Four Sailors Represent CofC at the 2008 ICSA Singlehanded National Championship

by Shannon Heausler and Zeke Horowitz

The 2008 ICSA Singlehanded National Championships were held at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY on October 24-26. Four Cougars qualified to compete at this year’s event, making us the deepest team in attendance. Zeke Horowitz ’12 and Juan Maegli ’12 competed in the Men’s Championship in Lasers while Allie Blecher ’10 and Shannon Heausler ’10 competed in the Women’s Championship in Laser Radials.

We were greeted with a chilly overcast morning that started with a traditional de-icing of the fleet. After receiving our equipment and rigging our boats, the Cougars bundled up and braved the icy waters. As we expected, conditions were challenging throughout the event. The course was set close to the southern end of the narrow lake, making for extremely shifty conditions in the southerly breeze we had all three days. With below-freezing temperatures, cold rain, and an overnight water temperature drop of 16 degrees, the Cougars struggled to keep their minds on the racing at times.

The first two days of racing saw strong and shifty winds. With relatively long courses compared to other collegiate sailing, this put a premium on both physical and mental toughness. According to Shannon, “we were fortunate enough to have warm soup and hot chocolate from our coaches between races. But even with these luxuries, we found it nearly impossible to keep our minds off the cold.” On the second night, after 12 races had been completed, Cornell hosted the competitors and coaches for a lovely dinner on campus. It was a great opportunity for the sailors to catch up with their friends and to view a slideshow of pictures from the racing.

The sun came out for the final 6 races on Sunday. In the men’s fleet there was a very close battle for the title. After all 18 races had been sailed, Cy Thompson of Roger Williams University stood atop the podium after winning the tie-breaker with Kyle Rogachenko of Old Dominion University. The Cougars fared well with Juan finishing in 7th and Zeke in 8th overall. Both had several top 5 finishes and were the top two freshmen at the event.

In the women’s fleet, freshman Annie Haeger of Boston College dominated the racing from the beginning and won convincingly with a 50-point lead. For the Cougars, Allie finished 6th and Shannon placed 16th.

A huge thank you our coaches, Ward and Alice, Laser Performance for supplying the boats, and Cornell University for hosting us. We look forward to improving on our results in years to come.
In early December, the team gathered at the sailing center to wrap up the fall season with a work party. As the sailors pitched in to take down the rigs, wash the boats, rigs, and rudders, and help with other maintenance around the facility, we had a chance to reflect on all of the great assets this program has. Our fleet and facilities are among the best in collegiate sailing and, thanks in large part to Colin, are extremely well maintained and reliable year-round. And our coaching staff is deep and talented (we may be biased here!), allowing us to have effective practices during the week and coaches at multiple events every weekend.

But we also have tremendous support outside of the sailing center. Over the past 18 months we have invested a significant amount of time in developing additional resources for the sailors on the team and it is paying off already. On the academic front, we have a new advisor for the team, Kate Tiller, and by all accounts she has been a tremendous asset for the team academically. Kate is a CofC alum, so she knows the system, and is very enthusiastic about helping support the team. Her rapport with the team and proactive approach to ensuring that the sailors are doing everything they need to do academically are welcome additions to the program.

We also recently began working with a new strength and conditioning trainer, TJ Taylor. TJ has been enthusiastic about working with the team, tailoring the workouts to the specific needs of sailing. In his first month working with the team, TJ came out on the water to observe the team at practice in order to improve the team’s workout routine. Although the sailing team has not historically been recognized as the most dedicated athletes in the weight room, our reputation is already beginning to improve. In December, Katie Weaver was named Lifter of the Month by the Strength and Conditioning Department, which said “she has displayed a commitment level that never waivers from one day to the next and seems to look at every training session as a chance to improve herself and help her team gain an advantage over their opponent.” Congrats Weaver!

