

Rowing

DIVISION II



Highlights

Humboldt State powers past perennial champs for first national title: There wasn't a dry eye in the Humboldt State party after the team won the eight grand final at the NCAA Division II Rowing Championships to clinch the Jacks' first national title May 27 at Mercer Lake in West Windsor, N.J.

"We're going through waves of emotions," said varsity eight five-seat Alex Torquemada, whose team defeated seven-time defending champion Western Washington. "I keep crying and laughing. It's amazing."

Eighteen years ago, Humboldt State rowing became an intercollegiate program and head coach Robin Meiggs has been with it every step of the way. Meiggs has turned the Jacks into a high-caliber program, but she won't take all the credit for it.

"None of this would be possible without Patrick Hyland, Adrienne McConnell and Ashley Donnell," said Meiggs. "It was a great collective effort by the coaching staff."

The road to nationals started back in August when one of the Northern California school's rowers wrote on the dry erase board in Hyland's office a countdown to New Jersey. As the days passed, the numbers got smaller and smaller until it was finally time to compete.

"To see the actualization of that dream was really exciting," Meiggs managed to get out behind tears. "I really felt they would do it this year. It was the calmest I've ever been in my coaching career. I'm so proud of them. I told them yesterday I would have no regrets because we had done everything we could have done."

Feeling confident after dominating the preliminary races, Humboldt State's four boat took an early lead in the grand final and never looked back. At the halfway mark, the Jacks had already broken contact with three feet of open water in between them and the two teams battling for second and third: Nova Southeastern and Western Washington, respectively.

"The fours were feeling very loose and exceptionally confident heading into their race," said Meiggs. "There was never any doubt in their mind."

With 500 meters left in the race, and a half boat length separating the Jacks from the Sharks, Nova Southeastern tried to make contact once again with Humboldt State, but the Jacks powered ahead to grab the event title, clocking in at 7:42.96. The win marks the second time in program history Humboldt State has won the fours title; the first was in 2004.

Just minutes before the eights race, the NCAA showed coverage of each of the boats, focusing in on the student-athletes' faces. Unlike the defending champions Western Washington, who looked very serious, Humboldt State's rowers were full of smiles, waved to the cameras and appeared very calm.

As the boats took off, Nova Southeastern's coxswain raised her hand in the first 100 meters to indicate her boat had experienced breakage. Breakage allows a race to stop and restart in the event of equipment malfunction, if it is acknowledged within the first 100 meters. If a team falsely claims a breakage (meaning there wasn't any equipment malfunction), however, the team is awarded a warning; two warnings result in disqualification. The rule has been a long-standing tradition at all levels of rowing, including the Olympic level, but will change for the 2013 season.

"I think the false start could have gone one of two ways," said Meiggs. "We could have gotten nervous, but Katie Harris did a great job to keep them focused."

Following the restart, Western Washington jumped out in front with Nova Southeastern and Humboldt State close behind. Halfway into the race, the Jacks had moved into the second spot with a two-seat lead against the Sharks, but were still seven seats behind the Vikings.

"Western Washington raced their normal race, but adapted their race plan to a faster racing speed," said Meiggs. "I really respected [WWU's head coach] for doing that. They stuck to their race plan and stayed confident."

Coming into the final 500 meters, the intensity elevated as the Jacks started to make their move, taking one seat at a time off Western Washington's lead. With 250 meters left, Humboldt State moved into the lead and crossed the finish line to complete the upset against the seven-time national champions with a time of 6:48.84.

"In the last 500 meters, it was just us and Western, and we didn't want them to win again," said Torquemada. "It was fantastic; one of the best races I've ever rowed. I'm still in shock."

After the races, the teams shook hands with their competitors, recognizing the hard work and devotion it takes to be a collegiate athlete — something Meiggs was very proud to see.

"Humboldt State just had a great season and had awesome races by both boats," said Western Washington coach John Fuchs. "They definitely earned that title."

Since Humboldt State won both event championships, the Jacks won the team title outright. Humboldt State picked up 20 points for the victory, followed by runners-up Western Washington with 13 points. Nova Southeastern sat just one point behind the Vikings and Mercyhurst finished with 5 points.

"We have a silver trophy from 2004, but I always told Pat I wanted a gold one," said Meiggs. "It was great seeing them up there. Ultimately those trophies will collect dust, but it's the experience that will stay with them the rest of their lives."

2012 TEAM RESULTS

	Eights	Fours	Total
1. Humboldt St.....	12	8	20
2. Western Wash.....	9	4	13
3. Nova Southeastern.....	6	6	12
4. Mercyhurst.....	3	2	5

2012 EVENT RESULTS

Fours: *Grand final*—1. Humboldt St. [Kaitlyn Shanley, Amanda Nelson, Shenae Bishop, Julia Smith, Ka'ena Sado (coxswain)], 7:42.96; 2. Nova Southeastern, 7:51.37; 3. Western Wash., 7:53.93.

