

CYR IMPRESSIVE AT SE REGIONALS

The Catawba Youth Rowers recently competed in the Southeast Regionals. There were 51 teams and 466 entries. Top 4 in each event get a bid to nationals.

Everything always happens at the right time and not a moment too soon.

We build and work all year for SE Regionals weekend. We had a fantastic performance across the board with the 50 athletes we took to race this weekend. We had 14 boats enter TT Saturday am and 12 boats advanced out of the TT to semis Saturday afternoon or straight to their Final Sunday.

Out of 10 boats in Semis/Heats Saturday pm we had 5 advance to Sunday Finals.

CYR had 10 boats in the Finals on Sunday. We had 5 U19 boats that had a shot of qualifying for nationals. 4 out of the 5 boats qualified for nationals!!

National Qualifiers

Mens 2- of Charlie Cochran (senior, 1st time qualifying) and Evan Temple (sophomore, 2nd time qualifying last year in the mens U17 2x)

Womens 2- of Grace Armstrong (senior, 1st time qualifying) and Teagan Kleckley (senior, second time qualifying last year in womens 4-). Both these ladies will be continuing their rowing journey at the respective Universities of West Virginia and UNC Chapel Hill! Go Heels and Mountaineers!

Mens 4x- Henry Brittain (Junior, 2nd time qualifying last year in mens U17 4+), William Thompson (Senior, 1st time qualifying), Aidan Obringer (Senior, 1st time qualifying), Thomas Fell (sophomore, 2nd time qualifying last year in the mens U17 2x)

Womens 4- of Mallie Stetler (Junior, 1st time qualifying), Lauren Johnson (Freshman, 1st time qualifying), Caroline Leahy (Junior, 1st time qualifying and first semester of rowing), Lilly Hawkins (Senior, 1st time qualifying)

Our Womens 4- medaled with silver! Our Mens 2v4x of Aidan Lee, Danny Barden, Cameron McGrath, and Patrick Lewis (CYC member son of David Lewis) placed 3rd overall, as well as our women's 2v4x of Phoebe Lindner, Katie Wahab, Hazel Silverstein, and Nora Cook (Jim Cook's Daughter). The 2v4x's are non-qualifying events for nationals but I hope to see them added in next year!

With 4 boats qualifying for nationals that puts us second in the state behind Triangles 6 boats. For the size of our team in comparison to Triangles 120+ athletes that is very impressive! We also match the amount of boats that we sent last year as well.

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend for CYR. So many great races, athletes saying it was their best race ever, smiles, happy tears, and so much love for the sport and this team. Yes, this was the last race of the season for most athletes and there's no doubt they gave it their all. All of our seniors went out with a bang for their last SE Regionals! For the returning athletes/ current novices I hope they see how the standard of CYR is ingrained in our culture of hard work, attitude, being a great CYR Teammate, champions mentality, and effort; and when all those things happen every single day in practice it pays off in the end. Anyone can do those things and make their dream come true by qualifying to nationals. Some may have realized this weekend that now they want to chase that feeling of making it to nationals! It does not happen without a lot of hard work, trials and tribulations, believing in each other, trusting the process, and a lot of grit.

Even though all of the boats that made it had been in my practice group all year/for a long time, it does not happen without every coach and every athlete pushing and getting better.

Special Shout Outs

To our men's U17 2x (CYC member Ethan Ucer and Zachary Thomas) with Coach Doc they had just gotten in this boat after one of my crazy ideas and they got 17th. Even though they did not make it to semis that is fantastic for that category

Mens 2x coached by Coach David L. They had a tough time at Dogwood when Nik caught a crab at full speed that ended up snapping the entire oarlock/rigger. They came back for redemption, made it out of the TT and into the semis! They were so pleased!

Our little U16 4x+ did so well. They had to race up because of one girl but they made huge improvements from Sat to Sunday and were actually in 4th for a large majority of the race!

Thank you Coach David Kern, Rich and everyone else who worked with them!

Special Shoutout to Kathy Crenshaw being my conditions camera and always going down to the water taking photos for me. She helps us stay safe and keep practicing when the weather apps lie!

The 2023 Nationals Team and I will be hitting it hard, enjoying the process. and gaining as much speed as we can before Nationals. Last year was great when we had 4 boats qualify as well for nationals, but this year is very special to me and this group. We have so many seniors that missed it last year and now it is their time! They came back determined and this is the result of an entire year wanting something more than ever and never letting up. They are such a great group and I am so proud of them!

Thanks to our many CYC Coaches for all your hard work and assistance.

Nancy

Doc

Rhonda

Phil

Tom, Lisa for special occasions :)

David Kern

Melissa

David L

Jocelyn

Rich