

**Sarasota Crew Men's Freshmen 8 + Win Gold at State
Rowing Championships at Benderson Park**
*Team also brings home Silver in Men's Varsity 8+ Signature Event at 45th
annual Florida Scholastic Rowing State Championships*

Sarasota, Florida / April 26, 2010 – Competing against 38 teams from across Florida, Sarasota Crew rowers brought home the Gold medal in the Men's Freshmen 8+ event during the April 24/25 Florida Scholastic Rowing State Championships competitions held at Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida. The win marked the first time Sarasota Crew has taken the gold in an eight-person boat event at the State Championship. "Eights" are the flagship boats of a racing team – comprised of eight rowers and a coxswain; they're considered the leading competitive boat raced at the collegiate and Olympic levels.

The Men's Varsity 8+ took Silver, narrowly missing gold by four-tenths of a second in an exciting finish against nationally-ranked powerhouse Winter Park High School in the Final, -- the most anticipated race of the weekend championships which took place in choppy, white-capped waters against the backdrop of a loudly cheering hometown crowd. Sarasota County Commission Joe Barbetta was on hand to present medals to Varsity 8+ winners during a ceremony at the conclusion of all races.

The Men's Varsity 4x and Women's Varsity 4x also both took home Silver second place wins.

Race Results:

Gold Medal / First Place Wins:

Men's Freshmen 8+: Travis Taaffe, José Colon, Ryan Hails, Stafford Shaddy, Maddux Castle, Andre Dupuis, Andrew Konecny, Ryan Day, and Grant Golub, Coxswain

Silver Medals / Second Place Wins:

Men's Varsity 8+: Matt Sobotka, Marcel Dupuis, Joshua Schmidt, Hunter Leeming, Nick Duncan, Ryan Anderson, Daven Natarajan, Dan Corin, and Courtney Berger, Coxswain.

Men's Varsity 4x: Matt Sobotka, Marcel Dupuis, Joshua Schmidt, Hunter Leeming

Women's Varsity 4x: Christina Niffenegger, Westanna Carleton, Carli Goldberg, McKayla Taaffe



Sarasota Crew will return to race against crews from throughout the Southeastern United States at the Southeast District Championships to be held at Benderson Park May 8-9, leading to the US Rowing National Youth Championship in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June.

Sarasota Crew is a non-profit organization founded in 2002 by a group of visionary and dedicated parents and coaches with a mission of developing student athletes into self-respecting, quick thinking, responsible and rational young adults by promoting positive repercussive growth within the most challenging events. For more information, visit www.sarasotacrew.com or call Liza Dickson at 941-966-9791. /end