Eights: *Petite final*—1. Central Okla. [Jessica Lawson, Rachel Kliewer, Jenna Goodner, Michaela Rabenhorst, Kristin Philhower, Samantha Elliott, Jennifer Hagen, Kelsey Philhower, Rachael Baalman (coxswain)], 7:03.77; 2. Barry, 7:06.90.

Eights: *Grand final*—1. Humboldt St. [Katie Lepley, Molly Fisher, Anna Wagner, Alex Torquemada, Ashley Frakes, Edi Sullivan, Jacki McPherson, Chyna Balonick, Katie Harris (coxswain)], 6:48.84; 2. Western Wash., 6:50.45; 3. Nova Southeastern, 6:51.89; 4. Mercyhurst, 6:57.29.

History

Team Results

Year	Champion	Coach	Points	Runner-Up	Points	Host or Site
2002	UC Davis	Emily Plesser	50	Western Wash.	45	Indianapolis
2003	UC Davis	Emily Plesser	20	Western Wash.	15	Indianapolis
2004	Mercyhurst	Adrian Spracklen	18	Humboldt St.	17	Gold River, Calif.
2005	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	Mercyhurst	12	Gold River, Calif.
2006	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	Barry	15	West Windsor, N.J.
2007	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	UC San Diego	15	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
2008	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	UC San Diego	15	Gold River, Calif.
2009	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	18	Mercyhurst	13	Cherry Hill, N.J.
2010	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	Seattle Pacific	11	Gold River, Calif.
2011	Western Wash.	John Fuchs	20	Mercyhurst	13	Gold River, Calif.
2012	Humboldt St.	Robin Meiggs	20	Western Wash.	13	West Windsor, N.J.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Western Wash. 7, UC Davis 2, Humboldt St., Mercyhurst, 1 each.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Western Wash. 12, UC Davis 4, Humboldt St. 3, Mercyhurst 2, Nova Southeastern, 1.

Championship Records

FOURS

7:25.35—Western Wash. [Carson MacPherson-Krutsky, Hannah Gallagher, Stephanie Bluhm, Kelsey Baker Kelsey McFarland (coxswain)], 2010.

II EIGHTS

7:17.98—UC Davis [Sara Miller, Kelly Sweerus, Alison Prehn, Marisa Obrian, Ashley Raasch, Amy Mackey, Chrissy Twomey, Dawn Leppert, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 2002.

I EIGHTS

6:42.53—Mercyhurst [Annie Schiller, Alexandra Salen, Alicia Peterson, Sally O'Briend, Rachel Beste, Bethany Brun, Leah Niecgorski, Amanda Carlyon, Lindsey Crosby (coxswain)], 2010.

Event Champions

FOURS

- 2003 UC Davis [Laura Syms, Sarah Anderson, Joan Silva, Dawn Leppert, Michelle Seymour (coxswain)], 7:47.03.
- 2004 Humboldt St. [Jolie Smith, Winnie Bell, Jessica Lev, Lisa McDonnell, Melanie Rowsey (coxswain)], 7:57.5.
- 2005 Western Wash. [Jordan Tobler, Tanya Kaufman, Samantha Marikis, Courtney Moeller, Elisabeth Johnson (coxswain)], 7:46.82.

- 2006 Western Wash. [Hilary Gastwirth, Katie Saelens, Katrina Anderson, Kirsten Mathers, Coree Naslund (coxswain)], 8:24.1550.
- 2007 Western Wash. [Jordan Tobler, Gina Auriemma, Katie Saelens, Hilary Gastwirth, Robin Fitzpatrick (coxswain)], 8:08.72.
- 2008 Western Wash. [Katie Tipton, Casey Mapes, Julia Munger, Hilary Gastwirth, Samantha Oberholzer (coxswain)], 7:57.54.
- 2009 Nova Southeastern [Lauren McElhenny, Claire Kurlychek, Ashley Lofria, Jessica Sutter, Heather Clayton (coxswain)], 7:53.64.
- 2010 Western Wash. [Carson MacPherson-Krutsky, Hannah Gallagher, Stephanie Bluhm, Kelsey Baker, Kelsey McFarland (coxswain)], 7:25.35.
- 2011 Western Wash. [Kelsey Baker, Mariana Cains, Alyssa Dewey, Lauren Fleming, Kelsey McFarland (coxswain)], 7:50.72.
- 2012 Humboldt St. [Kaitlyn Shanle, Amanda Nelson, Shenae Bishop, Julia Smith, Ka'ena Sado (coxswain)], 7:42.96.

II EIGHTS

- 2002 UC Davis [Sara Miller, Kelly Sweerus, Alison Prehn, Marisa Obrian, Ashley Raasch, Amy Mackey, Chrissy Twomey, Dawn Leppert, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 7:17.98.

