



ICSA National Championship Western Semi-Final

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



Intercollegiate Championship Sailing

April 27, 2008 – Long Beach, CA - The sailors at the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) National Championship, Western Semi-Final had another great day of racing. The University of Southern California and the US Sailing Center – Long Beach hosted the event that was sailed next to the South Wing of the Belmont Pier in Long Beach, California. A total of 18 teams from around the country were in attendance, of which the top nine finishers move forward to the Finals to be held in Newport, RI in early June. After a brief delay, racing got underway in 5kts of offshore breeze. After the first two races the offshore breeze died and the sea breeze filled for the remainder of the day.

Georgetown continued to sail well and won the event by 15 points. Chris Behm and Carly Chamberlain won A-Division while their counterparts Charlie Buckingham and Alex Taylor finished second in B-Division. Head coach Mike Callahan said, "USC ran a great event. The conditions favored our strengths and we had great weather reports which made us very comfortable going on the water."

Meanwhile, the competition in the middle of the fleet was very close as the teams were fighting to finish in the top nine and move forward to the finals to be held in Newport, RI in early June. Going into the final two races there was twenty point spread between NY Maritime in eighth and Hawaii in tenth place.

In the end, South Florida moved into eighth and NY Maritime held onto ninth. NY Maritime Coach Blaine Pedlow says, "We really looked at this event in terms of wins and losses. A top ten finish was a win and our goal was to have more wins than losses. Our B-Division had a great set in the middle of the day with two firsts which really gave us a boost."

Georgetown, Yale, Charleston, Brown, MIT, Roger Williams, Kings Point, South Florida and NY Maritime all qualified for the finals. Despite being the local team, USC had a rough day of sailing and dropped from eighth to eleventh and missed qualifying for the finals by eighteen points.

ICSA President, Mitch Brindley said, "the event was a great success with a variety of conditions. I was really happy to see the event be so close with many teams fighting for their spot at the finals. The final regatta in Newport, RI should be exciting to watch."

The regatta was 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 .



Yale B-Division comes out of a tack with speed just after a start.



A-Division winner's Chris Behm and Carly Chamberlain tack to cross the finish line during their final race.



NY Maritime B-Division complete a roll tack as they cross the finish line in first.



The University of Texas Long Horns show their enthusiasm as they cross the finish line.

USC Sailing Team
United States Sailing Center
5489 East Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90803-4405
562-433-7939 Phone
562-433-3668 Fax
www.uscsailing.org
www.usclb.org

Press Officer--
Glennon Stratton, GTSphotos
333 Newport Ave. #101
Long Beach, CA 90814
C. 213.494.2778
www.GTSphotos.com