

Newport Aquatic Center Junior Men's Crew 2008-2009 Season-in-Review

For the boys of the Newport Aquatic Center's Junior Men's Crew, the '08/'09 season has been one filled with success. As the team began in September, the boys rowed mixed boats with varsity and novice oarsmen learning and competing together. This helped reinforce good technical fundamentals, accelerated the novices' understanding of rowing, and kept things interesting but not too intense. Rather than attend the Head of The Charles for a third year in a row, the crew elected to travel to several head races across California and competed in The Head of the American in Sacramento and the Head of the Lagoon in Foster City as well as our home regatta, the Newport Autumn Rowing Festival. The eights raced mostly as mixed boats and finished highly in all their races, but priority boating was given to the fours and singles for Fall racing which paid off as the varsity fours finished first and second at N.A.R.F. and Head of the Lagoon and A.J. Brooks and Alex Burjakowsky won the singles events at N.A.R.F. and Head of the Lagoon respectively.

As the Spring season now comes to its conclusion, the small boat success of the Fall has translated into dominating performances across all of the events at the team's regattas so far. Racing began in February with the first of the Southern California Cup League races in which the NAC boy's won 12 of 15 events and then again in March managed the same feat, taking home the Men's team point trophy as well as securing the overall team point's trophy. The Newport boys then travelled to the Bay Area twice in March, once for a race on Lake Merced against Los Gatos, Pacific Rowing Club, Marin, and River City Rowing Club in which the Varsity 8 won all of their races. The next trip took the team to the PAC-10 Challenge in Redwood City where the Varsity and Lightweight 8's both went undefeated in duels with Marin, Los Gatos, Berkeley High School, and Saint Ignatius High School. This proved to be great preparation for the San Diego Crew Classic the following weekend in which all boats made their Grand Finals and the Lightweight and Varsity 8's won! With that win in San Diego, Newport is now one of only 3 other teams (Green Lake, Marin, and Oakland Strokes) ever to win the Men's Junior event back to back and one of the only teams to bring home more than one trophy from the weekend. The regular racing season concluded with a duel in Sacramento against Capital Crew where once again, NAC showed its strength across every event winning or finishing one-two in all but one race. Finally, at the Southwest Junior Regional Championships the NAC swept all the varsity 8's, won the varsity four, novice four, quad, and second novice 8 and medaled in the lightweight four, varsity double, and freshman four. All of these victories were capped off by winning the overall Team Points Trophy, "*easily!*" The Varsity 8 and Lightweight 8 are now preparing to compete for and defend their National Championship in Cincinnati in June.

I would like to congratulate all the oarsmen of the Newport Aquatic Center's Jr. Crew for all of your hard work and dedication which has made this by far, the most successful season in our program's history. I am extremely proud of all that each of you has accomplished so far and I look forward to seeing your continued success on and off the water at the NAC and beyond. Finally, to all the varsity seniors; it has been an honor guiding you through this tremendous season and I wish you the best of luck in all your future pursuits—I am excited to see how each of you will amaze me next!

Sincerely,

Nick D'Antoni
Boy's Head Coach