

## *Norwalk Rowing Boys and Girls Bring home the Hardware*

This past weekend the NRRRA Boys and Girls travelled to upstate New York to take one step closer to qualifying for the USRowing National Championships at the Saratoga Invitational.

Saturday brought beautiful weather and exciting racing as the Norwalk Rowing Novice Boys Eight, rowed by Tucker Klutey (Ridgefield HS), Charlie Stout (Darien HS), Kyle Mikesch (Staples HS), Trey Chapman (Ridgefield HS), John Massari (Wilton HS), Brad Plunkett (Darien HS), Joe Torg (Wilton HS), Chris Barr (Brien McMahon HS), Mike Weaver (Middlesex MS) and struck gold with NRRRA's first medal for the day. With last week's regatta cancelled due to wind, this was the first time down the race course for these guys and all the practice paid off.

Second on the medal count was the Girl's Novice Four of Anastasia Livesay (Wilton HS), Caroline Demko (Brien McMahon HS), Alex Stonehill (Brien McMahon HS), Kylie O'Connor (Wilton HS) and Adrianna Marino (Norwalk HS) with a Bronze medal performance.

The last medal of the day was won in the Boy's Varsity Four. Anchored by the 2009 National Championship pair of AJ O'Mahoney (Wilton HS) and Patrick Doty (Ridgefield HS), the crew was rounded out by senior Will Roberston (Wilton HS), Matt Koenigsberg (Wilton HS) and Francesco Criscuolo (Darien HS).

Sunday dawned with the threat of rain that never materialized! Hopes lifted as the sun stayed out and more medals started flowing in. The first came from the Boys Lightweight Varsity Eight, rowed by Ben Stout (Wilton HS), Parker Lange (Darien HS), Matt LaMonte (Wilton HS), Lane Brokaw (Darien HS), Evan Boliakis (homeschool), Kyle LaVecchia (Darien HS), Sam Oster (AITE), and Matt Stout (Wilton HS). In one of the most exciting races of the day, a furious sprint in the last 300 meters brought the guys within 1.06 seconds of the gold medal!

Five minutes later, the Girls Junior Varsity Four of Anastasia Livesay (Wilton HS), Caroline Demko (Brien McMahon HS), Alex Stonehill (Brien McMahon HS), Kylie O'Connor (Wilton HS) and Adrianna Marino (Norwalk HS) came down the course in a solid 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Norwalk Rowing's 2<sup>nd</sup> Silver medal, their second medal on the weekend.

The excitement in the NRRRA fans kept rising as the Novice Girls Eight, rowed by Caroline Arnold (Middlebrook MS), Maggie Roberts (Wilton HS), Claudia Tomaj (AITE), Megan Mahoney (Trumbull HS), Madeleine Apuzzo (Wilton HS), Siobhan Deacy (Wilton HS), Julia Barr (Brien McMahon HS), Brenna Gilhooley (Darien HS), Nathalie Hopewell (Ridgefield HS), finished in another barn burner, winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Silver Medal on the day, only 1.1 seconds out of the Gold.

The next race down the course was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice Boys Eight of Ryan Lewis (Wilton HS), Adam Worrell (Foundation HS), Alex Garrison (AITE), Matt Carney (Wilton HS), James Griffiths (Darien HS), Alex Nicoll (Wilton HS), Ben Quantock (Wilton HS), Willem Taverna (Wilton HS), John Thacker (Darien HS), and Tristan Haas (Wilton HS). As the boys rowed down the course at 33 strokes a minute, another Silver

medal was added to the pile of hardware. That was the 4<sup>th</sup> medal out of 5 races entered and it was just 10am!

Finally the Silver Sunday hex was broken as the 1<sup>st</sup> Novice Boys Eight raced the 1500 meters ahead of the pack. With a time of 4:55.60, the Novices added a second Gold medal to the one they won on Saturday!

A final total of 2 Gold medals, 4 Silver medals and 2 Bronze medals made the weekend a great way to spend 2 beautiful days on the side of a lake.

The team has one more race against Mercer Juniors in preparation for the USRowing Northeast Regional Championships where they'll be looking to qualify again for the USRowing National Championships.

The Norwalk River Rowing Association is the only non-profit rowing club in Fairfield County providing rowing for all ages of kids and adults. For information on youth outreach programs, recreational or competitive rowing go to [www.norwalkriverrowing.org](http://www.norwalkriverrowing.org).