

# Boys crew continues to impress

By Henry Gula  
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The Wayland-Weston Crew teams traveled to Shelton, Conn., on Saturday to participate in the Head of the Housatonic, a 4,400-meter (2.7-mile) head race on the Housatonic River.

The boys varsity team entered their standard fleet of three eights plus two additional fours into the competition.

Showing the most improvement was the third eight, moving to 20th place out of 36 boats with a time of 16:49.

Stroke Oliver Pucker, Fernando Maza, James Sykes, Asa Hecker, Jason Nazarian, Stuart Yamartino, Chris Kussmaul, Jamie Maselan and coxswain Karl Kuhn were able to assert themselves as the top "C" boat, finishing above several B boats. Juniors Pucker, Sykes and Yamartino were the leaders in the boat of first-year varsity rowers. Kuhn, normally a rower,

showed his versatility by stepping into the coxswain seat for this race.

The second eight, who finished ninth with a time of 15:58, demonstrated the strength of the entire program. The boat, stroked by Luke Defren, with Adam Pitel, Jake Waxman, Jakub Buczek, Ryan Leddy, Chris Baim, Dan Cohen, Rohan Kashalikar and coxswain Kyle Kosky was able to beat all other "B" boats, finishing in the top 10 for the second straight week. The second eight features a strong mix of senior experience and first-year varsity power, which allows it to compete with the top boats of many competitors.

The first varsity eight continued to improve and delivered for the second week in a row, taking first place in the Men's High School 8+ event. The lineup, led by senior captain and stroke Bobby Dresser, Michael Wu, Brendan Stack, Kep Edwards, Henry Gula, Brandon

Blaesser, Nick Kossack, Jonathan Heinlein and coxswain John Saylor, rowed the course in 14:57, taking the gold medal by eight seconds over Saugatuck Rowing Club of Westport, Conn., and 13 seconds over Shaker Rowing Association of New York. The team's depth was showcased when Heinlein and Saylor made a seamless transition to the first boat to fill in for senior captain Alex Coburn and coxswain Jordan Segall, both of whom were unable to race.

Unfortunately, the first eight was unable to directly test their speed against primary rival teams Community Rowing Inc. of Boston and Chaminade High School of New York, both of which spent the day racing at the New Hampshire Championships Regatta. This week will consist of intense training on the Charles River in Boston in preparation for the world-famous Head of the Charles Regatta, which takes place next weekend.

The team also entered two fours into the competition. The fours were forced to race in the afternoon straight into a difficult headwind. The first four, with stroke Brendan Stack, Kep Edwards, Nick Kossack, Michael Wu and coxswain Jordan Segall, finished second with a time of 18:33, 26 seconds behind winner Saugatuck. The second four, with stroke Luke Defren, Adam Pitel, Jake Waxman, Jonathan Heinlein and coxswain John Saylor, finished 12th, in 20:31.

The novice boys team was prepared to row in their first-ever race as members of Wayland-Weston and was disappointed their race was cancelled due to deteriorating conditions.

Next Sunday, the first varsity eight and second four of this weekend will row in the Head of the Charles. They will spend the week preparing for the world's largest and most famous regatta.