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# GLASTONBURY HIGH SCHOOL CROWNED ROWING STATE CHAMPIONS FOR SECOND YEAR IN ROW

*Boys 1V8 Wins Popiel Cup for first time since 2015*

*Lake Waramaug* — For the second straight year, Glastonbury High School brought the Emerson Bowl home on Sunday, May 19, when they won the CPSRA Regatta (State Championships for Rowing). The Boys and Girls earned the trophy — awarded to the top public high school rowing team in Connecticut — with a combined total of eight medals, and claimed the highest number of combined points by edging out 13 other teams to win the coveted title.

The most memorable race of the day, was also the last race of the day — the Boys 1V8 race — and the GHS athletes did not disappoint the cheering crowd when they sprinted past their competition in the last 200 meters to beat Simsbury and Farmington with a winning time of

4:39.2. Simsbury came in nearly two seconds behind Glastonbury to take second place. An emotional Steve Somosky (Boys Head Coach) said, “The races today were exhilarating and exceeded my expectations in how aggressively they attacked the race plan we had put together for this event. The mood of the boys in the 1V8 boat was focused all day. Mentally, they were clearly in a zone with a gold medal and the Popiel Cup the only outcome in their minds.” After the race, the Boys team doused Somosky with a bucket of cold water and then threw him in the lake in memory of their achievement. The Boys 1V8 had not won the Popiel Cup since 2015. Alex Pericolosi, senior co-captain who will be rowing at UCONN in the fall said, “We had our sights on taking home the Popeil Cup and we did not disappoint. Despite the adversity we faced this season, we beat the odds and came together at the State Championships. Our top three boats all got first in their events and we took home both the Cup and Emerson trophy. I couldn’t have asked for a better senior season and I am proud of all my brothers that made the dream come true.”

The Boys team claimed four medals in all when, in addition to their 1V8, the 2V8 and 3V8 also took first place, while their Novice 8 boat took silver. The Girls 1V8 took third place, while their 3V8 took home gold, as did their Novice 8 boat and their 1V4 and their 1N4. “Overall we had a great race day for our team with five out of six boats medaling, which was amazing,” said Flo Caces a

senior oarsman on the team who strokes the 1V8. “We’ve gone through a lot this season, and our results showed that we persevered and we gave it everything we had. At the end of the day we’re all very proud of each other and our results.” New Girls Head Coach, Karin Rheinhardt concurred, saying, “Our girls rowed fantastic races that truly showed their grit and character. They should all be very proud of what they accomplished today.” The GHS Crew Team will graduate 19 athletes in June — 10 boys and 9 girls — and Somosky summed up the last four years saying, “Eight of my graduating seniors will be rowing in college this fall and two of the senior girls have also decided to row. As a coaching staff, it has been such a gift for all of us to see how accomplished these kids have become in the classroom and on the water over the last four years.” He concluded, “The kids and their parents have become extended family and they, and the incredible memories they have made — like the ones today — will stay in our hearts forever.”

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