

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.

DIARY OF A MAD SPORTSWRITER

Shen, South High,
Mechanicville tops in
softball playoffs

11 new Saratoga Phillies
ready for CWS

Saratoga County claims
seven national rowing
titles

Ballston Spa's Martin and
Venerus earn first-ever
title

Queensbury's Reynolds
third in men's single at
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 marching towards national rowing titles

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee - While the weather was warm in Oak Ridge, Tennessee for the first day of rowing at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America national championship regatta, the entries from Section II proved to be even hotter.



Fourteen different boats advanced to today's national semifinals including defending New York State Champions the Saratoga Rowing Association's women's senior eight and the Burnt Hills Rowing Association men's senior eight.

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 earned a rest, advancing directly out of the heats and into the semifinals with a first-place row in their heat in 5:02.61. The time was the fastest overall out of the 27-boats entered.

The Burnt Hills senior men's eight continue to impress, capturing its heat in 4:28.39. Coxswain Matt Sammons, Ian Robison, James Flacke, Andrew Sayles, Aaron Heyde, Mike Olbrych, Zack Robbiano, Doug McErlean, Curtis Shorkey rowed the fourth-fastest time out of the 28 entries, beat out by Winter Park in the first heat by tenths-of-a-second.

"The plan was to go out and win," Burnt Hills varsity boys coach Mike Meier said. "We treated this like it was the final at states, all or nothing." "We were behind by a boat length and they kept their heads in it," Meier

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SRA's 2nd women's
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nation

Shen's Wilson and
Boudreau third in
nation at SRAA...

Knight and Boudreau
National Rowing
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Saratoga marching
towards national
rowing titles

SRAAs 2008 locals
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said. "From 1,100-meters on they were able to get up on LaSalle and open it up by four seconds."

The Burnt Hills women's senior eight of coxswain Alanna Guay, Kate Halbig, Joanna Smith, Katie Fogg, Jackie Esperti, Victoria Catherine, Amanda Primett, Jesse Burdett and Kelsey Piel were forced to row twice in the Tennessee heat.

The crew finished fourth in its original heat contest at 5:18.04 five seconds behind heat winner, TC Williams.

Late in the afternoon the group was back on the water in the repechage final or secondary final, finishing in fifth-place in a fast race, just five seconds behind the event winner, Robinson.

"It's warm," Meier said. "It was cloudy for most of the morning and then at midday the sun came out and it started to bake everything and started to get more humid. I'm dreading any boat that has to go back out there this afternoon."

The Saratoga men's senior four of coxswain Reeves Courtne, Jon Sutton, Adam Jaouad, Peter Snyder and Sebastian Wheeler earned a second row on Friday, advancing out of the heat with a fourth-place time of 5:15.53. St. John's Jesuit won the same heat in 5:00.76, the fastest time overall.

The group was challenged again in the afternoon, rowing to a fourth-place finish in the repechage in 5:20.98, failing to advance to today's semifinals.

Saratoga County's newest crew, Ballston Spa continued to impress as both doubles advanced to today's national championship final.

Ballston Spa rowers, Ryan Allen and Eric Newton advanced to the men's junior double final with a second-place finish in 5:12.50 behind first-place Haverford at 5:11.39.

The duo will be challenged by three boats from the opposite heat who all rowed 5:05 or faster.

Ballston Spa's senior double of Sarah Martin and Meredith Venerus became the second Scotties boat ever to advance to an SRAA national final winning their heat in 5:41.60, the fastest time in the two heats overall. They will face-off against Parkersburg, the opposite heat winner in 5:43.16 and Strath Haven in 5:57.23.

Saratoga's senior double failed to advance, finishing fourth in the second heat with a time of 6:24.15.

Friends of Shenendehowa Crew, Inc. senior Jackie Postulka, advanced to the national final to open Friday's racing. She covered the 1,500-meter

[Rowing States -
Titles and entries
on the line](#)

course in 5:59.30, but will face heavy competition from the second heat rowers where all three qualifiers rowed under 5:40.

[NYS Rowing
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Saratoga County could see two medal winners in the men's senior single as Elihu Reynolds from Queensbury and Shen's Ian Fisher both advanced to the national final.

[Rain takes out
tonight's racing
card](#)

Both were originally scheduled to row in opposite heats, but a scratch put them together and Reynolds winning time of 5:16.04 pushed Fisher to a close second at 5:22.45. The top two times in the remaining heat qualifiers came in from Simcoe Composite at 5:23 and Gibraltar Carlson at 5:24.

[Lauer turns green to
black this week](#)

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Shen's junior double of Taryn Wilson and Rachel Boudreau won their heat and advanced to the final in 5:46.99, six seconds ahead of Shaker Heights. They'll face heat two winner St. John the Baptist who cruised through at 5:37 and West Chester East in second at 5:45.

