

Easily the Best Weekend Ever! (Continued)

Saturday afternoon was our race. It was easily one of the best races. We've been seat-racing each other all season to earn a spot in that boat, and the boat that rowed the Charles last Saturday was the best boat we could produce. I was really honored to get the cox's seat; it made me feel even better when one of my rowers said that they'd never trusted a cox'n as much as they did me. Oh, the little things in life! We raced well: we surged off the start, around the first bend onto "Powerhouse Stretch," and began passing our first boat. We struggled to pass them for a while, but definitively passed them at the Anderson Bridge, entering the last mile. Then came the most important part of the race: holding close to the buoy line on the inside of the "Big Turn." To get there, I had to be more aggressive than usual; I forced the boat holding the buoys off them and surged through to the Eliot turn and the finish line. I didn't know it as we crossed the finish line, but we placed EIGHTH out of FORTY-SIX boats from across the country!! Next year, we'll have an automatic slot in the fours race as a result. Even more importantly, this is the spark the team needs to power us through the winter season to spring, when we will come out swinging, ready to win. It was amazing to be part of a boat that did so well: HOCCR is a coxswain's race to lose, and I definitely did not lose.

Sunday was a day of rest, relaxation, hanging out with the boys, and shopping. Brooks Brothers sponsors the regatta, and I made sure to stop by their tent. Probably not the best decision, but oh well. I'll survive somehow. The women's eight raced on Sunday afternoon, and that was the second-best part of the weekend. I watched the race from Anderson Bridge: it felt great to be a part of the HOCCR spectator experience, and cheer on crews as they passed underneath. Crew is such an amazing sport! I love it: the adrenaline rush from driving the best course possible and calling a good race, the competitive nature of the sport, and the camaraderie of the team. I would never trade it for anything in the world.

Well, I've gone on about the Head of the Charles for a while now. I'll try to include some photos with my submission. If not, make sure you check out photos of our race at www.sportgraphics.com. My next blog, which I will write tomorrow afternoon, will be about some of the changes in the command climate around Chase Hall and the Academy. It hasn't always been for the best.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please email me at Peter.M.Driscoll@uscga.edu. Have a great Coast Guard day!