

Local rowers earn gold at regatta

ROCCS win five medal at Giblet event

By The Staff

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The Rowing Organization of Citrus County Students (ROCCS) left their mark on the third annual Head of the Giblet Regatta hosted by the South Orlando Rowing Association (SORA) and Boone High School at Turkey Lake Park in Orlando last Saturday.



Special to the Chronicle

The ROCCS crew team earned five medals, including two gold medals, at last Saturday's regatta at Turkey Lake Park in Orlando. Crew members are from left: Coach Dan Carella, Christian Javier, Stan Markewitz, Amanda Alexander, Dayna Triana, Andrew Mancheste

ROCCS rowers took two gold medals, two silvers and one bronze at the regatta, which was attended by 21 clubs fielding 129 entries.

Capturing one of the teams two gold's were Lecanto Panthers senior, Dayna Triana and her teammate sophomore Amanda Alexander, who took their sculling double to a winning finish in the 5K endurance race. Triana and Alexander were ranked fifth in the state last year in the Women's Double.

Likewise, the men's junior double, crewed by Crystal River Pirates sophomores Joe Davison and Matt Hon, took gold in their 5K event. This ROCCS Men's Double finished last year eighth in the state. Both boats will be serious contenders in the 2010 sprint season culminating in State Championships this coming April.

In the Mixed Four sweep rowing 5K event, Triana, Davison and Lecanto senior Andrew Manchester and freshman Desiree Gerlach took silver with Hon as coxswain for the boat. In a hotly contested race, ROCCS was just two seconds from taking first place in their event.

"This is Gerlach and Manchester's first year with the sport," stated head coach Ward Cooper, "and their adaptability, skill and strength make it hard to imagine they have been rowing for less than a year."

ROCCS Adult Masters won silver in their Women Masters/Open four event. Master rowers Casey McKenna, Jane Mueller and Christina Tietle rounded out their adult boat with Lecanto student Gerlach in the bow seat and Coach Cooper as coxswain. Later in the day, master rowers McKenna and CFCC freshman Stan Markewitz placed fifth in a very competitive seven-boat Masters Mixed/Open Double sculling event.

Lecanto freshman Kevin McDonald and Lecanto seventh grader Christian Javier joined a Boone High School composite eight crew of four, Boone/SORA and two Gainesville Area Rowing (GAR) rowers, and won bronze in their event.

"In a sport where everyone supports giving all athletes, especially up and comers, a chance to enjoy the competitive experience, filling in seats to make up boats that would otherwise not have a chance to compete is what it is all about," said ROCCS President Larry Triana.

ROCCS, a not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to providing the residents of Citrus County with the opportunity to experience and enjoy the sport of rowing regardless of age and experience level. Enrollment is open to all Citrus County high school, middle school, private and home school students and adult rowers. Visit us at www.crewroccs.com for details.