

Pitt Rowing

Press Release

May 18, 2022

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

A Year of Work Culminates in Philly



Philadelphia, PA - This weekend, Pitt Rowing took part in the largest collegiate regatta in the United States - the Jefferson Dad Vail Regatta. This is Pitt's most important race of the year, and they showed incredible grit throughout a long weekend of racing. Temperatures hovered in the high 60s with on-and-off rain, making for a muggy couple days on the water. In spite of challenges on and off the racecourse, three boats represented Pitt in the grand finals and the men's pair triumphed to win bronze.

Pitt Well Set After Qualifiers

Small boats kicked off Vails weekend with top finishes from the men's 2-, men's 2x, and women's 2x in their respective heats. The men's 2- (A. Bankov, M. DeGregorio) finished 2nd in their heat, which secured them a spot in Saturday's grand final. They also finished 3rd out of all heats, with the top 3 times being separated by less than 2 seconds. No doubt inspired by the success of their teammates, the men's 2x (M. Guo, Z. Miles) also finished 2nd in their heat and 3rd overall, with the 4th overall boat creeping just 1 second behind them. The women's 2x (M. Bratsch, F. Harrington) finished third in their heat, placing them into the semifinals that afternoon.

The larger crews moved on to bigger challenges as well. Though the varsity women's 4+ finished 5th in their heat, they came back with a vengeance to win 1st in their petite final just a few hours later. Both novice teams prioritized 8+s for Vails, which proved to be a wise decision by coaches Apoorva Singh (W) and Zachary Sebastian (M). Both crews finished 3rd in their heats, with the novice women moving to grand finals and the men to B finals on Saturday.



Varsity women's 4+ wins petite final by open water.

Crews Hold Nothing Back on Saturday

After pushing hard in the last 250m to earn their spot in semifinals by less than half a second, the varsity men's 4+ fought through two more races on Saturday. Ultimately, four 2ks in 24 hours got the best of them and they finished 6th in C finals. The novice men's 8+ showed toughness in their B final, finishing 3rd with open water on St. Mary's and just 2 seconds behind Fordham in 2nd.

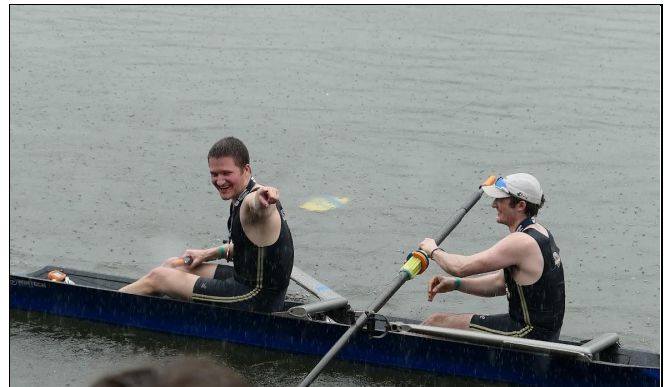
After taking 5th in Friday afternoon's semifinal, the women's 2x improved their time by 8s to also finish 5th in their petite final. The novice women's 8+ accomplished their goal of qualifying into grand finals, where they finished 6th among stiff competition. Despite finishing behind Drexel, West Point, Bowdoin, Connecticut, and Temple, earning a spot in such a competitive field was a win in itself.

Following their bronze medal performance at Knecht Cup last month, the men's 2x was hoping to repeat for a medal at Dad Vail. Coming into the last 500, they were sitting about two boat lengths from St. Thomas in third. As the crowd cheered they laid on the press to close the gap between them, though in the end finished just 3 seconds off the podium.

Men's 2- Brings Glory to Pittsburgh

After placing third overall in the heats, the men's 2- knew they were in medal contention during Saturday's grand final. However, this was also their last race of the weekend - their sixth 2k in 24 hours. They were completely exhausted, but knew they had to give everything they had to earn a medal.

In a total display of athleticism and determination, the pair earned themselves a bronze medal. With the next boat finishing lengths behind them, 1st - 3rd were clearly in their own league, all separated by less than 10 seconds.



Bronze medalists A. Bankov and M. DeGregorio were crowd favorites after rescuing a balloon from the race course.

"There was a lot of uncertainty about whether or not we'd get to race the pair for the whole season, but we couldn't be happier with how it all worked out. We raced, we danced, we dabbled in some environmental work, and ultimately had a perfect send-off to four years of rowing for Pitt." - Bankov

This weekend, the team will head to ACRA's in Tennessee to complete their spring season. For most of the seniors, this means one last chance to leave it all on the water.

Final Results

Event	Placement	Competitors
Men's Pair without Cox	3rd in Grand Final	A. Bankov, M. DeGregorio
Women's Frosh/Novice Four w/Cox	6th in D Final	(B. Llull): M. Heim, R. Higgins, G. Rane, R. Johnson
Men's Frosh/Novice Four	1st in C Final	(O. Aherne): J. Liu, D. Hinds, C. Waleski, K. Luo
Women's Frosh/Novice Hvwt Eight	6th in Grand Final	(S. Wagner): C. Scordis, M. Danner, E. Thompson, E. Kleckner, A. Aboosally, M. Adams, M. Heim, R. Johnson
Men's Frosh/Novice Hvwt Eight	3rd in B Final	(R. Agresar): E. Rihn, S. Santos, C. Catalano, Z. Geoca, R. Vidal, L. Crist, O. Aherne, P. DeSaro
Women's Collegiate 2x	5th in B Final	M. Bratsch, F. Harrington
Men's Collegiate 2x	4th in Grand Final	M. Guo, Z. Miles
Women's V. Hvwt Four w/Cox	1st in C Final	(N. Skorupski): J. Roselli, T. Mathis, E. Nissley, D. Sniffen
Men's V. Hvwt Four w/ Cox	6th in C Final	(B. Burns): A. Bankov, M. Gomanko, M. Benz, M. DeGregorio

For any questions or concerns, please email dsniffen@pittrowing.com. For full Dad Vail results and information, visit [Jefferson Dad Vail Regatta website](#) .