And finally, in December the College opened the Carolina First Arena, a 5,100-seat arena that also houses the athletic department offices and student-athlete academic services, including study-hall rooms and computer labs for student-athletes. The next phase of construction includes the conversion of part of the old basketball arena into a new strength and conditioning area. While we have grown to love the current weight room, the team will definitely enjoy a little more space and equipment as they continue to improve their physical fitness. The arena and new weight room will be great new resources for the sailing program. We’re looking forward to another great season this spring!
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The Maguires  Danmark Trophy  The Weisseggers  Hobart Intersectional
Yale Women’s  The Halls  Co-ed ACCs
Young Intersectional  SAISA Women’s
The Watts  Navy Women’s  The Allsopps  Navy Fall
Women’s ACCs  The Weavers  Navy Fall
The Murrays  Navy Women’s  The McClearys  Navy Fall
Women’s ACCs  The O’Connors  Victorian Urn
The Heauslers  SAISA Sloops  The Emsieks  Rose Bowl

Spring 2009
The College of Charleston hosted its first regatta of the 2008 fall sailing season on Saturday, September 20th and Sunday, September 21st. The competition included teams from our conference, including University of South Florida and Eckerd. Conditions proved challenging on Saturday due to high winds and strong current (even by Charleston standards!). Gold cup courses were sailed and many teams struggled with the strong current on the upwind beats.

On Sunday the current was less of a challenge and winds varied from set to set. At the end of the event, Charleston came out on top. Cole Allsopp ’11 and Cristy Jamison ’11 won A-division, and Andrew Zuber ’11 and Ali Trost ’09 won B-division. Many CoC sailors and friends came to support the Cougars in their first home event.

Mrs. Hurst Bowl
by Andrea Savage

On September 20 and 21, the College of Charleston Women’s Sailing Team kicked off their fall season by traveling to Dartmouth College for the Mrs. Hurst Women’s Intersectional with Coach Nick Ewenson. Andrea Savage ’09 and Erin Markee ’10 represented the Cougars in A-division, while Allie Blecher ’10 and Christina Murray ’10 sailed in B-division.

With a combined score of 60 points, the Cougars won the regatta by one point, just ahead of Harvard. The regatta was won in the last race when Allie and Christina match-raced Harvard and came out with a very exciting win for the Cougars. The light air and patchy conditions over the weekend ended up being a great learning experience and the trip was well worth it in the end.

Danmark Trophy
by Katie Weaver

The Cougars headed north on the weekend of October 4-5 to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. Sailing A-division were Steve Barbano ‘11 and Katie Weaver ‘10, and in B-division were Juan Maegli ‘12 and Erin Markee ‘10. Conditions on Saturday were incredibly challenging with some wacky winds varying from about 0-8 knots and very shifty making it hard for the race committee to get races off. The Cougars struggled a bit on Saturday with some inconsistency, but tried to keep their heads in the game and went into each race with hopes of improvement. By the end of the day on Saturday six races had been completed in each division and the Cougars were pretty deep in the 20-team fleet.

The team awoke on Sunday to very typical New England conditions with cold rain but fortunately some northerly breeze. Six more races were completed and things started to click for the Cougars. Major improvements were made in both divisions and the team was able to bounce back to a 13th place finish overall.

Although the Cougars struggled a bit at the Danmark trophy, this event has been known to be tough for the Charleston team and was one of the best finishes in the past several years. The team kept positive attitudes throughout the event and didn’t give up in any race. The team also learned a lot about sailing in incredibly shift conditions and realized the importance of boat handling in light air conditions.
The College of Charleston Cougars sailed in the Stern Sloop Regatta on October 4 and 5 in the Charleston harbor. Six teams competed over the weekend, including Eckerd, St. Mary’s, Florida Atlantic, Northeastern, Florida, and last but not least, your Cougars.

