

**Greenwich Crew – Saratoga Invitational
Saturday & Sunday, April 24th and 25th**

PRESS RELEASE

Greenwich Crew took second place in the team competition this past weekend at the Saratoga Invitational in Saratoga Springs, NY, bested only by their hosts. The event which spanned two days and saw over 700 entries from 42 teams and really gave Greenwich Crew athletes a chance to test themselves against strong crews from Community Rowing Inc.(CRI), Saratoga Rowing Assoc., Connecticut Boat Club and numerous other clubs and high schools. “The whole program rowed well this weekend,” said Ashlee Branan, Director of Rowing. “Many of our boats brought home medals and those that didn’t were just seconds away.”

Greenwich Crew medaled in 18 different events with 5 of those medals being gold. The Men’s Quad of Greg Riddell, Alex Buck, Palmer Foote and Matt Lonski kicked off the medal run taking second place in their race in front of Saratoga and Sagamore, beaten out by only River Rowing. “The boat rowed well despite hitting a buoy around the 500 meter mark,” said Head Men’s Coach Chris Ives. The Men’s Junior 8+ brought home the first gold medal of the weekend besting crews from Burnt Hills and Manhasset. The boat consisted of Liz Miller, Juan Cespedes, Felix Dotsman, Jason Blom, Nick Eckholm, Christian Meskers, Tucker Risman, Timmy Wyle and Bobby Shantz. The Men’s 3V 8+ of Tyler Day, Timmy Wyle, Tucker Risman, Derik Norrgard, Justin Burke, Clark Johnson, Carl Ackerman, Christian Meskers and Tyler Allen followed up with their own silver medal.

With a successful first day in the books Greenwich Crew turned its sites to Sunday when its strong freshmen squad would be joining the competition. The weather forecast was for rain and cold but Sunday morning brought dry weather and even some sun. Seniors Matt Lonski and Kirsten Lunder kicked off the day in the Men’s and Women’s 1x races. Lonski edged out competition in the Men’s 1x from Saratoga by six tenths of a second to take the gold medal. “Matt has been training hard, putting in extra work during his free time and it’s great to see his dedication pay off,” said Ives. Lunder faced stiff competition herself in the Women’s 1x, taking the bronze medal behind individuals from CRI and Sagamore. Marko Serfimovski, Head Women’s Coach noted “Kirsten is a strong leader on our team, she really leads by example. Her success is due to countless hours of hard work.”

The medals continued to come in all day with impressive rows by all boats. The Men’s Novice 8+ of Sam Savitz, John Oswald, Chris Warner, Oliver Moore, Max Meyer, Vaughn Merrick, Herbie Marache, Wolf Hofer and Will Cecio took 2nd place in their heat and 3rd place overall with a time of 5:02.77 finishing just behind crews from Norwalk and Essex. The Men’s 4x of Riddell, Buck, Foote and Lonski took second again, proving their stamina in a repeat performance. The most exciting race of the day for Greenwich came from the Men’s Freshman 8+. Dueling it out the whole way down the race course, Greenwich could not shake the crew from Burnt Hills. The last 300 meters saw the crews neck and neck, neither willing to give up a seat. As the boats passed in front of the crowd assembled on the shoreline the Greenwich boys dug deep and found that next gear pulling in front of Burnt Hills to win by just over a second. The boat consisted of Sam Savitz, Trevor Frey, August Allocco, Herbie Marache, Rich Caputo, Oliver Grueterich, Chris Warner, John Oswald and Lucas Colagrossi. “We have a very competitive

freshmen men's team this year with a lot of depth. This win can be attributed to all of the guys on the team who push each other everyday during practice," said Marko Serafimovski, Head Freshmen Men's Coach.

Senior captains Riddell and Lonski capped off the day taking second place in the Men's 2x race just behind the first boat from Saratoga. It was again a close race with both boats fighting till the finish with Saratoga squeezing by in the last second.

Greenwich Crew capitalized on its hard work and depth to put on a great showing in Saratoga. The team will now bear down as the freshmen compete in the St. Luke's Invitational on Sunday, May 2nd and the full team competes at Glastonbury on Saturday, May 8th. These two regattas will be a lead-in to the Northeast District Championship Regatta where Greenwich Crew hopes to have another successful showing and qualify its best crews for the US Rowing Youth National Championship.