



ICSA National Championship Western Semi-Final

*April 26-27, 2008
Long Beach, CA*



Intercollegiate Championship Sailing

April 26, 2008 – 5:30 P.M. – Long Beach, CA - Sunny skies and warm weather greeted the sailors at the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) National Championship, Western Semi-Final. The University of Southern California and the US Sailing Center – Long Beach are hosting this event being sailed next to the South Wing of the Belmont Pier in Long Beach, California. A total of 18 teams from around the country are in attendance, of which the top nine finishers will move forward to the Finals to be held in Newport, RI in early June. After a brief delay, racing got underway in 5kts of breeze which continued to build throughout the afternoon.

Georgetown has gotten off to a quick start and is leading the regatta after 12 races. Chris Behm and Carly Chamberlain are winning A-Division while their counterparts Charlie Buckingham and Alex Taylor are winning B-Division. According to Georgetown Head Coach Mike Callahan, “Some of the keys to our success have been that the conditions have been very similar to what we sail in at Georgetown and we have not had any major errors such as an over early. We did have to spin a 720 degree penalty, but we were able to fight back to a good score in that race.”

Just behind are Yale 2nd, College of Charleston 3rd, and MIT 4th. Host USC has dropped back from 4th earlier in the day to 8th. “We are still qualifying and there is a small spread in points just ahead of us creating opportunity to move up but we need to get more consistent finished in single digits. There are still a lot of races scheduled, and anything can happen” said USC Head Coach, Mike Segerblom.

ICSA President, Mitch Brindley said, “The conditions have been very challenging. It has not been straightforward sailing because the breeze has been much more shifty and changing more often than what was many expected. It has been great to see a lot of close sailing with many teams still fighting for their spot in the top nine which will advance to the Finals. There have been plenty of surprises on the Eastern Semi-Final too with Vermont and U. Penn leading. It is really up to the sailors this year as they must qualify for the Finals to be hosted in Newport, RI.”

Racing is schedule to begin at 10:30 A.M. Sunday. Viewing is great from the South Wing of the Belmont Pier. The races will continue throughout the day and conclude at approximately 4:00 P.M. The regatta is being sailed in Collegiate Flying Juniors, a 14 ft. two person boat, by mostly coed teams. For more information, results and regular updates go to: www.collegesailing.org .



Thomas Barrows of Yale crosses just in front of the Brown University during race 1B at the ICSA National Championship Western Semi-Final.



The fleet comes off the starting line with speed at Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association National Championship Western Semi-Final being sailed just in front of the south wing of the Belmont Pier.



Chris Vetter and Christy Tatchell of the University of Southern California lead the group to the finish line during race 6A.



Freshman Charlie Buchingham of Georgetown leads the fleet towards the weather mark during race 5B of the ICSA National Championship Western Semi-Final.

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