Saturday started off slowly due to a lack of wind and strong current. Once the breeze built, racing began in the College of Charleston’s fleet of J22s. Cole Allsopp ’11 took the helm while Shawn Murray ’12 and Andrew Zuber ’11 served as crew. The breeze was light in the morning and built through the afternoon coming from the southeast. The College of Charleston struggled throughout the weekend to get off the line, but with good boat speed was able to keep all of their finishes in the top three. Eckerd had the lead going into the second day with St. Mary’s and the Cougars right behind. The wind on Sunday was from the North at about ten knots. Going into the last race the Cougars were in second with 12 points and St. Mary’s right behind with 13 points. The Charleston Cougars defended their lead over St. Mary’s and were able to walk away with 2nd place. This proved to be a challenging but very productive weekend leading up to the SAISA Sloop Championships.

Navy Women’s
by Hanna Watt

The Cougar Women showed their talent and determination during a challenging five races in light breeze. To make the conditions a little more challenging, it was boat show weekend in Annapolis, providing plenty of boat traffic and chop. Saturday morning a light and shifty breeze filled from the northeast, allowing four races right off of the seawall. A trapezoid course was set up in the midst of a mooring field, which made the downwind leg and second reach leg a bit challenging for the fleet. In A-division sailing FJs were Allie Blecher and crew Christina Murray, who showed moments of brilliance but struggled after being called over early in two of the four races on Saturday morning. Andrea Savage and Erin Markee, sailing 420s in B-division, finished the morning with a remarkable 5 points after posting three firsts and a second. Freshman Corey Hall sailed C-division in Laser Radials with determination after a rocky start, but ended the morning on a high note with an eighth place finish. After coming in for lunch, the Naval Academy attempted to race in the light northeasterly farther out in the harbor. However, after waiting on the water for several hours, racing was called early for the day.

After a frustrating afternoon of waiting, the Cougars were eager to get back out on the water. However, racing on Sunday was once again postponed for the morning. Around noon, the breeze started filling in from the northwest, allowing the race committee to set up a race in the river. All three divisions were started before the breeze died, leaving very light and choppy conditions. Allie and Christina used their excellent light air boat handling to finish second in the only race of the day and ended up fifth overall. In this last race, Andrea and Erin were penalized by the judges at the start for sculling and were protested and disqualified for not doing their penalty quickly enough. Corey finished 12th in the challenging conditions and ended up a respectable 3rd overall for her first intersectional regatta. The team finished fifth place overall. Alternate crews Hanna Watt and Molly Robinson never made it into the racing, but provided valuable on-shore support and entertainment for the team. This early fall regatta showed the team some of their strengths and weaknesses and gave them a sense of who their competition will be for the year.

Hobart Intersectional
by Andrew Zuber

Arriving early on Saturday, we were ready for some very light wind racing on a beautiful fall day on Seneca Lake in Geneva, NY. Temperatures were in the 70s, but because of the heat the wind never rose above 6 knots, allowing only 1 set to be completed for the entire day. The wind died during the 2nd B race and never filled in again that day. With two strong races in A-division for Bryan Rigby ‘10 and Becky Bestoso ‘10 and two difficult races in B-division for Andrew Zuber ‘11 and Ali Trost ‘09, we sat in 6th overall at the end of day one.

With a good night’s rest from an early end to day one we were ready to make some moves on day two. Sunday seemed to begin with the same conditions, so everyone rushed to start early to try to make the most of the wind we had. Bryan and Becky continued to post strong results in A-division, and Andrew and Ali began to make a comeback in B-division. The wind strengthened to 10-12 at its peak and 3 full sets were sailed before the cutoff time was reached. By the end, both teams were sailing at their best. The Cougars had fought back to 3rd place, just one point out of 2nd. Thanks to Linda Weisssegger for the warm beds and good food. Altogether, it was a great regatta. Go Cougars!
and one for the two dinghy divisions. Both courses sailed the four leg windward-leeward course. The laser division sailed right in front of the sailing center, while the dinghies were a little further out around the corner.

