

## Cougars Have Solid Showing at Daffodil Cup Regatta

March 29, 2008



The Novice 8+ throwing freshmen coxswain Karri Simao into American Lake.

TACOMA, WA – The Cougars made the annual trip West to compete in the Daffodil Cup Regatta held on American Lake for their first regatta of the spring season. When it was all said and done, the Cougars won 3 of the 5 races entered in the regatta which was a solid showing all around by the WSU Openweights, Lightweights, and Novice teams.

In the first race of the day, the Varsity 8+ race, the WSU Openweights finished a very close second place to the victorious UPS Loggers. “There were some nerves out there today as this was our first race,” said Commodore and stroke Karl Huhta, “and with the winds and the chop, it just made it harder for us to settle into our race pace. It’s frustrating, but we’ll bounce back. It’s good to get the first race under our belts and we’ll just keep working on things together.” In the same race, the WSU Lightweight 8+ posted a solid showing though, finishing third overall behind the Openweights. Being the only “JV” boat entered in the regatta, as well as the only Lightweight 8+, the crew raced against the Varsity 8+’s of the other schools entered in the event. “The race wasn’t too bad,” said senior Sean Martin, “It was fun battling with Western [Washington University] all the way to the line and I’m happy we were able to pull away in the end.”

The next event the Cougars were entered in was the Novice 4+ race, where they finished third overall, only .37 seconds behind second place Western Washington. “It was fun to race!” exclaimed novice oarsman Andrew Evers, “We are still working hard on our blade work, but we’re improving fast and we’ll keep getting better.”

The third race of the day pitted the Cougar Varsity 4+ against a tough field of competitors, including UPS who’s V4+ finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation last year. Still a little frustrated from the V8+ race, the four (Mary Andreotti-cox, Andrew “Fergy” Ferguson-bow, MitchWilliams-two seat, Weston Spivia-three seat, Karl Huhta-stroke) fired off the line with a powerful start and won the race by a margin of 20 seconds. “Now that was how we know we can race,” said Mitch Williams. The Cougars are planning on sending their V4+ to the IRA Regatta in Camden, New Jersey this year, so this was a great start to the season.

The fourth race of the day was highlighted by a victory in the Novice 8+ race, where the Cougars won by 17 seconds. “We still have some work to do, but right now I am just enjoying a win in my first career race,” said novice six-seat Alan Scott. Novice coach Dan Thayer added, “I’m proud of the hard work these guys and gals have been putting in this year, and this is the first step into a successful spring as they grow and learn together what spring racing is all about. Congrats to the novice!”

The fifth race of the day was the JV4+ race, again highlighted by another Cougar victory. The victorious Cougar 4+ in this race was comprised of the Varsity Lightweight 4+ that is planning on making the trip to Oklahoma City for the inaugural ACRA National Championship Regatta. The four (Mary Andreotti-cox, Garrett Lyman-bow, Tim Duffey-two seat, Sean Martin-three seat, Brandon Caesar-stroke) outpaced the field with a victory of 16 seconds. "They said they didn't have the best of races out there with those water conditions," said head coach Arthur Ericsson, "but this is a great first step if we want to be able to defend our WIRA title and do well at the ACRA. I'm proud of these Cougs!"

There was one more race slotted for the Cougars on the day, the Varsity 2- race, which was unfortunately cancelled due to the rough water conditions on the starting line. The Cougars will regroup and get ready to head south as they will compete in the San Diego Crew Classic on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.