

St. Andrew's School

Four Boats Make Stotesbury Finals, Boys V8 Takes Silver

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Boys Varsity Head Coach, Lindsay Brown, provided the following update on a wonderful weekend for St. Andrew's Rowing. Stotesbury marks the end of the 2011 Crew Season with the exception of the Boys 1st 8 who will remain on campus training this June for the Henley Royal Regatta.

Dear Friends of St. Andrew's Rowing,

What a great two days of racing for St. Andrew's! We knew we were doing well, boys and girls programs together, when we watched most of the trailers parked near us load their boats and pull out by Saturday lunch. In the meantime, the SAS trailer had just one boat loaded, and our 8's were resting on slings waiting for our crews to race them again. We lost the "truck race" to all the crews around us, and we couldn't have been happier about it!

The Girls Freshman 8 started it all off with a beautiful row in the time trial and then a brilliant race in the semi-final Friday evening. They were the first SAS crew to qualify for the final, and it is such a rare event to have our freshmen earn a place in the finals simply because they start rowing in mid March while most of their competition has fall rowing. Having the freshmen do so well clearly is a great thing for the future of the girls program

The girls 2nd 8 and Varsity 8 both qualified for the semi-finals, and the girls V8 rowed a sharp semi-final to advance to the finals. We were all so happy to see this group race past some teams that had edged them out in the early season racing. They finished in 6th place out of over 35 teams from across the country in the marquis event of girls rowing.

The boys 2nd 8 and Varsity 8 also both qualified for the semi-finals, and then both earned places in the finals. The 2nd 8 pushed hard and finished 5th place in the finals. It was a good race for them, and they were able to hold their heads high knowing they gave their best effort.

The boys V8 knew that any team in the finals could claim the Stotesbury Cup, and they jumped out to a strong start in their race. St. Alban's had an even faster start, and that crew took a commanding lead on the entire field and managed to hold it to the finish line. St. Andrew's meanwhile sprinted madly and held off a hard charging St. Joe's Prep team, and SAS came away with the silver medal. At first there was a twinge of disappointment at not claiming the top place, but then the reality of beating St. Joe's a second time in a season and finishing with a medal in the toughest boys event made us all smile and celebrate and enjoy the moment.

Part of the celebration of the day was seeing the multitudes of alumni who came to the banks of the Schuylkill River to cheer on all the SAS crews. Bill Brownlee '44, was there to see the boys row the boat that bears his name, and generations of SAS alumni shook hands with this group of rowers, told stories about the olden times, and gave sage advice, and embellished their past exploits (of course, the older we get, the better we were!). It was so great to see so many of you there, and thank you to all for your best wishes and inspiring notes. You would all be proud of how the SAS teams carried themselves and represented the school and the rowing program.

We will unload our trailer Monday afternoon and that will be the end of the season for most teams. The boys V8 ended one chapter in their season and now start a new one. We have to focus on our racing in England, and hopefully on competing at the Youth National Championship Regatta held in Oakridge Tennessee in early June. So some challenges racing lies in front of us, and much hard work as well.

In summary, over the past few days I couldn't have been more proud of these St. Andrew's athletes, and we all felt the connection to you, the alumni, and the long tradition of excellence in St. Andrew's crew that you all established and maintained.

Best wishes and more updates to follow in the weeks ahead!

Lindsay

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