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Oakland Strokes Advance to National Championships

Submitted by Cheryl Richards



Women's Varsity Lightweight 8+: Gray Strandberg, Liz Hofinga (Miramonte), Jillian Lundstrom (Miramonte), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Julia Giovanni (Campolindo), Madelynn Prendergast, Maddie Boxer, Limor Dubrovsky (Acalanes), Raleigh Long Photo Laura Cvitanovic



Men's Varsity 8+: Back row, from left: coach Brian DeRegt , Daniel Hogan (Lafayette resident), Rhys Daniel, Alex Lilichenko (Miramonte), Michael Cuellar, Kenyon Watson (Miramonte), Cameron Chater, Tucker Johnson, Max McDonald, Connor Olson, coach Alan Kush Men's JV 8+: Front row, from left: Luke Lawler, Allen Hosler, Henri Illien, Brandon Fluegge (Miramonte), Isabella Onken, Cole Ortiz (Campolindo), Sam Thatcher, Jackson Witherspoon, Brendan Purtill (Bentley) Photo Barbara Wright

Oakland Strokes rowed to victories at the U.S. Rowing Southwest Youth Championships held on Lake Natoma in Gold River, Calif., on May 1-3. This year the regatta drew 571 crews hailing from 35 clubs in the southwest district.

The boys' varsity 8+ won the championship, having found the right combination to take down their powerful regional and national rivals Marin Rowing Association. With the win, the squad earned a berth at the 2015 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships to be held June 12-14 in Florida.

The boys' JV 8+ went undefeated this season on its way to a championship. The last time the Strokes won championships in both divisions was in 1999.

Oakland Strokes entered two boats in the boys' varsity 4+ event, and took first and second in their separate heats, but finished third and fourth in the final, edged out by Marin.

The girls' varsity lightweight 8+ boat took first in its heat and second in the final, finishing only 1.411 seconds behind Newport. The second place finish was enough to earn a berth to the nationals.

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