

New Trier Rowing

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**For Immediate Release**

**NEW TRIER VARSITY EIGHT CREWS MAKE THEIR MARK AT WORLD  
RENOWNED HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA**

Winnetka, Ill. – New Trier’s Boys Varsity Eight finished 4<sup>th</sup> among 66 crews, and the Girls Varsity Eight took 7<sup>th</sup> among 68 crews at the 44th Annual Head of the Charles Regatta, the largest two-day regatta in the world, held in Boston, October 18 and 19, 2008.

New Trier’s Varsity Boys Eight earned a 4<sup>th</sup> place medal in the Youth Eights event, finishing 3.58% out of 1<sup>st</sup> place in a time of 15:45.6, just 1.5 seconds behind 3<sup>rd</sup> place Winter Park High School. Eton College won the title in that event, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> place Everett Rowing Association. New Trier edged out Canisius High School and St. Augustine Prep, who finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. This was the third time New Trier’s Varsity Boys Eight has raced in this event.

“This crew showed their potential against the top junior crews from North America and Europe. In their first race in this combination, they executed their race plan and handled the tricky wind and course well. Eton College has an outstanding team, as do Everett and Winter Park. New Trier is privileged to have the opportunity to race at this level,” said Tony Brooks, Varsity Boys Crew Coach.

In their first appearance at this regatta, New Trier’s Girls Varsity Eight left no doubt about their capabilities, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> among 68 crews in a time of 18:06, and only 4.18% out of first place. Boston’s Community Rowing, Inc. won the event in a time of 17:23, followed by Marin Rowing Association, Mount St. Joseph Academy, Saratoga Rowing Association, and South Niagara Rowing Club.

The Youth Eights event is open to all high school crews but New Trier was one of the few public high schools to field boats in this event, filled predominantly by rowing clubs and prep school rowing programs.

“For a relatively new high school rowing program to finish within the top four percent in these highly competitively categories is a great reflection of New Trier’s depth,” said New Trier Rowing Director Rose Marchuk. “Crews from around the world compete at this regatta and New Trier earned its place as one of the best this weekend.”

The legendary Head of the Charles Regatta attracts more than 300,000 spectators to the banks of the Charles River to watch 8500 rowers from 19 countries compete on the 3-mile course. Rowers ages 18-84 race in 57 events, representing clubs, schools, and national teams, all hoping to become “head” of the Charles River.

In head style races, boats race against the clock, staggered in 10-12 second intervals, and the crew with the fastest time wins. Time penalties are assessed throughout the course for a variety of errors such as missing buoys or colliding with another crew.

The winding Charles River course, with its sharp turns and seven bridges, is one of the most challenging in the world. In fact, the regatta is often called “a coxswain’s race” because much of the time lost or gained is determined by the way a coxswain steers this tricky course. New Trier coxswains Patrick O’Hara and Sarah Specht clearly held their own.

Crews finishing in the top half (based on the number of entries) in their event are guaranteed a place in that event the following year. All other crews must rely on the luck of the draw as non-guaranteed entries are selected via random lottery draws in early September. New Trier’s Boys Varsity 8+ got such a lottery draw for the first time in 2006 and secured an automatic spot for the following two years. The girls did not get an entry in 2006, so this year was their debut, and they also secured an entry for next year’s Trevian Girls Varsity Eight in that event.

Representing New Trier High Rowing in the Men’s Youth Eights was coxswain **Patrick O’Hara**, stroke **Matt Clark**, 7-seat **Jason Kopelman**, 6-seat **Daniel Krasnow**, 5-seat, **Owen Myers**, 4-seat **Connor Jones**, 3-seat **Steven Shapiro**, 2-seat **Alex Dern**, and bow **Taggart Denton**. The spare was Chris Daniels.

Competing for New Trier in the Women’s Youth Eights was coxswain **Sarah Specht**, stroke **Melanie Eckert**, 7-seat **Rachel Delehanty**, 6-seat **Katie Wilcox**, 5-seat **Lauren Lashmet**, 4-seat **Molly Messersmith**, 3-seat **Hannah Wilson**, 2-seat **Cassie Stephens**, and bow **Molly Selig**. Spares were Hilary Going and Kelly Nolan.

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