On Saturday, the wind was up and down throughout the day out of the north, ranging from about 5 to 15 mph. With this direction, and the courses hugging closely to the shore, the conditions were very tricky. It was extremely puffy, and very shifty. The Cougars rallied and performed well that day, ending in a three way tie for third. The scores were extremely close, keeping all of us on our toes and making us even more determined to stay in the fight the next day.

After a delicious dinner at the Bertrand’s house, we went home, rested up, and prepared ourselves for the next day.

Sunday was slightly windier than Saturday, and the wind was more consistent. The only change for the Cougars was that Sam Stokes sailed the day with Steven in B-division to adjust for the heavier breeze. Even though there was more consistent breeze, there were still challenging conditions, similar to Saturday. Huge shifts and puffs dramatically influenced positioning on the course and good starts were a key to success. The scores were close the entire time, and at one point we were winning overall.

Bryan and Becky finished seventh in A-division, Steven, Katie, and Sam finished eighth in B-division, Zeke Horowitz finished eighth in C-division, and Alex Bertrand and Juan Maegli finished second in D-division, earning CofC third place overall. Huge thanks to the rest of the subs, Logan Hearn, Brittney Haas, and Shannon Heausler who were ready to sail the entire time, and provided the support needed to keep everyone happy. We had a lot of fun, learned a lot, and sailed well. Good job Cougars!

**Captain Hurst Bowl**

*by Emily Simon*

The Captain Hurst Bowl at Dartmouth was a great challenge for the Cougars. Manton Paine ‘09, Emily Simon ‘10, Cole Allsopp ‘11, and Perry Emsiek ‘12 traveled north to sail at Dartmouth on tiny Lake Mascoma. The leaves were very colorful and the venue was absolutely BEAUTIFUL! However, the weather was much chillier than what we’re used to and the wind was all over the place in both velocity and direction.

The team struggled through the first few sets but eventually got the hang of sailing at the tiny inland venue. Improvements were made, and although we came up just short of our ‘top-half’ goal, we were pleased with how we sailed. While we were all eager to return to warmer weather, we enjoyed traveling together and overall it was a great experience.

**Victorian Urn Regatta**

*by Perry Emsiek*

The weekend of November 1-2, Shannon Heausler ‘10, Hayley Jenkins ‘10, Perry Emsiek ‘12, Allie Trost ‘09, and Coach Alice Manard traveled to the Victorian Urn Regatta at Harvard. The weekend consisted of extremely challenging and frustrating conditions on the Charles River, but wonderful hospitality from The O’Connor’s with home cooked meals and an endless supply of chocolate!

The regatta got off to a slow start with A-division finishing one race before being postponed on the water for two hours and eventually being sent in for a “bathroom break.” The breeze filled in from the ESE at 3-8 knots around 1:30 pm and held for the afternoon. Sailing was inconsistent on the racecourse due to the extreme shifts, but six races were completed in A and four races in B. The last race of the day was sailed in the dark, with the buildings from downtown Boston and the giant Citgo sign providing the only light on the course.

Sunday morning began promptly at 10:00 am with the first race in B-division. It was a light day of shifty conditions on the Charles with the wind ranging from 3-6 knots. Overall, the Cougar women had strong moments and challenging ones, but they learned the importance of a good start and getting the first shift. Luckily, the weather cooperated and they were not faced with too cold of temperatures, but they were the only team in complete drysuit apparel. Thank you to Charleston Sailing, Coach Alice, and Ms. O’Connor for a great weekend!

**SAISA Sloop Championship**

*by Sam Stokes*

The 2008 SAISA Sloop Championship, hosted by USF, was held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club in Florida. Eight Teams in the conference competed in Sonsars for the qualifying spot for the ICSA Sloop National Championship. Each team sent four sailors and was allowed one alternate sailor to switch in. Charleston sent Cole Allsopp ’11, Andrew “Zuby” Zuber ’11, Chip “Snack Treat” Swatta ’11 and Sam Stokes ‘12 to represent CofC in this regatta.

