



West Side Story

Summer 2022

www.wsrc.org

Published for the benefit of those who are interested in the activities at the West Side Rowing Club.

A Look Back at Summer Racing

The summer season was full of great racing! Although it was a bit shorter of a season in terms of total regattas, West Side competed well at all three it attended. First was the 108th West Side Invitational, held every summer on the Black Rock Canal. This year the Club welcomed teams from Rochester, St. Catharines, and Pittsburgh. Highlights include the U19 Men coming 1st in the 8+ and 4+ ahead of St. Catharines in both. The U23 men also won gold in the Open 2-. On the women's side every program had good racing. The U19 Women came top 2 in the 8+, and top three in the 4+. The U17 women won the 8+ and came in 2nd and 3rd in the 4+. The U23 women won the 8+ by 3 seconds against Flower City from Rochester, NY, as well as winning the 4+. The WSRC Masters raced well, winning the Masters Men's 4+ and the Masters Men's 2x. West Side achieved the highest overall points of any other team and captured the Friendship Cup Points Trophy. For a full list of results [click here](#).



Next up the teams headed across the border to Welland, Ontario for this year's ROWOntario Championships. It was the first time West Side had competed in Canada since before the pandemic, and it was great to see our Canadian neighbors and race together again. The span of competitive teams increased at this race and crews were looking forward at the chance of racing different programs in preparation for Canadian Henley. This year's regatta had a total of 504 entries from 30 teams, 28 of those entries being from WSRC. Each crew that raced, came off the water having rowed a total of 8,000 meters. Boats rowed 4000m up to the starting line, raced 2000m, and then cooled down back to the dock for an additional 2000m. Athletes also doubled into multiple races, which made for great training

and tired rowers after the day was done. All those meters were worth it as West Side was able to bring medals back home in multiple events.

The women's teams had success in both the U17 and U19 levels. The U17 women had all three 8+s make it to the final, with the A boat winning the race in a time of 7:04.3, 4 seconds in front of a charging St. Catharines boat. The U19 women raced in the 8+ the first day, which ended up being a final only race. Both West Side boats medaled, with the A boat winning gold in a time of 7:01.6 ahead of Argonaut's 8+. The U19 B boat earned bronze in a time of 7:16.9. On Sunday, the U19 women had all three of its 4+s make the final with its top two boats coming in 1st and 3rd. The top 4+ won in a time of 7:33, 10 seconds ahead of St. Catharines, who came in 2nd.



The men's teams had equal success in the U17, U19, and U23 categories. The U17 8+ earned a bronze medal in its race, getting edged out of a silver by only 3 seconds to St. Catharines. The men's top two U19 fours raced well in the heats with the A boat having the fastest time into the final. Both boats came 2nd and 3rd in the final race behind Notre Dame RC. Also on Saturday, two of the U23 men raced up into the Senior Men's 72.5kg 2-. Both raced well, earning themselves a silver medal behind Western



Ontario. On Sunday, in a final only showdown, the U19 men won the 8+ in a time of 6:14.3, 7 seconds in front of Notre Dame RC. Also on Sunday, the U23 men raced in the senior 4- in one of the most exciting races of the day. Late in the competition the 4- took the rate up headed into the last 600m of the race to charge past Western Ontario and earn a silver medal! The U23 and U19 men also teamed up to row the Senior men's 8+ which came down to the wire with the boat not being able to catch St. Catharines by the finish line. The men earned a silver medal by 1.3 seconds.

Crews then headed back over the border to train for a week on the canal before going up to Canadian Henley.

Henley Gold

West Side teams struck Henley gold in three events this summer! On the Tuesday of Henley week the U17 Women were set to race in the heats of the U17 8+ against 5 other boats with the top three places from both heats moving on to the final. The first 8+ raced well out of lane 7 to place 1st in



their heat and have the second fastest time going into the final, only behind St. Catharines by 2.7 seconds! The final was the last race of the day on a stormy Thursday afternoon. Originally delayed due to thunder, the 8+ finally made its way to the starting line after an hour delay from the original time. After a shaky start off the stake boat the 8+ had a strong push into the 1000m mark. The boat was able to hold off a strong move by St. Catharines coming through the halfway point of the race and then built momentum going into the last 500m. After a strong sprint to gain separation from the field, the women crossed the finish line first in a time of 6:56.9, 6 seconds ahead of the charging St. Catharines 8+! The boat consisted of coxswain Anna McCarthy (Nardin), Madeline Bronson (Mount St. Mary), Grace Kucinski (West Side), Elyse Spencer (Nardin), Melia Maussner (City

Honors), Lucy Rados (Nardin), Clare Greeley (Nichols), Eleanor Bares (Nichols), and Alexandra Adams (Nardin). In a great show of sportsmanship, the St. Catharines 8+ waited on land to congratulate the women from West Side and shake their hands after a great 2 days of competition. Congratulations go to the 8+ and their coaches, Keenan Gibbons, Emma Vicaretti, and Ken Gibbons! "We are exceptionally proud of the girls' performance. This result reflects the efforts, resilience, and racing spirit of not only the eight girls in the boat, but the entire team this summer", said Keenan.



