Humboldt State wins in three-team battle to claim national championship: A chance of a lifetime was fulfilled on June 1 as Humboldt State, for the second time in three years, claimed the team title in the NCAA Division II Rowing Championships at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis.

In a grand final predicted to be a tight three-team field, the Lumberjacks won the championship by a single point, 16-15, against defending champion Nova Southeastern and two points better than third-place West Region rival Western Washington.

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't think this was the year this was going to happen. We overcame some adversity, but we started to focus and just trained extremely hard," Humboldt State head coach Robin Meiggs said. "Everyone continued to point toward the goal of getting back to nationals, but to win the national championship is just unbelievable!"

"It took the entire team pushing each other and a lot of hard work by my staff — assistant coach Patrick Hyland and student-assistants Ashley Donnell and Molly Fisher — and all the time everyone put in. This is just the culmination of that hard work. Nova Southeastern inspired me from what they did last year (by winning the national championship). I also want to shout out to our dedicated fans at home, who were watching online and were just as excited as we were."

The Division II Rowing championship gives the Humboldt State athletics department its fifth national title. The crew team's second championship ties it with the Jacks softball team's two titles (1999 and 2008), while the 1980 men's cross country squad completes the five crowns.

After the four boat won its repechage race May 31, the Jacks would have a three-way battle for the team title in the grand finals June 1 against Nova Southeastern and Western Washington. In the tight battle, the title came down to the final 500 meters of the eight race.

"We knew when we went out our first goal was to follow the race plan. We talked on what split times we wanted to hit," Meiggs said. "When they started, it took the ladies 10 more strokes to settle down."

The Jacks eight -- coxswain Katrina Rehrer, Jamie Larrabee, Ripley McChesney, Maggie Wilhelm, Kayley Weber, Maddy Guillaume, Samatha Morford, Kate Dedrick and Mariah Smither -- started the race in third place trailing leader Western Washington and slightly behind Nova Southeastern in second.

Within the first 750 meters, Humboldt State pulled ahead of Nova Southeastern into second place. The Jacks moved to within a two-seat margin of Western Washington by the 1,000-meter halfway point.

"Where the team started moving up, it is a testament to them and their hard work," Meiggs said. "In the first 1,000 meters, we started moving in front of Nova and then the goal was to reel Western Washington in."

Humboldt State reeled in Western Washington as it pulled even with its regional foe by the 1,250-meter mark into the race and edged ahead by a one-seat difference upon hitting 1,500 meters. The Jacks continued their late-race charge to increase their newfound lead to four seats with 350 meters to go. Humboldt State kept its push through the final line to win by eight seats, almost a full boat length, and two seconds better than Nova Southeastern, 7:13.405 to 7:15.352.

"It came down to the final 500 meters. They did an exceptional job from start to finish," Meiggs said.

The Nova Southeastern boat overtook Western Washington by the slim .062 margin at the finish line for second place, which was key for Humboldt State winning the team title due to the four boat grand finals result.

In the four grand finals, Western Washington's favored four boat took the lead midway into the race and never gave it. Western Washington went on to take the victory against Nova Southeastern by a little more than two seconds, 7:59.304 to 8:01.597, while Humboldt State was third (8:23.496).

"We made it to the area really early and tensions were a little high (with the four boat team)," Meiggs said. "We knew the four race would be tough with how Western Washington has been all season long."

From the start, Nova Southeastern took the lead in the first 100 meters with Humboldt State in third and kept the lead of almost a full length for the first 500 meters of the race. Western Washington cut into the difference, before it stroked into the lead within the final 650 meters and held on for the victory.

The Lumberjacks four boat -- coxswain Krista Smith, Kate Lamke, Christina Bruner, Sarah Johnson and Marina Hagen -- posted a three-second faster time than its winning repechage time, but were unable to challenge the other two boats in the race's stretch drive.

"With Cat Trimingham out of the lineup due to her injury; Sarah Johnson did a great job for them this weekend," Meiggs said. "After the race, all of the ladies said they could not have put more of themselves in the race, and that is all you can ever ask."

### 2014 TEAM RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Eights</th>
<th>Fours</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Humboldt St.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nova Southeastern</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Western Wash.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mercyhurst</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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### 2014 EVENT RESULTS

**Fours:** Grand final — 1. Western Wash. (Audra Massey, Jenny Chang, Olivia Gangmark-Strickland, Katya Hewitt, Kate Nelson [coxswain]), 7:59.304; 2. Nova Southeastern, 8:01.597; 3. Humboldt St., 8:23.496.


