



CAL MARITIME

Contact:

Doug Webster
Director of Public Relations
California Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181

W: (707) 654-1720
C: (707) 328-1887
E: dweb823@aol.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY CAPTURES U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

(Vallejo, CA – 9/21/06)...In a classic David and Goliath scenario, a small California school, which has to practice in borrowed boats, has for the second year in a row, and the third in the last four years, captured the 2006 Shields Trophy as the nation's top U.S. Service Academy sailors. The California Maritime Academy, the smallest member of the California State University, beat teams from Navy, Army, Maine Maritime, The Maritime Academy at King's Point, Massachusetts Maritime and SUNY Maritime. Although Cal Maritime lacks its own larger sailboats, that hasn't hampered its ability to repeatedly bring home the top prize in service academy sailing.

Lead by senior tactician Piet van Os, Cal Maritime was declared the winner after two days of weekend competition at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, Sept. 16th and 17th. Other members of the team included Brian Vanderspek, Daniel, "Justin" Scott, Nathan Prather, Charles "Cole" Davis, Bud McKay, Robert Proulx and Paige Johnston. (van Os, by the way, is heading to Hawaii this winter as one of 15 finalist crew members of the youngest team ever to enter the famed TransPac race from Los Angeles to Hawaii. Producer and sailing enthusiast Roy Disney selected the team from over 500 applicants and plans to make a documentary about its training and the race itself with release scheduled for 2008.)

Cal Maritime Sailing Director Charlie Arms said conditions varied from 15 knots of wind and rain on Saturday to dying breezes with a 180° wind shift Sunday.

-more-

CAL MARITIME TAKES SHIELDS CUP

Page 2 of 2

Driving in his first college regatta, freshman Vanderspek, whose father Hugh also sailed at CMA in the early 80s, proved himself a worthy helmsman. After a poorly timed start and a torn spinnaker lead to a fourth place finish in the first race, the Academy team bounced back, taking first in the second race of the day. Maine Maritime took the third race, but in the final competition of the day, the Keelhaulers led wire to wire while Maine stumbled, leaving the California sailors with a three-point lead heading into Sunday.

Sunday's forecast was for 5-10 knot winds in the morning, but fading in the afternoon. Despite a delayed start, Cal Maritime pulled out a third place finish. With the winds continuing to fade, regatta organizers decided to declare the competition over and Cal Maritime was the repeat champion – 5 points ahead of 2nd place Navy and third-place Maine.

The Academy, by the way, is actively pursuing a sailboat donation in the 35-45 foot range that would be suitable for both Bay area and open ocean racing. Said Arms, “We have established ourselves as a competitive team in college big boat sailing, and now we want to really go offshore and prove ourselves in distance racing as Navy has done in the Bermuda race series.” For more information about the Cal Maritime sailing program call the Sailing Office. (707)-654-1257 or email carms@csum.edu.

##