

Pitt Rowing

Press Release

May 26, 2022

Office of Student Life
130 William Pitt Union
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Pitt Competes Against Nation's Best in Spring Season Finale

Oak Ridge, TN - This weekend, Pitt Rowing took part in the American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) National Championship Regatta just outside Knoxville, TN. The regatta brings together club teams from across the country to compete against programs similar to their own. Over the course of 3 days, crews fought for their place in finals through a series of heats, repechages, and semifinals. The sun was beating down, creating brutal conditions of 87°F with 60% humidity. Rowers made sure to stay hydrated and well-rested as they chased victory in their respective finals.



Pitt Gauges Competition in Friday's Heats



This year's ACRA's came with the unique element of some varsity members having novice eligibility. Due to Covid, most varsity members in their junior year are still novices according to ACRA rules since this is their first spring season. Coaches took advantage of this and entered mixed varsity/novice boats in the novice category, which provided a unique opportunity for some true novices who don't usually attend ACRA's. It also made the competition in the novice categories *much* more stiff, making for one of the most exciting ACRA's in history.

Pitt's novice men's 8+ consisted of seven varsity members and one true novice, Paul DeSaro. The experienced boat placed 5th in their Friday heat, placing them into Semifinal 4 on Saturday. The novice women's 8+ had the opposite composition, made up of seven true novices and one junior from varsity. Though lacking the experience of other crews, they held their own to place 5th in their heat and move on to Repechage 1 on Saturday.

The novice men's 4+ was a true novice boat, whose toughness earned them 5th in Friday's heat and a spot in Repechage 3 that afternoon. They came back to finish 4th in their Repechage which placed them into Semifinal 3 on Saturday. The varsity men's 4+ placed 4th in the fastest heat, moving them into Repechage 1 later that day. There they fought tooth and nail to come from behind and finish 2nd, with the top 3 teams being separated by just 3 seconds. Their resilient performance earned them a spot in Semifinal 2 on Saturday.

Performances Improve Saturday as Conditions Mellow

After pushing through the blistering 87°F, extreme humidity, and strong headwinds on Friday, Saturday's 77°F seemed mild. With little wind and a run down the course under their belts, Pitt Crews showed significant improvement on day 2. The women's pair (J. Roselli, T. Mathis) had their first day of racing on Saturday morning after completing a practice day Friday. The sophomore duo looked like they had been doing this for years, finishing 2nd in their heat with an automatic berth into Sunday's Grand Final.



The novice men's 4+ beat their Friday time by 17 seconds to place 6th in Semifinal 3, moving them to Sunday's D Final. The novice men's 8+ improved by 13 seconds over Friday, securely beating Wichita State but slightly edged out by Boston College. Their 4th place finish in Semifinal 4 also placed them in Sunday's D Final. The women's novice 8+ showed the most improvement of all teams from day 1 to day 2, dropping their time by 26 seconds. Still, with the ferocity of the competition from Florida, Oregon State, and Grand Valley, their time landed them in 4th for a spot in Petite Finals Sunday. The varsity men's 4+ improved by 6 seconds, but in a tightly-packed field with a photo finish they ended in 6th by 2.5 seconds.

Sunday Marks End of Comeback Season

The forecast predicted thunderstorms all day, but by some miracle the inclement weather held off and crews had one last chance to have their best row of the season - for many it was the last of their careers. The novice men's 4+ started the day in a tight battle for the top 3 in D Final, where they edged out Long Island State and Orange Coast to earn 3rd behind Cincinnati and Kansas. 2nd place Kansas, 3rd Pittsburgh, and 4th Long Island State were all separated by just 1 second, so every single stroke mattered. The novice men's 8+ followed up with another tight finish to earn 2nd in their D Final, falling only to Minnesota by 4 seconds. Their boat was able to defeat Washington, Middlebury, and Wichita State by several seconds each.

The novice women's 8+ had their most connected row of the season, finishing 6th in Petites among a deep field and solidly defeating Ohio State by 36 seconds. The varsity men's 4+ race was a back-and-forth all the way down the course, with no crew letting anyone win without a fight. Pitt was neck and neck with Northwestern in the last 500, but in a photo finish fell short by less than one-tenth of a second. Ending in 5th, the seniors still had reason to celebrate overpowering Grand Valley by a 15 second margin.