History

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
Western Wash. 7, UC Davis 2, Humboldt St. 2, Mercyhurst 1, Nova Southeastern 1, each.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Western Wash. 13, UC Davis 4, Humboldt St. 4, Nova Southeastern 3, Mercyhurst 2.

Championship Records

FOURS

II EIGHTS
7:17.98—UC Davis [Sara Miller, Kelly Sweerius, Alison Prehn, Marisa Obrian, Ashley Rausch, Amy Mackey, Chrsissi Twomey, Dawn Leppert, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 2002.

I EIGHTS

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 Ley, Lisa McDonnell, Melanie Rowsey (coxswain)], 7:57.5.
2005 Western Wash. [Jordan Tobler, Tanya Kaufman, Samantha Marikis, Courntney Moeller, Elisabeth Johnson (coxswain)], 7:46.82.
2007 Western Wash. [Jordan Tobler, Gina Aurieunna, Katie Saelens, Hilary Gastwirth, Robin Fitzpatrick (coxswain)], 8:08.72.

II EIGHTS
2002 UC Davis [Sara Miller, Kelly Sweerius, Alison Prehn, Marisa Obrian, Ashley Rausch, Amy Mackey, Chrissi Twomey, Dawn Leppert, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 7:17.98.

I EIGHTS
2002 UC Davis [Analisie Zoller, Brooke Fornciari, Julie Maosen, Kerry Byrne, Brooke Roberts, Sara Deleon, Shelly Best, Sabrina Litton, Sarah Whipple (coxswain)], 7:06.84.
2003 UC Davis [Kari Harris, Ashley Montross, Becky Anderson, Katie Benson, Brooke Fornciari, Shelly Best, Kerry Byrne, Cassie Promet, Katie Borg (coxswain)], 7:53.64.
2004 Mercyhurst [Naomi Petendra, Kerri Kanaley, Courtney Oke, Chelsea Booth, Michael Bryant, Megan Holloway, Krakul Best, Katrina Crowell, Jennie Natale (coxswain), 7:19.87.
2005 Western Wash. [Stephanie Parker, Amelia Whitcomb, Gail Lumsden, Metta Gilbert, Kailyn McGrath, Lindsay Mann-King, Staci Reynolds, Julia Gamache, Krispy Whaley (coxswain)], 6:48.72.
2006 Western Wash. [Staci Reynolds, Julia Gamache, Jordan Tobler, Lindsay Mann-King, Rebecca Willis, Metta Gilbert, Samantha Marikis, Amelia Whitcomb, Elisabeth Johnson (coxswain)], 7:17.6400.
2007 Western Wash. [Staci Reynolds, Lindsay Mann-King, Megan 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 Aurieunna, Samantha Marikis, Amelia Whitcomb, Audrey Coon, Madeleine Eckmann, Katie Berti, Kristy Theodorson (coxswain)], 6:53.20.
2009 Western Wash. [Casey Mapes, Audrey Coon, Jean Piette, Heather Kelly, Katie Woolsey, Megan Northeay, Madeleine Eckmann, Katie Berti, Kristy Theodorson (coxswain)], 6:54.53.
2011 Western Wash. [Stephanie Bluhm, Kate Berti, Siri Carlson, Casey Mapes, Carson MacPherson-Krutsky, Megan Northeay, Jean Piette, Katie Woolsey, Samantha Oberholzer (coxswain)], 6:50.46.
2012 Humboldt St. [Katie Lepley, Miley Fisher, Anna Wagner, Alex Torquemada, Ashley Frakes, Edi Sullivan, Jacki McPherson, Chyna Balonick, Katie Harris (coxswain)], 6:48.84.
2013 Nova Southeastern [Lauren Boudreau, Tori Torrisi, Stephanie Hauck, Amanda Craig, Taylor Van Horn, Kelly Scott, Sarah Patterson, Camille Evans, Amanda Hudson (coxswain)], 6:42.74.
2014 Humboldt St. [Jamie Larabee, Ripley McChesney, Maggie Wilhelm, Kayley Weber, Maddy Guillaume, Samantha Morford, Kate Dedrick, Mariah Smith, Katrina Reher (coxswain)], 7:13.405.
**All-Time Team Results**