I EIGHTS

- 2002 UC Davis [Analise Zoller, Brooke Fornaciari, Julie Maosen, Kerry Byrne, Brooke Roberts, Sara Deleon, Shelly Best, Sabrina Litton, Sarah Whipple (coxswain)], 7:06:64.
- 2003 UC Davis [Kari Harris, Ashley Montross, Becky Anderson, Kalie Benson, Brooke Fornaciari, Shelley Best, Kerry Byrne, Cassie Protman, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 6:51.74.
- 2004 Mercyhurst [Naomi Petendra, Kerri Kanaley, Courtney Oke, Chelsea Boothe, Meg Bryant, Megan Holloway, Kristin Best, Kristan Ficorilli, Jill Natale (coxswain)], 7:02.9.

- 2005 Western Wash. [Stephanie Parker, Amelia Whitcomb, Gail Lumsden, Metta Gilbert, Kailyn McGrath, Lindsay Mann-King, Staci Reynolds, Julia Gamache, Krissy Whaley (coxswain)], 6:48.72.
- 2006 Western Wash. [Staci Reynolds, Julia Gamache, Jordan Tobler, Lindsay Mann-King, Rebecca Willms, Metta Gilbert, Samantha Marikis, Amelia Whitcomb, Elisabeth Johnson (coxswain)], 7:17.6400.
- 2007 Western Wash. [Staci Reynolds, Lindsay Mann-King, Meghan Woodman, Amelia Whitcomb, Samantha Marikis, Metta Gilbert, Audrey Coon, Lila Scaife, Kristy Theodorson (coxswain)], 7:03.80.
- 2008 Western Wash. [Staci Reynolds, Metta Gilbert, Meghan Woodman, Gina Auriemma, Samantha Marikis, Amelia Whitcomb, Audrey Coon, Madeleine Eckmann, Kristy Theodorson (coxswain)], 6:53.20.
- 2009 Western Wash. [Casey Mapes, Audrey Coon, Jean Piette, Heather Kelly, Katie Woolsey, Megan Northey, Madeleine Eckmann, Kate Berni, Kristy Theodorson (coxswain)], 6:52.60.
- 2010 Mercyhurst [Annie Schiller, Alexandra Salen, Alicia Peterson, Sally O'Briend, Rachel Beste, Bethany Brun, Leah Niecgorski, Amanda Carlyon, Lindsey Crosby (coxswain)], 6:42.53.
- 2011 Western Wash. [Stephanie Bluhm, Kate Berni, Siri Carlson, Casey Mapes, Carson MacPherson-Krutsky, Megan Northey, Jean Piette, Katie Woolsey, Samantha Oberholzer (coxswain)], 6:50.46.
- 2012 Humboldt St. [Katie Lepley, Molly Fisher, Anna Wagner, Alex Torquemada, Ashley Frakes, Edi Sullivan, Jacki McPherson, Chyna Balonick, Katie Harris (coxswain)], 6:48.84.

Team Finishes

Team (Years in which Team Scored)	Years	1st	2nd	Best Finish (Year[s])
Barry (2002-04-06)	3	0	1	2nd (2006)
UC Davis (2002-03)	2	2	0	1st (2002-03)
UC San Diego (2006-07-08)	3	0	2	2nd (2007-08)
Dowling (2007-08)	2	0	0	3rd (2007-08)
Florida Tech (2003-05-10)	3	0	0	4th (2003-05-10)
Humboldt St. (2004-11-12)	3	1	1	1st (2012)
Mercyhurst (2003-04-05-09-11-12)	6	1	3	1st (2004)
Nova Southeastern (2005-06-07-08-09-11-12)	7	0	0	3rd (2005-06-09-12)
Philadelphia U. (2009-10)	2	0	0	3rd (2010)
Rollins (2002)	1	0	0	3rd (2002)
Seattle Pacific (2010)	1	0	1	2nd (2010)
Western Wash. (2002-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11-12)	11	7	3	1st (2005-06-07-08-09-10-11)

All-Time Team Results

2002: 1. UC Davis, 50; 2. Western Wash., 45; 3. Rollins, 40; 4. Barry, 35.

2003: 1. UC Davis, 20; 2. Western Wash., 15; 3. Mercyhurst, 10; 4. Florida Tech, 5.

2004: 1. Mercyhurst, 18; 2. Humboldt St., 17; 3. Western Wash., 10; 4. Barry, 5.

2005: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. Mercyhurst, 12; 3. Nova Southeastern, 11; 4. Florida Tech, 7.

2006: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. Barry, 15; 3. Nova Southeastern, 8; 4. UC San Diego, 7.

2007: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. UC San Diego, 15; 3. Dowling, 8; 4. Nova Southeastern, 7.

2008: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. UC San Diego, 15; 3. Dowling, 8; 4. Nova Southeastern, 4.

2009: 1. Western Wash., 18; 2. Mercyhurst, 13; 3. Nova Southeastern, 11; 4. Philadelphia U., 8.

2010: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. Seattle Pacific, 11; 3. Philadelphia U., 10; 4. Florida Tech, 9.

2011: 1. Western Wash., 20; 2. Mercyhurst, 13; 3. Humboldt St., 12; 4. Nova Southeastern, 5.

2012: 1. Humboldt St., 20; 2. Western Wash., 13; 3. Nova Southeastern, 12; 4. Mercyhurst, 5.