



# RHODE ISLAND SAILING NEWSLETTER 29 OCT. 2022

## Rams Win MacMillan Cup, Compete in Women's, Open Atlantic Coast Trophies

ANNAPOLIS- The Rhode Island Sailing Team competed in a number of late-season interconference regattas, winning the MacMillan Cup for the first time in 52 years and competing in the Women's Atlantic Coast Championship and Open Atlantic Coast Trophy.

Hosted by the US Naval Academy, the MacMillan Cup is the qualifier for the Kennedy Cup- the national championship for intercollegiate offshore sailing. Light air proved impossible to start races on Saturday, but 13-18 kts from the Northeast on Sunday provided fantastic racing conditions for the fleet of Navy 44's.

Four races were sailed, with the Rhode Island Sailing Team finishing with a scoresheet of 1, 2, 2, 1 in a six-boat fleet. Competition included renowned offshore sailing teams such as the US Merchant Marine Academy, the US Naval Academy, and College of Charleston. The Kennedy Cup will take place in Annapolis Nov. 5-6.

The Rhode Island Women's Sailing Team competed in the Atlantic Coast Championship Finals, hosted Oct. 15-16 at King's Point. Finishing 15/18, the fleet at the Championship will likely be identical to that of the Women's Fleet Race National Championships, which will be held at the same venue this May.

The Rhode Island Sailing Team also competed in the Open Atlantic Coast Trophy, held at Connecticut College Oct. 22-23. Strong competition and tricky conditions proved for fantastic racing. The Rams finished 9/18 in a national level fleet.



### RESULTS:

- Open Atlantic Coast Dinghy Champs, Connecticut College, 9/18
- Yale Women's Invitational, 8/16
- Macmillan Cup, US Naval Academy, 1/10
- Greater Boston Solo Champs, Northeastern, 1/18
- Mass Maritime Invitational, 5/15
- Captain Hurst Bowl, Dartmouth, 12/15
- Women's Atlantic Coast Dinghy Championship Finals, King's Point, 15/18
- Savin Hill Invitational, Boston College, 5/16
- NEISA Match Race Championship, US Coast Guard Academy, 7/8

## Rhody Freshman Places 6<sup>th</sup> at F18 World Championship

CLEARWATER, FL- Rhode Island Sailing freshman Olin Guck placed 6<sup>th</sup> at the F18 World Championship.

Held Oct 10-16 in Clearwater Beach, Florida, the regatta featured an elite, 62-boat fleet from 11 countries. Light winds made it impossible to start races for the first two days, but strong breeze made for a fantastic four days of racing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sailing with his father, Lars, Guck placed within the top 10 boats in seven of the 10 races sailed, winning the 7<sup>th</sup> race of the series.

Coming from the Club 420 fleet, sailing a world championship in a boat that attracts high-performance sailors from all avenues of the sport was a major step up in Guck's sailing career.

However, Guck is no stranger to the F18 and high-performance catamaran racing. This summer, Guck won the U.S. Sailing Multihull Championship in the F18, also with his father. "Sailing with my dad is pretty awesome, since we already have that relationship and trust," said Guck after winning the event. "We've been working on finding our mode, which we were really able to string together."

Guck's refined sailing relationship with his father proved to be crucial in his performance at the World Championships. "We were really able to work our high mode, which is something that we've been working on for a while. That was super different from the Argentinians and Greeks, who were really good at sailing further from the breeze, so we often found ourselves starting to leeward of them and being able to pinch of a considerable amount of the fleet," said Guck when talking about his performance at the world championships.

Guck sees his performance at the F18 worlds as a starting point for a much broader career in high-performance sailing. He hopes to sail the 2023 F18 World Championships with his father in Germany, as well as pursue a campaign in the moth fleet. Long term, Guck hopes to transition to the Nacra 15 and later Nacra 17 with his former Club 420 crew, Ursula Budd.

For now, Guck is focusing on his college sailing career. "College sailing is very different from C420's and F18's, but I've worked with our coach, Matt Peter, for a long time in the 420 and am excited to continue that relationship and continue to develop my skills as a sailor."



## Sailor Spotlight: Olympian Okyanus Arikan

ENOSHIMA, JPN- Skippering in A-Fleet at interconference women's regattas as a freshman, Okyanus Arikan '26 is no stranger to being the youngest in a fleet. At 16 years old, Arikan is the youngest sailor ever to compete in an Olympic Games. Furthermore, Arikan is the first female athlete to represent her home country of Turkey in the 470 fleet.

Achieving greatness in the sport of sailing has been a theme throughout Arikan's life: at 15 years old, she placed third in the Optimist World Championship in Antigua. After graduating from the Optimist class, Arikan skipped the 420 and immediately began her Olympic campaign with her skipper, Beste Kaynacki.

After competing in the 2020 Sailing World Cup in Miami, COVID lockdowns put Arikan's Olympic dreams on hold. With special permission from the Turkish government, Arikan was able to participate in single-boat training at her home club in Izmir, Turkey. Eventually, Arikan was able to live abroad to attend training camps and regattas in Portugal and Spain, qualifying herself and her country for the 2021 Games at the 2021 470 World Championship.

However, at a training camp in Spain, Arikan's campaign suffered a major setback: a month and a half before the Games, Arikan suffered an ankle injury that had her sidelined until the start of the regatta. Without getting on the water once while other teams were living and training at the Olympic venue, Arikan and team persevered and made it to the start line in Enoshima.

Despite the major setbacks from COVID and injury, however, competing in the Games proved to be an incredible experience for Arikan. "Sailing in the Olympics was very different from a normal 470 regatta. Even though it was the same fleet, sailing with TV cameras, living in the Olympic village, and having just a flag on our sail rather than a sail

number made for an incredible experience." Arikan performed, beating sailing powerhouses such as Argentina and China at the regatta.

After the Olympics, Arikan switched boats and began focusing on the ILCA 6 class; hoping to represent her country again at the 2028 Games. In 2022, before beginning college sailing at URI, Arikan represented her country at the World Sailing Youth World Championships in the ILCA 6, finishing 11/56. Arikan has become an integral part of both the Rhode Island and Turkish sailing teams and clearly has just begun her legacy of greatness in the sport of yachting.

