



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MARITIME SAILORS WIN SHIELDS TROPHY - AGAIN

(Vallejo, CA – September 18, 2007)... For the fourth time in the last five years, the California Maritime Academy has captured the prestigious Shields Trophy in sailing competition at the U.S. Naval Academy. In two days of competition against teams from Navy, the Coast Guard, King’s Point Merchant Marine Academy, St. Mary’s college and maritime academy entries from Massachusetts, New York, Maine and the Great Lakes, the Cal Maritime crew emerged triumphant.

The Shield’s Trophy format involves a series of races, all using Navy 44 sloops supplied by the Naval Academy. “We finished in the top three in every one of the seven events,” said Academy coach Susan “Charlie” Arms. “We had a fouling mishap in the first race which cost us some penalty points, but after that we were solid from start to finish. In the final races, we had a strong lead, allowing us to play defense against our closest competitors to make sure we didn’t foul or get forced over the starting line early.”

The 2007 Academy eight-person offshore team includes four freshmen (Tyler Wolk, Evan Wanamaker, Katy Love and Bryan Buffaloe), and three sophomores (Robert Proulx, Charles Davis and Brian Vanderspek) along with senior Nathan Prather.

“They did an amazing job considering how little chance we have had to practice,” said Arms. “We held tryouts over the Labor Day weekend and two Wednesday practices. However, because of a shortage of safety monitors at Annapolis, we weren’t able to practice aboard the 44s before the racing started on Saturday like most of the other crews.”

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Arms said the next big testing point on the Academy's fall competition schedule will be the Kennedy Cup Intercollegiate Offshore series, also held at the Naval Academy, November 2-4. "That's a very big event for collegiate sailing and we'll be competing against top schools with strong sailing teams such as Navy, King's Point, and the University of Rhode Island. It will be a good test of just how strong the 2007-08 Cal Maritime offshore crew really is. We've finished second in the Kennedy Cup the past two years to URI and Navy respectively, and we have strong hopes for taking the top prize this year. We're excited."

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