



High School Nationals sailors start one of 40 races off the Belmont Pier in Long Beach



National High School Doublehanded Championship

hosted by U.S. Sailing Center, Long Beach, Calif.

May 13, 2007

Newport Harbor wins high school Nationals

LONG BEACH, Calif.---Newport Harbor won the National High School Doublehanded Championship for the fourth time in 12 years Sunday, dominating a competitive field and showing that sailboat racing in America has a promising future. The event was hosted by the US Sailing Center.

In a weekend that showed varying winds (8-15 knots on Saturday and 6-9 on Sunday) 20 teams sailed 40 races with only a few minutes rest between each race. Under challenging circumstances, they demonstrated the highest level of team spirit, strong character and good sportsmanship.

When complimented on their success, coach Caleb Silsby said, "It's these guys", pointing to his skippers and crews, "they did it", pointing to his team members: skippers Charlie Buckingham and Michael Menninger and crew of Blair Belling, Brooke Thomson, Caitlin Beavers and Chris Segerblom.

Each school team is divided into A and B divisions, with one skipper and one crew in A and one skipper and one crew in B. After the first day, Newport Harbor's B sailors had scored better than their A sailors.

Even though at the end of Saturday's races Newport Harbor had a commanding lead over the rest of the field, Silsby was determined not to let his team relax its intensity.

"We're going to treat today as a separate regatta, and work on improving our standings in our own divisions," Silsby said.

As a typical demonstration of good sportsmanship, before Sunday's races it was announced St. Johns School had suffered a



Newport Harbor's team display their awards with coach Caleb Silsby (left)



Point Loma coach Steve Hunt gives encouragement and advice between races

loss of one of its crew due to a minor injury. By a unanimous vote, all the coaches present agreed to let St. Johns use its remaining crew person for both divisions.

For many teams, this was their first visit to Long Beach and the usually predictable breezes. Arriving early, some used Friday as a practice day.

John Faudree, coach of Duxbury High from Massachusetts, said, "We practiced for about four hours Friday this being our first visit".

Steve Hunt of Point Loma had a more high-tech approach to improving his team's performance.

"We watched videos of [Saturday's] races," Hunt said. "We have to get better at our starts."

They did get better. After a fifth place standing at the end of day Saturday, they returned to finish second for the event.

After the awards ceremony, Silsby, a gold medal winner at the 2006 ISAF World Sailing Games, was asked for any final thoughts.

"This is a goal we've had all year long," Silsby said. "I'm extraordinarily proud of this awesome group. They're a great team."

Top five finishers

(18 races in each division)

1. Newport Harbor, Newport Beach, CA, 143 points.
2. Point Loma, San Diego , CA, 179
3. Severn School, Severna Park, MD, 252
4. Pine View, Sarasota, FL, 274
5. HB Plant, Tampa, FL, 301

Complete results are available at www.ussclb.org .

MORE INFORMATION
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Newport Harbor team led the way throughout the weekend

