

# CHS grad prepares for crew competition

## Inverness resident training in Seattle

By Nancy Kennedy

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INVERNESS — Train, eat, sleep.



*Special to the Chronicle*

Inverness resident Ben Davison, second from left, is flanked by fellow Floridians Jack Kelley, left, and Kevin Cole, with Washington resident Chris Wales at right, as they train in Seattle for the Junior World Championship Games in Lithuania.

Since 16-year-old Inverness resident Ben Davison arrived in Seattle to train for the upcoming Junior World Championship Games in Lithuania as part of the U.S. Collegiate National Olympic Team, all he's done is train, eat and sleep.

The 2012 Citrus High School graduate will be rowing in a "quad" with three other boys, chosen from across the United States.

The championships are from Aug. 7 to 11.

"I'm pretty excited about it," Ben said in a telephone interview. "To be selected, you have to be invited to a camp, which is in Seattle. I came here and went through three weeks of testing and then they select a boat to go."

Earlier this year, Ben helped obtain wins in Tennessee and Georgia, which caught the eye of national coaches and earned an invitation to try out for the Junior National Sculling (two-oar rowing) Team. A state championship victory helped secure a place in the final 20 for selection to the Junior National Sculling Team.

Crew is the sport, but skulling is what you do, as Ben explained.

Ben started skulling about three years ago in Inverness with the Rowing Organization of Citrus County Students (ROCCS).

His father, Terry Knight, is one of the coaches.

"It's amazing what he's done, coming from little Inverness and such a small club," Knight said. "I was with him this past weekend, watching him at a race in Vancouver, and they did extremely well," Knight said last week.

Knight said the whole family will be traveling to Lithuania to watch Ben hopefully win the championship event.

After he returns, Ben plans to attend classes at the College of Central Florida.

"I want to get my test scores up and hopefully be recruited to go to a university next year," he said. "I like the University of Washington — one of the better rowing schools."

He also hopes to compete in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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