The day started off postponed with no wind, so the sailors were forced to wait on the water until a light southeast breeze kicked in. The Cougars struggled off the starting line in the first race but managed to fight back for a solid third place behind Eckerd and USF. The breeze built to about 4 to 6 knots and Charleston took advantage of this on their first leg and rounded the first mark ahead in four out of five races, but couldn’t put together a complete race. The team took another third and a fourth before the wind died. After a second postponement, the sea breeze rolled in stronger from the west and the wind built to 7 to 9 knots. Again, the Cougar squad dominated upwind but struggled tactically downwind until the final race in which the team took a first place by over five minutes. The day ended with Charleston taking third behind Eckerd, in second, and USF in first.

Editor’s Note: USF went on to win the 2008 ICSA Sloop National Championship. Congrats to the Bulls on their first national championship win!
Racing started out around 10 on the Potomac River where viewing was very difficult. We had Coach Nick watching and giving pointers from a 420 he was sailing around the bottom of the course. He definitely had the best spot in the house to watch the racing, which just shows how dedicated our coaches are! The wind was around 12 mph with gusts over 20 and very shifty. In these conditions, Andrea Savage ’09 and Erin Markee ’10 sailed 4 A races and Allie Blecher ’10 and Christina Murray ’10 sailed 3 B races. The RC sent us in as a storm passed, then we went back out for the afternoon to sail in the lagoon. But the wind was gone and we were sent in for the day.

On the second day we started off the morning in the lagoon right next to Regan Airport! The winds were very shifty and started out in the low teens, building to the low 20’s with gusts up to 30. For anyone who has sailed out of Georgetown in the lagoon, you know this is a great deal of fun. Getting off the line was important and playing the middle/left side of the course was working out well. Races were really short but there were a lot of opportunities to gain. It was all about making sure you were in the puffs and tacking on the shifts. Patience in this case was not a virtue. The wind died as the day progressed, which made the races harder because the puffs were that much more important to be in, the shifts that much bigger, and the lulls that much more painful. Because of the direction of the wind, you had to know where the puffs were going to appear up at the windward mark and which side was going to pay for the downwind. One little mistake cost big, so you had to be on your game.

Everyone in the top five was very close going into the last two sets. The Cougars, in both divisions, unfortunately had their worst races in the second to last set. But we brushed it off and went into the last set still very close with all the teams around us, and sailed our best races of the regatta in both divisions. Three of the other top teams had their worst races in the last set, which put the Cougars in second place. It was great to see us all rally for the last set and pull through when it really counted.

We had a great time, learned a lot in some really difficult and unusual conditions, and watched some really fantastic movies on the drive. I think Coach Nick was especially pleased with our choice of Sex in the City!

**ACCs**

*by Becky Bestoso*

The coed team, consisting of Becky Bestoso ’10, Bryan Rigby ’10, Steven Barbano ’11, Katie Weaver ’10, and Logan Hearrn ’11, showed up at the Hobart sailing center (a little late due to a wrong turn) ready to sail. In our navigational defense, we didn’t have the biggest wrong turn of the event. BC and Conn College apparently drove 5 hours in the wrong direction, only recognizing their mistake when they saw signs for Canada.

The weather was beautiful for this time of the year in upstate New York (although a bit chilly by our standards): about 45-50 degrees with a slight drizzle. However, there was heavy fog and no wind. Around 11 am A-division was sent out on the water, but was quickly sent back in due to lack of wind. There were no more attempts made to sail that day.

