



STANFORD ATHLETICS

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MEN'S ROWING RECAP

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Date: June 2, 2007

*Stanford and Harvard tie for second just six-tenths of a second behind winner Washington

Stanford Records Highest Finish Ever With Silver At IRA Grand Final

Camden, N.J. – The Stanford men's varsity eight boat tied for second Saturday in the Grand Final of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championship on the Cooper River to record the highest finish in school history. Stanford's time of 5:34.125 equaled Harvard's showing as both clubs were just six-tenths of a second behind winner Washington (5:33.165) in a dramatic race. Brown (5:34.981), California (5:40.126) and Princeton (5:43.419) were the other boats competing in the event.

The showings by Stanford and Harvard were the closest any crew got to the undefeated Huskies all year.

"They attacked the Grand Final as if they'd been there many times before when in fact it was the first grand final in school history," said head men's coach Craig Amerkhanian.

Harvard and Washington traded the lead early with Brown surging as Stanford kept pace in Lane 1. Stanford was nearly a full boat length back from Washington at the halfway point. The Cardinal had a tremendous last 1000 meters with a hard charge in the sprint in quest of an IRA Championship.

Stanford's silver medal winning varsity eight lineup included Kevin Baum, Dave Creighton, Ottavio Siani, Alex Osborne, Mark Murphy, Donny Simkin, Nate Rooks, Silas Stafford and coxswain Ariel Dixon.

"Stanford will always be indebted to the senior leadership of Justin Brown, Nate Rooks, Kevin Baum and Donny Simkin," Amerkhanian added. "They changed the culture of Stanford Rowing during their four years here."

"When I got to Stanford the varsity men finished 17th in the country, near the bottom of the C final," said senior co-captain Donny Simkin. "In my time here, there has been a deep-seeded emotional drive to show not just the world but ourselves that we belong alongside every other extremely talented and fast crew in the country. We got to party with the big party today. This shows everyone in the country who saw us as eighth or ninth what we were capable of doing, but more importantly, it showed the younger guys on our team what is possible. Being able to rally from our terrible performance at the Pac-10's showed that even when the chips were down, we could run with it, and we did today."

Stanford had two other men's boats in action on the final day of the 2006-07 collegiate season Saturday.

The Cardinal foursome of John DiCola, Ryan Duchene, Justin Brown, Ben Briggs and cox Graham Carroll took third in a time of 6:36.722 in a fourth level final of the Varsity Four w/Cox. Georgetown won the event in 6:35.174.

Stanford's Freshman Eight boat took fourth in the Petite Final of its event in a time of 5:59.558. The boat was made up of Scott Runyon, Bobby Pinero, Joe Brendl, Jeremy Hoffman, Nico Sand, Kevin Gheer, Alec Levy, Aaron Frankl and cox Andy Bracken. Northeastern (5:50.417) was the winner of the event.

**2007 IRA National Championship
Saturday, June 2, 2007
Camden, N.J. (Cooper River)
Stanford Events Only**

**Men's Varsity Eight
Grand Final**

1. Washington (5:33.165)
- 2T. Stanford (5:34.125)
- 2T. Harvard (5:34.125)
4. Brown (5:34.981)
5. California (5:40.126)
6. Princeton (5:43.419)

**Men's Freshman Eight
Petite Final**

1. Northeastern (5:50.417)
2. Cornell (5:52.639)
3. Orange Coast (5:54.436)
4. Stanford (5:59.558)
5. George Washington (6:03.231)
6. Georgetown (6:06.375)

**Men's Varsity Four w/Cox
4th Level Final**

1. Georgetown (6:35.174)
2. Fordham (6:35.241)
3. Stanford (6:36.722)
4. St. Joes (6:40.829)
5. Ohio State (6:47.575)
6. Delaware (6:50.130)