On the men's side of racing, the U23 Lightweight 2- of Patrick Reilly (West Side) and Sebastian Gwitt (Fordham/SJCI) had been rowing the boat throughout the summer and were ready to see where they stacked up to their competition at Canadian Henley. Both athletes had to be 72.5kg in order to qualify as lightweight athletes, and needed to weigh in before every race. The pair had to have one of the top three fastest times in their heat to earn a spot in the final and did just that on Saturday. They raced well from start to finish and had the top time of 6:53.5, but had a few other boats that also qualified within a few seconds of their time (St. Catharines, Western Ontario, and Bare Hill). Sunday's final proved to be a good one, with close racing the entire distance. The West Side men lead the entire race, but had a late push from Bare

Hill who drew even with 150m left to the finish line. Not ones to panic, the pair brought the rate up and countered to edge out Bare Hill by just 1.6 seconds, winning gold in a time of 6:50.1. Congratulations to the pair and their coaches, Matt Cosmann and Julien Green!



Maddy Eberhard also returned to Henley this year to race both the PR2 Women's 1x and the PR2 1x Dash race, winning both events for a second time! Eberhard recently competed at the inaugural Para Ice Hockey Women's World Challenge, where she and the rest of the US Women's Development team went undefeated in the 4 game series to win gold. West Side is proud of her accomplishments, both on the ice and on the water!

Summer Award Winners

As is WS tradition, the Steak Roast happened the Monday after Henley, signaling the end of the season. After the food was prepared, awards were handed out to this year's recipients. Congratulations on a great summer season to the award winners listed below!



Broderick Plate: Sebastian Gwitt

Melissa Hale Spencer Plate: Kiki Greeley

Irv Truebel Award: Sam Prelewicz

Mary Kane Award: Brianna Gfroerer

Schaab Award: Kyan Chase

Cotter Award: Lauren Bauer

Officers Awards: Patrick Reilly, Natalie Hesch, Tori Runckel, Kaitlin Zajac, Charles Watroba, Anthony DePinto, and Chris Zilliox

Andrew Mangan

This September para-rower, Andrew Mangan, and coach, Sasha Bailey, are headed across the Atlantic to the 2022 World Rowing Championships, which are being held this year in Racice, Czech Republic. Andrew will be representing team USA in the PR1 Men's 1x, and will be racing September 18th-25th. This will be Mangan's first time competing in international racing, with his ultimate goal being to represent team USA at the 2024 Paralympics. Andrew is originally from Western New York and divides his time training



between West Side Rowing Club and Bair Island Aquatic Center in California, where he attends Stanford University. **To learn more about Andrew's journey forward and to help support his efforts please [click here](#).** West Side wishes Andrew and Coach Bailey the best of luck racing abroad this September! Live racing will be broadcast on worldrowing.com!

Alumni Shoutout

West Side Alum, Elena Collier-Hezel (second from left), recently competed for the U23 US National team in the coxed four at U23 World Championships, held this year in Varese, Italy. The 4+ started the final in fourth, but quickly moved into second by the 1000m mark. With Australia leading the field, the U.S. continued to lead the Italian crew into the last quarter of the race. Collier-Hezel's boat finished third overall, winning a bronze medal in a time of 6:48.35 behind Australia and Italy! Elena currently rows for the University of Washington.



Other West Side alumni coaching at the upcoming World Championship:

Tom Terhaar – Men's Eight

Skip Kielt – Men's Pair

Sasha Bailey – Men's PR1 Single

Upcoming Regattas

The start of Fall means head racing is fast approaching! Below is our list of upcoming regattas and events for the Fall season.

Head of the Welland – Saturday, September 24th (Welland, Ontario)

Head of the Ohio – Saturday October 1st – Sunday October 2nd (Pittsburgh, Ohio)

Head of the Genesee – Saturday, October 8th – Sunday, October 9th (Rochester, New York)

Head of the Niagara – Sunday, October 16th (Buffalo, New York)

Head of the Charles – Friday, October 21st – Sunday, October 23rd (Boston, Massachusetts)

Head of the Schuylkill – Saturday, October 29th – Sunday, October 30th (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Hogan Fries Novice Regatta – Saturday, November 5th (Buffalo, New York)

Rental of FLWBH

Planning an event and deciding where to host it? The Fontana Boathouse is ideal for everything from a rehearsal dinner, to a wedding ceremony/reception, to corporate event! If you, or someone you

know, is interested in hosting an event at the Boathouse head to www.wrightsboathouse.org for further details, or contact Cyndi D'Avignon at cdavignon@brookwoodhospitality.com!

Get in Touch and Get Involved

WSRC is always looking to welcome more of our alumni to get back involved in the sport! If you, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering or coaching, please reach out to Ian Suchan, at ian@wsrc.org.

WSRC Officers

Chairman of the Board – Bill Maggio
Vice Chairman of Buildings and Grounds – Joe Rozbicki
Vice Chairwoman of Rowing – Aileen McNamara
Vice Chairwoman of Operations – Hannah Blum
Secretary – Leonore Olmsted
Financial Secretary – Bill Covelli
Treasurer – Mike Fay

WSRC Staff

President – Kirk Lang
Director of Operations – Miles Schwartz
Director of Community Outreach and Administration – Ian Suchan
WSRC Head Coach – Sasha Bailey



U17 Women's 8+ after winning Canadian Henley