On Sunday it was about 30 degrees with rain and snow flurries, but the Cougars were ready to race. It was blowing 14-30 knots out of the west and the shifts were significant. A and B division both sailed five races but we were struggling with consistency and finished eleventh at the event. Overall we were a little disappointed with the result and felt we could have done better, but we learned what we need to work on to reach our potential. We were eager to get back to the Charleston weather!
Friends, Family, and Alumni,

Like many of you, our program is feeling the effects of the economy. University endowments across the country have suffered significant losses, and our endowment funds are no different. Currently about half of our team travel budget is funded by income from the J. Stewart Walker Endowment Fund. In addition, the state of South Carolina, which funds the portion of our budget provided by the athletic department, is under significant budget pressure.

In order to fund the team until our endowment funds return to a more healthy state, we have a significant need to raise funds to be used for team travel over the next couple of seasons. Our ability to maintain our elite status in collegiate sailing is directly related to our ability to travel to competitive intersectionals. Our team is very deep and as competitive as it has ever been, and giving our sailors event experience has become paramount in maintaining our success. In light of our financial situation, we have already limited the number of events that we will compete in this spring, and we will have to continue to scale back the schedule without your help.

We are confident that our alumni and supporters can rally to this challenge to keep the College of Charleston Sailing Team at the top of collegiate sailing. We know these are difficult financial times for everyone and greatly appreciate any help you can give us. Every donation, no matter the amount, will help us meet our funding gap and will go directly toward helping the team succeed.

Very sincerely,
The College of Charleston Sailing Team

Boat Donations

Thinking of selling your boat? Consider donating it to the College of Charleston Sailing Program!

Please contact us for details
843-953-8252, manarda@cofc.edu

Sailing Team Gives Back to the Charleston Community

Back in Charleston after a restful winter break, in January the College of Charleston Sailing Team spent two afternoons of their off-season helping to build a house with Habitat for Humanity. This annual team event, now in its second year, provides a great opportunity for the team to “catch up with each other after the break while doing something productive in the community” according to team captain Ali Trost.

The sailors and coaches were tasked with painting the interior of the house in North Charleston. Although some of our painting skills at the beginning were “marginal, at best”, as Cole Allsopp described it, we learned the proper technique and accomplished a lot. As the Cougars worked diligently painting the walls, ceilings and trim, their conversations included “can I share your paint?” and “I just painted that wall you’re leaning on” to “is Blink 182 reuniting?” and “is that Jackson?”. The painting was nearly complete by the end of the second day, and we left more paint on the house than on our clothes and in our hair.

The house we were working on is scheduled to be completed by the end of February. The homeowner, Balessia Godette, and her family are looking forward to moving into the 4-bedroom house and were on site to thank the team for their help.

This is the second year the team has done a Habitat build in the off-season and by all accounts is has been a huge success. According to team captain Manton Paine, “everyone really enjoyed the Habitat build last year so we wanted to do it again this year. I think it’s a great tradition we’ve started.” And the team’s work has not gone unnoticed by Charleston Habitat for Humanity. Volunteer Coordinator Laurel Prichard said “the sailing team was a huge help with our Homecoming Blitz Build last February and we are excited to have them working with us again.” Great work, Cougars!

Andrea Savage ’09, Coreyanna Moore ’11, and Erin Markee ’10 show their painting skills

The team on the front porch of the Habitat house during a painting break
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<td></td>
<td>Thompson Trophy (tentative)</td>
<td>Kings Point, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3-4</td>
<td>ICSA National Championship Semi-Finals *, **</td>
<td>College of Charleston, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25-27</td>
<td>ICSA Women's National Championship **</td>
<td>St. Francis YC - San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/29-31</td>
<td>ICSA Team Race National Championship **</td>
<td>Treasure Island - San Francisco, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/1-3</td>
<td>ICSA Coed National Championship **</td>
<td>St. Francis YC - San Francisco, CA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* = qualifier for national championship  ** = qualified only

-Home regattas are in **bold**; please come out and support the team.
## College of Charleston Sailing Team

