

Bromfield-AB rowers capture national title

BY JULIE NOCKA · FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2011



Champs Kendall Cotton (left) and Sam Ginouves with their trophy from the U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships. (Photos by Lisa Aciukewicz)



A crowd gathers at the Bromfield School on Monday, June 13, to welcome home the Bromfield-AB rowing team.



Sam Ginouves joyously shows off the national first-place trophy on his way through town in the celebratory motorcade.

Kendall Cotton and Sam Ginouves captured Bromfield-AB Rowing team's first-ever national title on Sunday, June 12, at the U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships in Oak Ridge, Tenn. The two oarsmen are not a traditional pair—Ginouves is tall, long and slender; Cotton is more solid and powerful. But somehow they become one single machine and row beautifully together. The result of this unique synergy is a crew that advanced convincingly through

the heats and semifinals. Cotton and Ginouves found themselves as the number-one seed in the Grand Final.

The boys took off like a shot from the starting line in such a show of strength that announcers speculated that it may have been too much too soon. In the end, though, none of the five remaining crews, including last year's champion, Saratoga, were able to mount any real challenge. Oakland Strokes made an attempt to move on the Bromfield oarsmen at the 1,500 mark, but Cotton and Ginouves just dug deeper and simply demolished the field, finishing the event in a decisive first place with substantial open water between their boat and the next finisher, Oakland Strokes.

Two Bromfield-AB boats qualified for the National Championship this year. Cotton and Ginouves joined Tucker Edwards, Patrick Ware, and Diana Fox as coxswain to compete in the Men's Youth Four event. It was the first trip to the National Championship for Edwards and Ware, and the second for cox Diana Fox, who won the C Final last year. The crew raced incredibly well and showed no signs of feeling pressure or nervousness.

Coach Pat Scott observed, "They were focused and excited to test their mettle against the best in the country, and I think they represented well."

When it became clear that the pair had a legitimate shot at making the Grand Final, the remaining athletes in the four told Cotton and Ginouves that they should prioritize their pair race. Given the lack of recovery time between the pair Grand Final and the four C Final, having the peace of mind to be able to race flat out in the pair absolutely fueled an incredible race that resulted in the gold medal. It also very clearly negatively impacted the oarsmen's ability to race in the four later that afternoon. The team placed fourth in the C Final.

Coach Scott gave a nod to this group for their sportsmanship on that day: "It shows incredible maturity and selflessness to sacrifice your own success for that of your teammates. I am so proud of the four, not only for their performances, but also for their teamsmanship."