



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Central Catholic Rowers Capture Their Second National Championship and Bring Home Three National Scholastic Championship Medals

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 27, 2014 – The Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) held its 2014 championship regatta on May 23 and 24, 2014, at Lake Mercer, NJ. This annual event is an invitational regatta focused on bringing together crews from around the United States and Canada who are invited based on their performance in regional qualifying championship regattas. Central Catholic qualified 4 boats based on their performance in the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association Championships. Central Catholic High School's crew participated in the SRAA regatta with entries in four events: First Varsity 8+, Second Varsity 8+, Junior Varsity 8+ and Frosh 8+. All of the boats made it to the semi-finals in their respective races.

The Second Varsity 8+ crew of seniors Jay Maier, Zachary Volosky, Daniel Wisniewski; juniors Edoardo Frezza, Nic Pereira, Rob Barringer, Nick Okwiya; and sophomores Matthew Pilewski and Shane Burke won the gold medal in their event, giving Central Rowing its second National Championship in as many years. Last year Central's First Varsity 8+ took the honor.

Additionally, Central Catholic captured a bronze medal in the First Varsity 8+ event and a silver medal in the Freshman 8+ event. This is the best overall performance to date for the Central Catholic crew at this regatta.

The crew is coached by Jay Hammond (CCHS Hon. '12), Aaron Lucia, '06, Alan Meininghaus, Emma Keller, Justin O'Connor, '10, and Phil Bohn, '09. The crew benefits from the leadership of 13 seniors: John Gilkey, Zack McKenna, Brendan Connolly, Sean Burke, Jack Donaher, Michael Begg, Zachary Volosky, Jay Maier, Matt Kreps, Alex Butler, Jake Wiedemer, Lucas Peilert (Captain) and Jeff Cao (Captain).

The next stop for the Central Crew is the US Rowing Youth National Championship race at Lake Natoma outside of Sacramento, California on June 13-15.

Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) (<https://www.sraa.net/>) The Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) has been the principal source of rules and procedures governing high school rowing. The primary function of the SRAA is to run the scholastic championship regatta each May, determining the North American Champions. High school athletics does not allow sporting events to be held which decide national champions. This regatta, nevertheless, is informally recognized by the rowing community as a national championship.

Central Catholic High School, a college preparatory school for boys, is guided by the educational principles of St. John Baptist de La Salle. The school strives to provide a challenging, relevant, and diverse program of studies and extracurricular activities in an environment that fosters a life of faith



and learning and develops leaders rooted in the Gospel values of integrity, respect, service, justice, and peace.

Central Catholic High Crew Program's mission is to create champions on the water and solid citizens off the water. Each athlete is encouraged and supported in developing his God-given potential and our selection process for boating priority (First Boat, Second Boat, etc.) is highly competitive. However, rowing encourages the participation of boys of all levels of natural physical ability. Rowing promotes team work and rewards self-discipline and individual hard work. Our Coaching Staff has a well-defined standard operating procedure both on the water and around the boathouse. This structured approach instills discipline, ensures safety, and enhances performance during races.

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