### Spring 2009 Roster

#### Seniors
- Britney Haas, San Diego, CA
- Liz Miller, Norfolk, VA
- Manton Paine **, Severna Park, MD
- Molly Robinson, Sausalito, CA
- Andrea Savage*, Grosse Pointe, MI
- Alison Trost **

#### Juniors
- Jackson Benvenutti, Bay St. Louis, MS
- Becky Bestoso, Erie, PA
- Allie Blecher *, Fullerton, CA
- Hayley Jenkins, Stevensville, MD
- Walter Maguire, Guilford, CT
- Erin Markee, Del Mar, CA
- Nick Martin *, San Diego, CA
- Mary Maxwell, SW Harbor, ME
- Kathryn Metscher, Duxbury, MA
- Christina Murray, Annapolis, MD
- Bryan Rigby, San Diego, CA
- Emily Simon, Grosse Pointe, MI
- Katie Weaver, Davidsonville, MD
- Will Weisman, San Diego, CA

#### Sophomores
- Cole Allsopp, Annapolis, MD
- Steve Barbano, Cranbury, NJ
- Logan Hearn, Cincinnati, OH
- Cristy Jamison, Rye, NY
- Coreyanna Moore, Isle of Palms, SC
- Morgan Ward, Concord, MA
- Kip Watson, Duxbury, MA
- Hanna Watt, Annapolis, MD
- Sarah Wolcott, Norfolk, VA
- Andrew Zuber, Rochester, NY

#### Freshmen
- Alyssa Aitken, Sandwich, MA
- Alex Bertrand, Annapolis, MD
- Erik Bowers, Excelsior, MN
- Sarah Burks, St. John, USVI
- Zander Dill, Paget, Bermuda
- Perry Emsiek, Corona del Mar, CA
- Corey Hall, Tampa, FL
- Zeke Horowitz, Sarasota, FL
- Juan Maegli, Guatemala
- Shawn Murray, Annapolis, MD
- Molly O’Neill, Narragansett, RI
- Sam Stokes, Norfolk, VA
- Chip Swatta, Annapolis, MD
- Caroline Warren, Charleston, SC

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** Team Captain
* All-American
Steve Hunt, ‘98 Makes a Businesses out of Team Racing

Since stepping into a 420 at CofC for the first time, team racing has been a critical part of Steve Hunt’s sailing career. In his senior year at CofC, Hunt led his team to a second place finish at the 1998 ICSA Team Race National Championship. After graduating, Hunt spent several years as a member of the US Sailing Team in the 470 class before returning to his hometown of San Diego, CA.

Back in San Diego, Hunt renewed his passion for team racing as the coach of the Point Loma High School sailing team. As he introduced the high school sailors to team racing, it became clear to Hunt that there was a significant need for better tools to help teach team racing basics. Most of his sailors had significant racing experience, but not much team racing experience. In order to effectively work as a team, they needed to learn basic skills, strategy, and vocabulary. Hunt recognized that many high school and college teams likely face the same situation, and he developed the idea for a video to help teach team racing fundamentals. “In team racing it’s critical for all team members to be on the same page and have the same fundamental understanding of the sport before they can effectively develop their own strategies and tactics”, Hunt said.

Along with Clark Dawson, Hunt developed the Teaching Team Racing 2008 DVD. The video explains the basics of team racing as well as the critical moves and plays. It uses actual team racing footage, interviews with team racing experts, and white board discussions to make explanations clear and easy to understand.

The video is already being used by high school and college teams across the country to help improve their sailors’ understanding of the sport. The CofC team has been using the video to help make team racing practices more effective. According to Head Coach Ward Cromwell, “it’s a great tool to get the team on the same page at the beginning of the season. For some of the sailors who are new to team racing it’s a great teaching tool. And for the more advanced team racers it’s a good refresher on the basic combinations and moves.”

For more information on the video and how to order it please visit the website below. Thanks to Steve for creating this great teaching tool and giving back to the sport of sailing. And congratulations on winning 2008 Etchells World Championship!