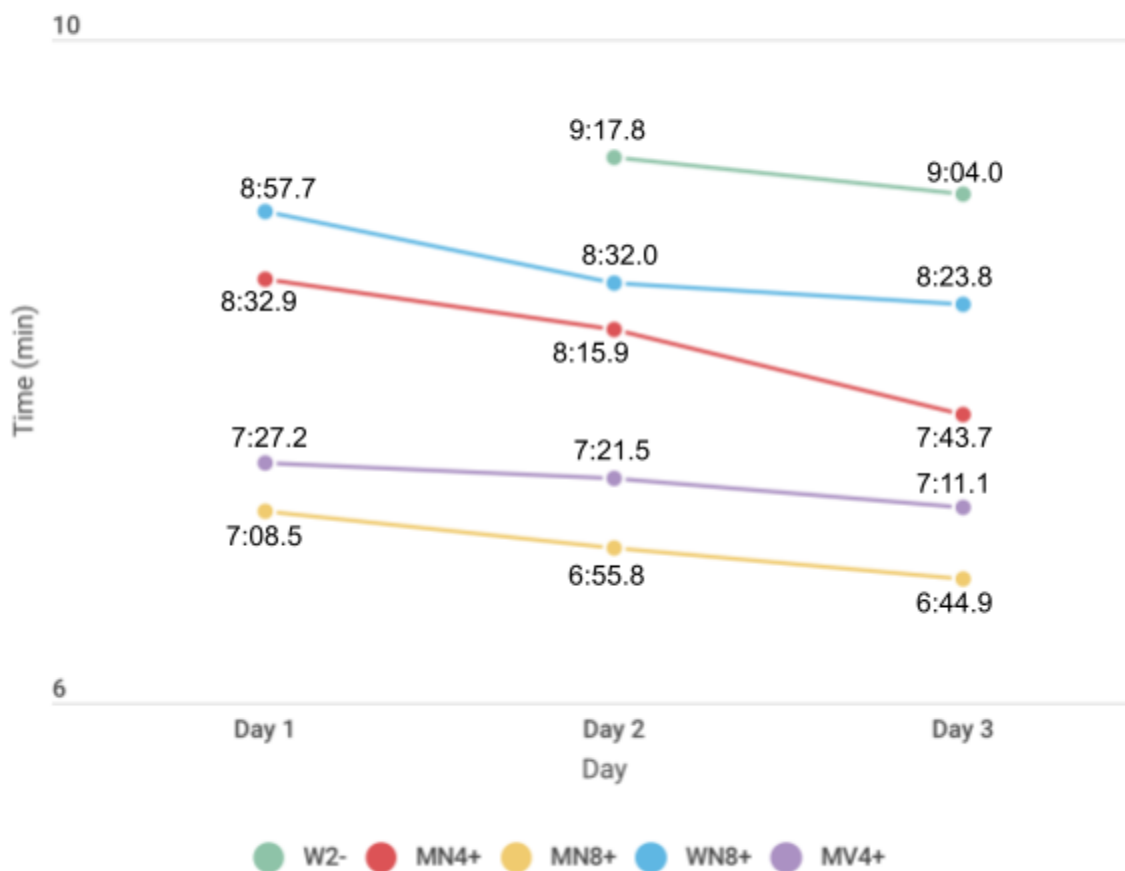
The highlight of Pittsburgh's day had to be the stellar performance from Julia Roselli and Taylor Mathis in the women's pair event. They felt confident after finishing 2nd in their heat, but had their work cut out for them if they wanted a top finish. Among the six boats in Grand Finals, they had the fifth fastest qualifying time. Roselli led with firm press throughout the race and Mathis had good control over their steering, allowing them to sail smoothly as other

boats faltered. They crossed the finish line in 4th, defeating the pair from Vermont that beat them in heats. (Note: The Vermont pair beat Pittsburgh by 12s in heats, and Pitt came back to beat them by 5s in Grands!)

"Julia and I are proud of our performance today. Even though we didn't walk away with a medal, we beat the boat that beat us in heats and knew we gave it everything we had. We're proud of our entire team and feeling very accomplished ourselves." - Mathis

Overall, the 2022 season marked one of rebuilding for Pitt Crew. In their first spring races since 2019, they walked away with 6 medals and a year’s worth of experience. With a strong novice class entering the varsity ranks next fall and campus life finally returning to normal, the team feels a renewed sense of optimism and love for the sport. Time will tell how strong Pitt Crew grows in the 2023 season, but summer training and recruiting efforts are already underway to make it a historic year.

Pittsburgh ACRA Times 2022



Final Results

Event	Placement	Competitors
Women's 2-	4th in Grand Final	J. Roselli, T. Mathis
Men's Novice 4+	3rd in D Final	(R. Agresar): E. Rihn, Z. Geoca, C. Catalano, S. Santos
Men's Novice 8+	2nd in D Final	(B. Williams): G. Panousis, C. Greenways, N. McDonald, M. Gomanko, Z. Miles, P. DeSaro, N. Stevens, S. Chambers
Women's Novice 8+	6th in Petite Final	(B. Burns): M. Danner, D. Sniffen, M. Adams, E. Kleckner, G. Rane, R. Higgins, M. Heim, R. Johnson
Men's Varsity 4+	5th in Petite Final	(B. Burns): M. DeGregorio, M. Benz, M. Guo. A. Bankov

For any questions or concerns, please email dsniffen@pittrowing.com. For full ACRA's results and information, visit the [ACRA website](#).