[▶ March \(80\)](#)

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The Shenendehowa pair of Jared Benway and Chris Ehler advanced to the men's lightweight double final with a second-place finish in their heat in 5:19.54 behind Ransom Everglades in 5:07.58. Malvern Prep captured the opposite heat in 5:02.33 followed by Great Bridges in 5:08.66.

[▶ 2006 \(11\)](#)

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Shenendehowa senior men's double of Peter Lyden and Murtaza Zavery advanced to the national final with a third-place finish in their heat in 5:22.10. The national final will be fast as opposite heat winner, Southgate Anderson was the first crew to break the five-minute mark in 4:53.74. Haverford was second at 4:54.25 and Cincinnati Country Day School third at 5:20.81, all faster times.

Saratoga's freshman eight of coxswain Rae Backens, Caroline Blackington, Mia Jeffreys, Lizzy Fitzhenry, Chelsea Brown, Thora Olsen, Kat O'Donnell, Sierra Monroe and Isabel Price failed to advance out of the fourth heat. Their time of 5:44.11 was three seconds behind third-place qualifier Winter Park and would have been fast enough in the two previous heats to qualify.

Shaker's freshman eight of coxswain Laura Hough, Amanda Marsh, Haley Bryk, Khalela Francis, Melissa Urquhart, Erin Czupil, Michelle Li, Jillian Keating and Martina Olstad won their heat in 5:34.89 advancing to the semifinals with the second-fastest time of the four winners.

Saratoga's freshman eight of coxswain Brian Shepherd, Tom Schwartz, Luke O'Brien, Justin Fabian, Andrew Alexander, Colin Magoolaghan, Alex Wakeman, David Peters and Brendan Snyder failed to advance out of the heats, finishing fifth with a time of 5:14.32. Their time would not have

advanced them out of the other three heats.

Saratoga's junior four of coxswain Emma Flynn, Jarod Backens, Wes Wander, Colin Pumbo, Chip Dooley advanced to the semifinal with a second-place finish in 5:17.92 behind Woodbridge at 5:13.44. The SRA time was fifth-fastest in the heats overall.

The SRA's women's second eight of coxswain Andrea Bambara, Courtney Krueger, Leanne Bryan, Alie Mihuta, Holly Dodge, Christina Dagle, Taylor Murray, Jamie Logan and Morgan Moore weren't going to be denied, advancing to the semifinals with the third-fastest time overall in their heats with a 5:15.18. They were second to Mount Saint Joseph in their heat at 5:12.79.

The Burnt Hills Rowing Association men's second eight entry of coxswain Tim Szablewski, Bryan Murray, Quinn Leahy, Mike Young, Cameron Heyde, Aaron Pape, Tyler Bachand, Zeb Johnston and Jordan Adey failed to advance out of their heat, finishing fifth in 4:49.95. New York State champion, Chaminade won the heat with the fastest overall time of 4:38.07.

The Shenendehowa women's senior four of coxswain Victoria Allers, Jenn McKay, Kirsten Jesaitis, Lauren Beyer and Mandi Labbe advanced to the national semifinals with a third-place finish in their heat in 5:58.48. Woodbridge took the same heat in 5:49.32 with Ocean City claiming the fastest time overall in 5:37.99.

The Shaker women's senior eight of coxswain Bridget Hilton, Christie Chenot, Stephanie June, Shannon Rivenburg, Amanda Urquhart, Jess Niles, Anna Colquhoun, Patricia Shen and Madison Brannigan will row again today in the repechage, posting a fifth-place time of 5:20.66 in their heat.


The Saratoga men's lightweight four of coxswain Tom Corona, Jeff Schumann, Ben Torpey, Matt Schwartz and Greg Lewis found themselves in a fast heat, finishing in fourth place in 5:22.15 with E.L. Crossley winning the heat in 5:11.67.

The SRA time was 10th overall out of the 20 boats entered, but not fast enough to advance to the national final.

"They're really small even for a lightweight four," Saratoga varsity boys coach Keith Alber said about the 150-pound maximum category. "They're rowing in the 145-pound category in Canada. They row well, they're just out-manned."

The Saratoga women's lightweight boat of coxswain Kiki Hines, Kristen Fay, Margot Albrezzi, Julianna Wakeman, Madison Townley, Emily LaFalce, Hannah Blackington, Chantal Jean and Kara Lucia failed to advance out of the heat, finishing in fifth-place at 5:47.32.

Rowing continues today at 9 a.m. with semifinals followed by finals set to begin at 1 p.m.

POSTED BY STAN HUDY AT 1:23 PM 

LABELS: BURNT HILLS, CREW, ROWING, SARATOGA, SHEN, SRA, SRAA

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