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Friday, May 23, 2008

Posted on Sat, May 3, 2008

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Section II Rowing: Streaks, Plainsmen strong on the Mohawk

By STAN HUDY, The Saratogian

REXFORD — The first day of the Section II rowing championships hosted by Niskayuna on the Mohawk River saw Saratoga and **Shenendehowa** each claim three sculling titles.

The Saratoga Rowing Association claimed Section II titles in the girls second novice/freshman double, novice/freshman quad and Noah Levine in the boys novice/freshman single. **The Friends of Shenendehowa Crew, Inc. winners included the girls varsity double, the boys second varsity double and Jackie Postulka in the girls single.**

"I really like racing the single, but I hate training in it," the University of Buffalo-bound Postulka said. "I'll race it again next week (New York State Championships) and at Stotesbury."

The Shenendehowa senior made quick work of her competition in the 1,500-meter sprint race down the Mohawk, rowing her way to a time of seven minutes, 37.04 seconds, 58 seconds ahead of her closest competitor.

Saratoga's Noah Levine rowed his way to a first-place finish over Shenendehowa's Patrick Ballantyne by a 21 second margin. Advertisement

The men's varsity single set the stage for next week's New York State Championship on Fish Creek in Saratoga as Shaker's Austin Meyer, Queensbury's Elihu Reynolds and Shaker High's Tom Nesel were separated by six seconds across the finish line.

The women's varsity quad also provided some drama as the day's final contest with Mohawk Homeschool, Niskayuna and Saratoga coming across the finish line within five seconds of each other.

"We were fourth for awhile and then pulled even, then ahead," Saratoga's Amanda Shaffer said. "We pulled ahead, but Niskayuna had a great sprint and pulled ahead of us."

The Saratoga quad was pulled together this week, taking four sweep rowers out of the girls third varsity eight and put them together for Friday's event.

"The first time we rowed together was Wednesday," Saratoga's Katelyn McGowan said. "I felt everyone gave it their all, I just hope to do better tomorrow."

Shenendehowa's double of Chris Ehler and Jared Benway had a strong row, winning by 27 seconds in the boys second varsity event.

"We went hard off the start," Benway said. "Our sprint was the best part, we just took off."

The single, double and quad events were contested on Friday afternoon with the sweep events with coxswain set for today on the Mohawk River.

Saturday's schedule is split with the freshman eights going off at 10:30 a.m. followed by a break to allow rowers to arrive after the SATs. Rowing starts again at 2:15 p.m. for the remaining sweep events.

SECTION II ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day one competition

Boys novice/freshman 1x

1. Noah Levine (Saratoga), 7:35.03. **2. Pat Ballantyne (Shenendehowa), 7:56.03.**

Boys varsity 1x

1. Austin Meyer (Shaker), 6:08.09. 2. Elihu Reynolds (Queensbury), 6:09.59. 3. Tom Nesel (Shaker), 6:14.39. **4. Ian Fisher (Shenendehowa), 6:23.15.** 5. Will Schrade (Albany Rowing Center), 6:37.81. 6. Aiden Stein (Saratoga), 7:10.82.

Boys first varsity 2x

1. Albany Rowing Center, 6:04.80. 2. Saratoga Rowing, 6:13.20. **3. Shenendehowa, 6:16.40.** 4. Saratoga – A, 6:26.70. 5. Niskayuna, 6:29.10. 6. Mohawk Homeschool, 6:52.20.

Boys second varsity 2x

1. Shenendehowa – B, 6:08.07. 2. Niskayuna – B, 6:35.98. 3. Saratoga – B, 7:34.60.

Boys novice/freshman 2x

1. Niskayuna, 6:30.16. **2. Shenendehowa, 6:35.43.** 3. Shaker, 6:35.59. 4. Ballston Spa, 6:36.61.

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Boys novice/freshman 4x

1. Niskayuna – A, 6:10.06. 2. Mohawk Homeschool, 6:11.00. 3. Burnt Hills, 6:30.07.
4. Albany Rowing Center, 6:45.03. 5. Niskayuna – B, 7:34.02. 6. Niskayuna – C,
7:46.08.

Boys varsity 4x

1. Albany Rowing Center, 5:45.62. 2. Mohawk Homeschool, 5:48.13. 3. Niskayuna,
6:07.76.

Girls novice/freshman 1x

1. Rachel Davis (Mohawk), 8:28.04. 2. Janae Vanderpoel (Duanesburg), 9:19.09.

Girls varsity 1x

1. Jackie Postulka (Shenendehowa), 7:37.04. 2. Rebecca Lucas (Mohawk), 8:35.02.
3. Megan Sweeney (Niskayuna), 8:04.01. 4. T. Halterman (Albany Rowing),
8:14.01.

Girls first novice/freshman 2x

1. Emma Willard, 7:31.01. 2. Burnt Hills, 7:33.05. 3. Mohawk Homeschool, 7:46.05.
4. Saratoga – C, 7:50.09. 5. Niskayuna, 8:10.09.

Girls second novice/freshman 2x

1. Saratoga – B, 7:40.05. 2. Saratoga – A, 8:25.05. 3. Niskayuna – B, 10:02.04.

Girls varsity 2x

1. Shenendehowa, 7:10.82. 2. Albany Rowing Center – A, 6:37.09. 3. Ballston Spa,
6:59.93. 4. Saratoga – B, 7:04.71. 5. Shenendehowa – B, 7:06.25.

Girls novice/freshman 4x

1. Saratoga – B, 6:49.06. 2. Saratoga – A, 6:55.06. 3. Albany Rowing Center,
7:11.00. 4. Niskayuna, 7:34.01.

Girls varsity 4x

1. Mohawk Homeschool, 6:22.75. 2. Niskayuna, 6:26.14. 3. Saratoga, 6:27.71. 4.
Queensbury, 6:32.44. 5. Emma Willard, 6:57.32.

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