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OKC JUNIOR ROWERS EARN MEDALS AT NATIONALS

(Oklahoma City – June 12, 2006) Oklahoma City junior rowers earned national recognition – and caused a bit of a stir – with their performance at the 2006 USRowing Youth National Invitational Championship held this past weekend in Cincinnati. More than 140 rowing teams from across the nation qualified to compete in this year's event.

"This was Oklahoma City's first trip to nationals, and a prevailing question for the weekend was who is Chesapeake and where did they come from," said Tempe Knopp, Chesapeake Juniors coach.

Top finishers for the Oklahoma City rowers were Hugh Tullos (Heritage Hall High School) and John Busche (Classen School of Advanced Studies) placing third in the nation in the Mens Youth Double.

"For these guys to medal at nationals on their first trip to Cincinnati was awesome," Coach Knopp said, "and it had people talking."

Other top finishers from the Chesapeake Junior crew included the Womens Youth Light Weight Four with rowers Shannon Goforth (Edmond Memorial High School), Molly Clements (Casady), Briana Hurley (Casady), Laura Hamm (Edmond Memorial High School) and coxswain Anna Kirk (Classen).

"Our girls narrowly missed the "a" final by less than a second and posted the sixth fastest time in the nation," Coach Knopp said. "They ended up finishing second in the petite final."

The Mens Lightweight Four posted a second place finish in the C final with rowers John Riesenber (Bishop McGuinness High School), Ben Nessman (home school), Chase Cooter (Harding Charter Prep), Chase Langley (Harding Charter Prep) and coxswain Brittany Ray (Classen School of Advanced Studies).

The Mens Youth Quad finished in the top six in the nation and included rowers Busche, Tullos, Nessman and Riesenberg.

“It was a great weekend and everyone loved our orange boats,” Coach Knopp said, “it made it easy to see us coming!”

Chesapeake Junior Crew is a community rowing team open to junior rowers ages 13 to 18 and is a program of the Chesapeake Boathouse and the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation. Located on the Oklahoma River south of downtown Oklahoma City, the Chesapeake Boathouse is a community boathouse offering rowing, kayaking and dragon boating programs as well as a fitness center and group exercise classes.

Chesapeake Junior Crew is currently recruiting new rowers for the summer and fall. No rowing experience is necessary. For more information, contact the boathouse at 552-4040 or on the web, www.chesapeakeboathouse.org.

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