised of coxswain Andrea Bambara, Courtney Krueger, Leanne Bryan, Alie Mihuta, Holly Dodge, Christina Dagle, Taylor Murray, Jamie Logan and Morgan Moore were finally bested Saturday at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The boat mowed through the first two events, but New Trier had too much for them in the national final, capturing the gold medal in 5:03.79 followed by rival Mount St. Joseph's in second at 5:04.86. The Saratoga boat rowed its way to a bronze medal in 5:08.17.

It was a determined Saratoga women's second eight that didn't leave any doubts in the semifinals. The crew rowed the fastest time in the event in

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5:20.76, the second consecutive day of posting the top time advancing to the national final. New Trier and Thomas Jefferson were second and third, respectively, at 5:21.

[Shen's junior double earns first bronze medal](#)

Shenendehowa's scullers continued to impress Saturday at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America national championship as Taryn Wilson and Rachel Boudreau earned a third-place finish in the women's junior double final in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

For the second time this year, the pair couldn't find a way to beat New York State Champion, St. John the Baptist. At the national finals, the double finished five seconds behind winner St. John the Baptist and less than half a second off from silver medal winners, Shaker Heights.

The Shen scullers placed second in the state championships behind St. John the Baptist and were third last weekend at the Stotesbury Cup.

[Reynolds takes bronze in men's single](#)

Saratoga County had two finalists in the men's single Saturday afternoon and Harvard-bound sculler, Elihu Reynolds, rowing for Queensbury earned a bronze medal with a time of 5:24.21 behind winning entries from Simcoe Composite at 5:20.06 and Pine View at 5:21.98.

He was joined in the final by Shenendehowa junior Ian Fisher who rowed his way to a sixth-place finish behind the Gibraltar Carlson entry a tenth-of-a second behind at 5:28.88.

[Shaker women's freshman eight earn silver medals](#)

Shaker's women's freshman eight of coxswain Laura Hough, Amanda Marsh, Haley Bryk, Khalela Francis, Melissa Urquhart, Erin Czupil, Michelle Li, Jillian Keating and Martina Olstad rowed their way to a silver medal on Saturday in 5:28.14. New Trier took the gold at 5:26.44 and the Bison crew held off Radnor by less than half a second in third at 5:28.56.

Shaker advanced to the national final with a second-place finish to New Trier in the semifinal. Shaker's 5:30.38 was fourth-fastest in the 12-boat semis. Radnor won the opposite semifinal in 5:27 followed by Mount St. Joes at 5:28 followed by Oak Ridge at 5:32.

[Quads row in national finals](#)

Saratoga Rowing Association had two entries in the women's senior quad national final, but both failed to come home with a medal as Saratoga's entry of Kathleen Ronayne, Katelin McGowan, Anna Card and Katelin Alexander rowed to a fourth-place finish and the Queensbury crew of

Sarah Reynolds, Katie Hughes, Laura St. Andrews and Ariel Frank finished fifth.

Episcopal captured the national title in 5:08.96 followed by McLean at 5:14.73 and Ridgewood at 5:19.77. Saratoga rowed the 1,500-meter course in 5:39.71 followed by Queensbury at 5:48.87.

Saratoga men's junior four

The Saratoga men's junior four of coxswain Emma Flynn, Jarod Backens, Wes Wander, Colin Polumbo, Chip Dooley advanced to the national final after a fast semifinal, but couldn't overcome the stiff competition, finishing fifth overall.

Manhasset won the gold medal in 5:04.123 followed by Woodbridge at 5:08.0167 and Haverford at 5:08.2067. Saratoga was fifth at 5:15.12.

In the semifinal, the SRA entry finished third, behind Haverford and Manhasset, eight seconds back. Saratoga was the sixth-fastest boat in the semifinals.

Burnt Hills misses final by tenths

In a heartbreaking semifinal, the Burnt Hills men's senior eight missed advancing to the national final by 2/100ths of a second. The BHRA entry of coxswain Matt Sammons, Ian Robison, James Flacke, Andrew Sayles, Aaron Heyde, Mike Olbrych, Zack Robbiano, Doug McErlean, Curtis Shorkey rowed the course in 4:34.24 edged out by a bow ball by New Trier at 4:34.04 and St. Augustine Prep in 4:33.82.

The Spartan's time remained fifth-fastest out of the 18 entries, but advancement is solely based on finish place, not time.

In the men's petite (secondary) final, Burnt Hills finished third in 4:39.35 behind Thomas Jefferson at 4:38.39 and petite winner, Gonzaga, at 4:35.51. Winter Park captured the national title with a time of 4:29.85.

Ballston boys make history in final

Ballston Spa's Ryan Allen and Eric Newton made their mark on the national stage, earning a fifth-place finish in the men's junior double, crossing the finish line in a videotaped tie with the Tappan Zee entry at 5:47.81.

Oak Ridge captured the national title in 5:25.80 followed Melbourne second at 5:26.96 and Riverhead third at 5:28.70.

Shen's lightweight double fifth


Shenendehowa's Jared Benway and Chris Ehler finished fifth in the nation in the men's lightweight double Saturday in their finals only contest. Ransom Everglade raced to the title in 5:17.03 followed by Malvern Prep in 5:21.77 and Great Bridge in 5:36.

Shen senior double sixth

Shenendehowa's senior double of Peter Lyden and Murtaza Zavery advanced to the SRAA national final, rowing out their senior season with a sixth-place finish in 5:38.11. Southgate Anderson raced their way to the title in 5:07.51, holding off Haverford at 5:08.97.

Shen senior four fifth

The Shenendehowa women's senior four of coxswain Victoria Allers, Jenn McKay, Kirsten Jesaitis, Lauren Beyer and Mandi Labbe had a disappointing semifinal, finishing in fifth-place in 6:02.08. St. Ignatius won the event in 5:45 followed by Woodbridge in 5:51 and McLean third at 5:52. The group advanced to the women's senior four third final, capturing the event in 5:44.04.

POSTED BY STAN HUDY AT 8:34 PM 

LABELS: BALLSTON SPA, BURNT HILLS, CREW, ROWING, SHEN, SRA, SRAA

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